

Kellen Moore

*Make
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FREE SAMPLE

**A Kid's Devotional on
Changing the World**

*Make
Waves*

Make Waves: A Kid's Devotional on Changing the World
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Make Waves

A Kid's Devotional on
Changing the World

KELLEN MOORE



COWABUNGA!

What's up?! I'm Kellen, and I get to be your number one cheerleader while you read this devotional.

First, what *is* a devotional? Simple! A devotional is a book that helps you get closer to God! There it is, short and sweet.

If you've never read a devotional before, welcome! We're going to have so much life-changing fun over the next few weeks. If you're an expert devotional reader, you may think you already know what's in store . . .

- A fresh, new topic each week
- Four devotional days plus a bonus challenge each week
- Fun activities for you and all your favorite people
- The answers to all life's biggest questions

. . . and you're not wrong! Well, maybe a little too hopeful with that last point. I can't promise to answer *all* your burning questions, but you *will* learn how to be more like Jesus and create BIG change in the world around you over the next nine weeks.

If you're like I was as a kid, chances are, you just read *nine* weeks and almost closed the book. But, wait! We aren't learning in a memorizing-the-multiplication-table kind of way. I promise to make it more fun than that. In fact, interaction is the name of the game. The more you follow

the tips, the more fun you'll have, and the more you'll get out of this book!

First tip: If you're excited about reading this book, find the nearest friend, family member, or leader and tell them, "I am so pumped about reading this book called *Make Waves!* Also, this writer named Kellen is super cool!" (Aww, thanks!)

Now, let's talk about the title: *Make Waves*. No, this isn't an instructional manual about swimming, even though swimming is awesome.

This book is all about making waves of change around us. God designed each of us to be uniquely capable of creating change by how we treat others at home, school, and in the world. The best part is, when we follow Jesus (who made huge waves everywhere He went), we don't have to do it alone!

When Jesus went to Heaven, He left the Holy Spirit to be with us. He gave a whole big speech about it that you can read in John 14:26. But what does that mean?? Later on, this guy named Paul traveled to different countries teaching people how to be Christ-like or "live in the Spirit." He explains the Holy Spirit this way to the people of Galatia:

The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.

Galatians 5:22-23a

The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit—like actually God! The Holy Spirit! It is all the wonderfulness of God and Jesus living inside each of us. And just like apple trees produce apples, we are like God trees who produce God's fruit! The Holy Spirit produces God's fruit in us, and it comes out as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. All these qualities of God's fruit are choices God wants us to make, even when we don't feel like loving someone or having joy. That's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live inside of us—to help us make those right choices!

As we jump into this book and make a splash, there is one last thing that I must mention . . .

WHISTLE

SWIMMING BUDDIES!

Sorry for yelling, LOL. One thing you should know about me: I grew up in California. Yes, *that* California. The state that takes up most of the west coast and borders the Pacific Ocean. Which means I practically grew up at the beach and the pool. And as every kid in California knows, when you go swimming, you need a swimming buddy!

A swimming buddy is someone who can help you out when you need it or is there to remind you, "You got this! Just keep swimming!"

So, before you dive into this devotional, pick one grown-up swimming buddy you really like and trust. Maybe that's a

parent, aunt, uncle, coach, or small group leader. Maybe that's the person who gave you this devotional.

Tell that person you're starting to read this book—that you want to make it all the way through, but you might need their help. (Here's where you get to assign work to a grown-up.) Tell your grown-up swimming buddy that one way they can help you is by memorizing one Bible verse or passage with you each week.

You'll find the Memory Verse at the beginning of each week. (It's called the Memory Verse Challenge.) Check-in on your grown-up swimming buddy's progress throughout the week. Then, at the end of the week, sign off on whether your grown-up completed the challenge (whether they memorized the verse or verses). Feel free to give them prizes when they do! (Might we suggest: doing extra chores, a five-minute back rub, or a piece of candy from that secret stash under your mattress?)

Alright, it's finally time to . . .

JUMP

IN AND

MAKE

WAVES!

WEEK

ONE

Love

DAY 1

WHAT IS LOVE?

We're starting our nine-week adventure with a word you hear everywhere and probably say all the time: *LOVE*.

In the verse we read in the introduction, love is listed as the first quality of the fruit of the Spirit. It takes the lead on how we see and treat other people, ourselves, and God. In fact, love is so important, some say it's impossible to have the other qualities of the fruit of the Spirit if you don't have love! So, let's talk about love for a minute.

What is your definition of L-O-V-E? See if you can think of four words to describe love and write them in the spaces below:

There's a reason there have been so many songs, movies, and books made about love. From Anna and Hans singing "Love Is an Open Door," to a young lady losing a glass slipper as her prince searches for her in Cinderella, love is sung or talked about everywhere.

That's because love has such a huge ripple effect on the world. Your love for someone else moves that person to

love another person, and so on and so on, spreading like the ripples created when you throw a pebble into a lake. And you know what else love does? It makes joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control a lot easier.

Stretch that love muscle by listing five people you really love and what you love most about each one:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

WHISTLE

Get your swimming buddy because here comes your very first . . .

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 NIV

DAY 2

HOW DOES GOD
SHOW LOVE?

Before we begin day two, go drink a nice cup of cold water. Then come back to this book. I'll wait . . .

. . . No seriously, go grab some water and chug (no cheating, soda doesn't count).

Got water? Checklist:

CUP WATER COLD

Welcome back! How was it? I hope it was delicious! Water is such a wonderful thing. Not only is it fun to splash in, but it's also super important for our health. And psychiatrists (brain doctors) have even linked it to improving our mood!

God knew how important water would be to the earth and us humans. So God created the oceans, lakes, rivers, ponds, and even rain. Water was so important, God covered most of the earth's surface in it. **Take a guess on how much of the earth's surface is covered in water. Circle one:**

20% 50% 70% 90%

Well, before I tell you how much, let's talk more about why God gave us so much water.

God designed all living things to need water (Genesis 1:11-13, 20-26). Fish need it as a home; plants, animals, and people need it to live and grow. From the very beginning, God thought about everything we might need and provided it in big ways—now that's love!

Sometime after God created the first humans—Adam and Eve—they sinned. And their sin had a ripple effect. But it had like, a *bad* ripple effect, not like the good love ripple effect we talked about earlier. Because once sin entered this world, humans kept on sinning. That sin hurt God—kind of like a betrayal. If you have ever been hurt by a sibling or friend, you understand a little of what God might have felt.

Even though we had hurt God, God still showed us love. One of the greatest ways God demonstrated that love was by sending *more* water.

The Living Water.

I know what you're thinking: "God made a giant water monster, like from *Spider-Man: Far from Home*!?" . . . Well, not exactly.

In John 4:10, Jesus, the Son of God, described the living water as a gift from God. Jesus was saying our physical need for water is just like our spiritual need for Jesus. Just like water keeps us alive on Earth, Jesus gives us eternal life with God.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

John 3:16

God sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can be forgiven. And after Jesus went to Heaven, the Holy Spirit was sent to be with us.

God made some serious waves by sending Jesus.

The ripples of God's love continue to affect people two thousand years after Jesus died. We now have access to God-sized love. And we can share these waves of God's love with others!

On a scale of 1–10, how does it feel to know that the God who made everything loves you in such a big way?

WIPEOUT

RADICAL!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Take a minute to talk to God. Close your eyes, write a prayer, or go for a walk so you can talk to God out loud. Whatever feels most comfortable. God hears you no matter how you pray. If any questions or feelings come up while you're praying, talk to a grown-up (maybe the one who's working on memorizing those 1 Corinthians verses about love with you).

Also, Earth's surface is made of 70% of water. See, I told you I'd let you know!

DAY 3

HOW CAN LOVE MAKE WAVES IN MY LIFE?

What's the gnarliest* thing you've ever found on the beach?

*Gnarliest: surfer word for wildest, strangest, grossest, coolest, etc.

If you've never been to a beach, what's the gnarliest thing you've found in a park or your backyard? Draw what you found and title your drawing below:

The ocean can wash up some pretty cool stuff. But it can also wash stuff away. Have you ever come across the remains of what looked like a really cool sandcastle? Sometimes it's so washed away, you can barely tell it was ever there at all. The ocean has completely erased it.

In the Bible, Peter, one of Jesus' besties, wrote:

Most of all, love one another deeply. Love erases many sins by forgiving them.

1 Peter 4:8

When I read that second sentence, it makes me think of ocean waves smoothing out the sand on the beach, making it look new and pristine each day.

Of course, Peter is talking about sin, not sandcastles. Sin is another word for the bad decisions we make. Lying to a parent. Mistreating a friend. Any selfish choice that makes us and others feel bad. Peter says that LOVE is so powerful it washes those sins away completely. Like the waves of the ocean washing the beach clean. *Love erases many sins by forgiving them.*

When Jesus was about to get arrested and killed, people asked Peter if he was friends with Jesus, and he denied it. In that moment, Peter sinned. He made a bad decision. Then he kept on making bad decisions by denying he knew Jesus two more times.

But when Jesus came back to life and showed God's love to Peter by forgiving him, it was like a wave crashing to shore, erasing all the sandcastles—or bad decisions—Peter had made.

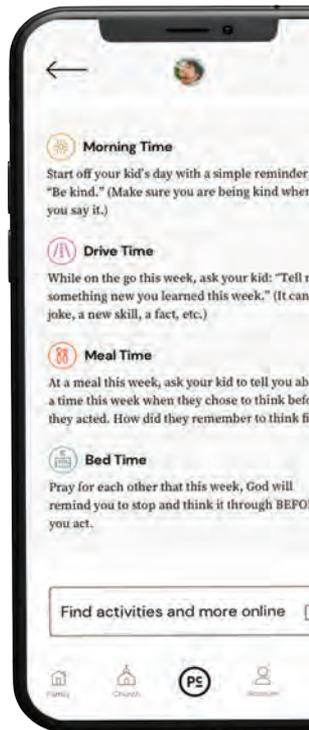
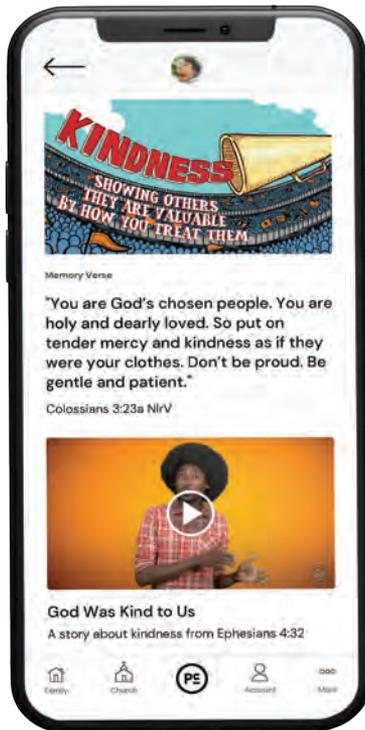


The awesome thing is, you can do the same. Love can help you forgive others, and when you love others (including yourself and God), it's like having endless waves clearing the beach! And here's the deal: People will always make mistakes (yes, including you), but because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have help making waves of love that erase sin.

Find a piece of paper and a washable marker. Write down a few bad decisions people you love have made (choices they made that hurt you). Think about those people and your love for them. Put the piece of paper in a bowl of water for about ten minutes and let the water wash those bad decisions away.

Of course, forgiveness isn't always that easy. But like the verse from 1 Peter says, your love for others is powerful enough to erase many sins. After ten minutes, look at that soaking wet piece of paper and think about what it would feel like to start fresh with the people you love. **How might you use your love for these people to erase the hurt they caused you?**

Help your kid build an everyday faith and make the most of the time you already spend together.



Download the Parent Cue app for free
in the App Store or Google Play Store.

ParentCue.org/app

Have you ever wanted to be an influencer when you grow up?

The Fruit of the Spirit is God's way for you to be an influencer right now, today. In the Bible, the Fruit of the Spirit are qualities you have when you follow God and listen to His Holy Spirit: Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Faithfulness. Gentleness. Self-Control.

You may not reach 100k people instantly, but as God grows these qualities in us, we begin to influence those around us and then they influence the world around them. And on and on like ripples in a pond or waves in the ocean.

So, dive in! Learn about some of the most influential qualities you can have. And start making some waves!



Kellen Moore is a next generation pastor, host, and international communicator. As the Next Generation Pastor at Our City Church, Kellen continues working with kids and teens in all phases of life. He is most notably known for his role on The So & So Show (on YouTube). Kellen lives with his wife, Katie Matsumoto Moore, in California.

To see Kellen in action, check out YouTube @so&soshow.

Recommended for kids ages 7-12.



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