

STUDY GUIDE

Grades 3-7+



beccawierwille.com

road trip rescue study guide

Grades 3-7+

becca wierwille



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Road Trip Rescue cover design by M. S. Corley



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about the author



Award-winning author Becca Wierwille writes stories to show kids they are wonderfully created for the unique adventures in their lives. Born with only half of her right arm, she aims to help others find beauty in what makes them extraordinary. Despite her dreams of sandy beaches and mountain peaks, she loves living in Pennsylvania with her family.

Road Trip Rescue is the first book in Becca's Road Trip Rescue series, a set of three contemporary adventures for kids ages 8-12 featuring themes of faith, travel, family, friendship, and

forgiveness.

Visit Becca online at beccawierwille.com, and sign up for her email newsletter to receive free resources, recommendations for young readers, and other exclusive content.

introduction

Dear Teachers, Parents, and Other Grown-Ups,

God has taken me on lots of adventures so far in life. I've been a newspaper reporter and a kindergarten teacher, and now, I'm a mom and an author. In each of these roles, I've come to believe more and more in the power of storytelling.

Stories have the power to change, to transform, to teach empathy. There's a reason Jesus used parables as a teaching tool during his ministry!

I created *Road Trip Rescue* and the other books in this series to show kids they are wonderfully created for the unique adventures in their lives. The Road Trip Rescue books are clean novels with Christian themes integrated throughout. I write books I'd feel comfortable sharing with the young readers in my life so you can share them with the young readers in yours.

This study guide is a supplement to *Road Trip Rescue* that dives into the faith content of the story, encouraging readers to study Scripture, ask and answer deep questions, and explore the art of storytelling. The questions and activities are geared toward eight to twelve-year-olds (third to seventh grade), with many activities being adaptable to both younger and older readers.

If you have questions, please reach out to me at becca@beccawierwille.com.

My prayer is that this study guide sparks meaningful conversations in your homes and classrooms.

Thank you for reading the Road Trip Rescue series!

Becca Wierwille

about the book



A heartwarming adventure for kids ages 8-12 with a missing dog, a determined girl, a pink-haired aunt, and themes of faith and friendship.

Twelve-year-old Kimmy trusts dogs more than people.

After all, her dog Bo never made fun of her for having one hand. But two years ago, Bo disappeared.

When Kimmy stumbles across a magazine photo of a dog in upstate New York that looks just like Bo, she knows she has to find him. Her parents seem oddly unsupportive, but pink-

haired, adventure-hungry Aunt Skylar agrees to a road trip with a stop in the Adirondacks. Kimmy jumps at the chance to bring her furry family member home.

Unfortunately, Aunt Skylar's idea of a road trip isn't the rescue mission Kimmy had in mind.

"The best kind of road trip—one with heart, hope, and humor."

—Lisa Lewis Tyre, Author of *Hope in the Holler*

"Equal parts heartwarming, heartbreaking, honest, and hopeful."

—Carrie Anne Noble, Award-Winning Author of *The Mermaid's Sister*

"A beautiful blend of adventure, mystery, and self-discovery."

—Allie Slocum, Author of the Character Club Series

For more information about the Road Trip Rescue series, visit beccawierwille.com/road-trip-rescue.

teacher's guide

educational goals

The Road Trip Rescue Study Guide is a supplement to *Road Trip Rescue*, the first book in the Road Trip Rescue series of faith-filled contemporary adventures for kids ages 8-12. The study guide explores the faith content of the story, encouraging readers to study Scripture, ask and answer deep questions, and explore the art of storytelling. It is designed to help foster creativity, critical thinking, and empathy among readers.

The questions and activities are geared toward eight to twelve-year-olds (third to seventh grade), with many activities being adaptable to both younger and older readers.

suggested pacing

The Road Trip Rescue Study Guide is divided into four weeks, with about ten chapters (approximately 50 pages) of reading per week. This content can be read aloud or independently, but please adjust as needed so your student can work at their own pace.

Each section includes “Storyteller’s Corner” (a study of storytelling elements), discussion questions, and an activity. Students are encouraged to keep a reading journal

to record their responses to the questions and activities. There are also three bonus recipes on page 14, which can be made at any point throughout the four weeks—perhaps even when you stumble across those recipes in the story!

Your pacing for each week will depend on your student's reading speed. Below is a suggested weekly rhythm that may work for your student.

Weekend to Tuesday:

- Work on the week's memory verse.
- Read the chapters for that week.

Wednesday to Thursday:

- Work on the week's memory verse.
- Complete the Storyteller's Corner section.
- Write answers to the Discussion Questions in a reading journal. Choose one question to go deeper on with a more detailed response.

Friday:

- Recite the week's memory verse.
- Have fun completing the week's activity.

week 1: road trip rescue, chapters 1-9



memory verse

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Matthew 6:34, NIV

storyteller’s corner: character

If you are writing a story, the main character (your protagonist!) plays an essential role. She is the one your readers will cheer for, laugh with, and maybe even cry over. But here’s the thing: your protagonist needs to be someone readers actually *like* and *relate* to.

Think about it. If you’re reading a book and you don’t like the main character, do you want to keep reading?

Probably not.

To make your character likable, think of the things you look for in a friend: maybe a kind heart, or a good sense of humor, or a determined spirit. Could you give some of those qualities to your character?

To make your character feel like a real person, give her flaws, dreams, and problems to work through. Whether your protagonist is a superhero or just a regular kid, she needs to have feelings and challenges that readers can understand.

When you have a likable, relatable character, readers will want to keep turning pages to see what happens next.

Let's look at Kimmy, the main character in *Road Trip Rescue*.

1. List some characteristics of Kimmy that make her likable.
2. List some characteristics of Kimmy that make her relatable. Consider her flaws, dreams, and problems.
3. What makes Kimmy a fit for this story?
4. How does Kimmy's past affect her current situation?
5. If you were the author of *Road Trip Rescue*, who would your main character be? Describe your main character. How old is she? What does she look like? What are her characteristics? Why does she want to find her missing dog?

discussion questions

1. **In Chapters 1 and 2**, Kimmy is thrilled to share her discovery of the magazine photo with her parents, only to be disappointed by their less-than-enthusiastic reactions. Can you think of a time you felt hopeful about something, only to be discouraged by the reactions of others? What are ways we can find hope in the midst of discouragement?
2. **In Chapter 7**, Kimmy almost wishes her parents would've told her how to spend her summer instead of leaving the decision up to her. That way, if something went wrong, no one could blame her. Can you relate to Kimmy's feelings in this scene? Who can you trust to help you work through big decisions?
3. **In Chapter 9**, Aunt Skylar shares her first road trip rule: A good road trip is not about the destination. It's about the treasures you find along the way. If you've ever taken a trip, what are some treasures you discovered along the way?

activity: draw a road trip map

Imagine you are going on a road trip with your aunt, uncle, or another family member. Where would you go? How would you get there?

Draw a map to plan out your trip. You can also print a map that shows where you are traveling (the map of a certain state, country, etc.) so you can plot out your journey directly on the map.

recipes

- **Ice Cream Dessert:** found in Chapter 4, recipe on page 14
- **Homemade Waffles:** found in Chapter 7, recipe on page 15

week 2: road trip rescue, chapters 10-19



memory verse

“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

2 Timothy 1:7, NIV

storyteller’s corner: plot

Last week, we talked about how great stories start with a likable, relatable character. But what really makes things interesting?

A problem.

That’s what the plot of a story is all about—it’s your character trying to solve a problem. But it won’t be easy. (Wouldn’t it be boring if Kimmy found Bo within the first few pages of *Road Trip Rescue*? That probably wouldn’t keep you turning pages!) Along the way, your character will face obstacles that make things tricky.

Maybe your character wants to find a missing treasure, but she only has a certain amount of time. Or maybe she’s trying to win a big game, but her team hasn’t been working together very well.

Every time your character faces a challenge but keeps going anyway, the story gets more exciting! Readers stay on the edge of their seats, wondering what might happen next.

So, when you're writing a story of your own, think about your character's goal and the tough (and fun) things she'll have to face along the way. That's the heart of your plot!

Let's look at the challenges Kimmy faces in *Road Trip Rescue*.

1. What problem is Kimmy trying to solve in *Road Trip Rescue*?
2. What are some obstacles she's faced so far along the way?
3. What do you think are more obstacles she might face as the story continues?
4. If you were the author of *Road Trip Rescue*, what obstacles would you add to the story?

discussion questions

1. **In Chapter 10**, how might Kimmy's forgiveness impact the truck driver? Think back to a time you forgave someone who hurt you. How did you feel when you forgave them?
2. **In Chapter 14**, Kimmy resolves to be a better road trip companion. What leads to this change of heart? What are some adjustments both Kimmy and Aunt Skylar could make to be better road trip companions?
3. **In Chapter 15**, why does Aunt Skylar change her mind and go to New York City?
4. **In Chapter 16**, Kimmy's first impressions of New York City are overwhelming because it's different from what she is used to—new sights, new smells, new sounds, and so many people. Have you ever visited a place that felt different or unexpected? How did you process that new experience?

activity: keep an adventure journal

When Kimmy meets Daniel, he pulls out a notebook and calls it his adventure journal. Kimmy asks what he writes about, and he says, “Things that are important. Observations.”

For the next week (or more!), keep an adventure journal of your own. Take it everywhere you go, and jot down observations about the world around you. Does the way the sun streams through the clouds in the evening catch your attention? Does someone tell a joke that makes you laugh?

Write as much as you can, then read back through it at the end of the week. Who knows? You may just find a story idea of your own in that adventure journal!

week 3: road trip rescue, chapters 20-29



memory verse

“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.”

Proverbs 27:9, NIV

storyteller’s corner: setting

In the last two weeks, we’ve covered two essential storytelling elements: character and plot. Good stories have a likable, relatable character who has a problem to solve, but faces obstacles along the way.

This week, we’re going to talk about setting—because that’s important too. Imagine reading a story without knowing where it takes place. Would that be fun to read?

Probably not!

The setting is the world your characters live in. It could be anywhere—a different country, a magical kingdom, or even your school’s cafeteria. The setting helps readers “watch” the story like a movie in their imagination.

But setting isn’t just about the place—it’s also about the time! Is your story

happening in the past, present, or future? What is the time of day? What's the weather like? These details can even affect how the characters feel or act. For example, a dark and stormy night might make things feel scary, while a sunny day at the beach (like Kimmy has with Aunt Skylar) could be relaxing and fun.

When you are writing a story, consider how you can describe the setting using all five senses. What does your character see, smell, hear, feel, and taste? These details can help readers feel like they're right there in the story world with the characters!

Let's look at the setting of *Road Trip Rescue*.

1. What is the setting of *Road Trip Rescue*? How does it change since they are on a road trip?
2. How do the different settings in *Road Trip Rescue* impact the characters and their emotions?
3. What are some sensory details (things Kimmy sees, smells, hears, feels, and tastes) you noticed in the story?
4. If you were the author of *Road Trip Rescue*, what settings might you include in the adventure?

discussion questions

1. **In Chapter 20**, when Aunt Skylar tells Kimmy that she's decided to cut the road trip short and stay in New York City, Kimmy's chest aches with loneliness. Have you ever felt lonely because of a choice someone made? Have you ever made a choice that might have made someone else feel lonely?
2. **In Chapter 23**, Kimmy is unimpressed by the smelly campsite littered with animal droppings. But Aunt Skylar calls it a slice of paradise. Why do they see the same site in opposite ways? Have you ever experienced a place differently from someone else?
3. **In Chapter 24**, Kimmy struggles to carry the water carrier with one hand, but she refuses Daniel's offer to help. Can you think of a time you've been determined to do something on your own, but then later accepted help from someone?

4. **In Chapter 26**, what does Kimmy mean when she says family can look different on a road trip? How has family “looked different” in your life?
5. **In Chapter 27**, what do you think gives Kimmy the confidence to put on the sleeveless dress?
6. **In Chapter 28**, Kimmy says, “Sometimes I’m afraid that even in a room filled with people, I’ll always feel a little lonely.” Have you ever felt lonely in a room filled with people? What led to that feeling?

activity: braid paracord bracelets

In Chapter 22, Kimmy mentions that she and Daniel braid paracord bracelets together. This week, you can braid your own paracord bracelets!

Here’s what you’ll need:

- 2 pieces of paracord (about 4-5 feet long each, in different colors if you like)
- A buckle (optional but helps with wearing)
- Scissors
- A lighter (with grown-up help)

Instructions:

1. Fold each piece of paracord in half. You should now have four strands (two from each piece). If you’re using a buckle, thread the folded ends of the paracord through one side of the buckle and pull them through to make a loop. Then attach the loose ends to the other side of the buckle.
2. Lay the four strands flat in front of you. You’ll have two strands on the left and two on the right.
3. Time to braid the cords! Take the outer left cord and cross it over the inner left cord, bringing it to the middle. Then, take the outer right cord and cross it over the inner right cord, bringing it to the middle. Now, bring the left cord that’s in the middle over the right cord in the middle,

forming an “X.” Pull the strands tight to secure the first braid, then repeat the pattern.

4. Keep braiding the cords until you reach your desired length. If you’re using a buckle, stop when you have just enough room to attach the loose ends through the second half of the buckle. Trim any extra cord and melt the ends with a lighter (ask a grown-up for help) to prevent fraying.

week 4: road trip rescue, chapters 30-39



memory verse

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20, NIV

storyteller’s corner: theme

In the last few weeks, we’ve talked about character, plot, and setting. Each of these elements has to do with the *who* and *what* of the story. This week, we’re going to talk about the *why* of a story—and that’s where the theme comes in!

The theme is the big idea or message behind your story. It’s what your readers can learn or think about once they’re done reading. Is your story about the power of friendship? Is it about never giving up, even when things are tough? Maybe it’s about being brave enough to share God’s love with others.

The theme helps give your story meaning and makes it stick with readers long after

they've finished the book. You don't always have to say the theme out loud—sometimes, readers figure it out for themselves by watching what happens to your characters and how they grow. And sometimes, different readers learn different things from your story!

So, while you're writing, think about what you want your readers to take away. That's your theme!

Let's look at the theme of *Road Trip Rescue*.

1. What do you think is the theme (or themes) of *Road Trip Rescue*?
2. How do you see this theme play out through the way Kimmy grows throughout the story?
3. How have you continued to think about this theme, even after finishing the story?
4. If you were the author of *Road Trip Rescue*, what themes would you focus on? How would you add these to the story?

discussion questions

1. **In Chapter 32**, Kimmy hates how bad Clarinda Jensen's goodness makes her feel. What does she mean by this? Can you think of a time you've felt this way about someone?
2. **In Chapter 34**, Daniel gives Kimmy his dinner mint. How does that impact Kimmy? Has someone ever done something kind for you after you treated them poorly? How did that make you feel?
3. **In Chapter 35**, Kimmy says God listened to her prayers, even when she didn't hear his answer. How can you find comfort in knowing God listens to your prayers, even when you don't hear his answer?
4. **In Chapter 35**, Daniel tells Kimmy he already forgave her, because Mateo taught him you don't have to wait for an apology to forgive someone. Have you ever forgiven someone who never apologized? Is there someone you might need to forgive?
5. **In Chapter 39**, Kimmy writes a letter to Jada, telling her she believes in

second chances. How do Kimmy's road trip adventures help her believe in second chances? What does it mean to you to believe in second chances?

6. **In Chapter 39**, Dad tells Kimmy, "No matter what you say to us, no matter what you think of us, we'll always love you." Who are some people in your life who love you that way? How can you show them that you love them too?
7. **In the final chapters of the story**, Kimmy realizes she's not alone—and she never has been. What leads to that discovery? Which of your memories remind you that you are not alone?

activity: write a letter

Chapter 39 includes a letter Kimmy sent to Jada to forgive her, even though Jada never apologized.

This week, your job is to write a letter of your own!

Who might be impacted by a letter from you? An old friend? Your grandmother who lives alone? A kid at church whose family has been going through a tough time?

Ask God to help you decide, then start writing!

recipes

- **Tiramisu:** found in Chapter 34, recipe on page 16

recipes

ice cream dessert

Recipe from Lynette Lapp

Found in Chapter 4 of *Road Trip Rescue*

Ingredients:

- 1 carton of ice cream (1.5 quarts), softened (Try it with mint chocolate chip ice cream if you want to make it the way Kimmy's mom does!)
- 40-50 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 1 stick of butter, melted

Instructions:

1. Crush the chocolate sandwich cookies in a food processor or blender, then mix in the melted butter.
2. Spray a 9x13 inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside some of the cookie mixture for the topping (about ½ to 1 cup, depending on how

thick you want the crust to be), then press the rest into the bottom of the pan.

3. Use a butter knife or spoon to scoop the softened ice cream over the cookie crust in an even layer.
4. Top it with the remaining crumbs.
5. Cover and freeze, then enjoy!

homemade waffles

Recipe from Becca Wierwille

Found in Chapter 7 of *Road Trip Rescue*

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups almond milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil (You can substitute coconut oil, but the leftover waffles will stick together when refrigerated.)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla extract
- Toppings of your choice (Kimmy's family used fresh strawberries and whipped cream!)

Instructions:

1. Preheat and spray your waffle iron.
2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs and mix in the other ingredients.
3. Pour the mix into the waffle iron and bake each waffle until it turns golden brown.
4. Serve the waffles with the toppings of your choice. Enjoy!

tiramisu

Recipe from Em Brubaker

Found in Chapter 34 of *Road Trip Rescue*

Ingredients:

- 6 egg yolks
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup white sugar (for the custard) plus a sprinkle of sugar (for the whipped topping)
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup milk
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 16 ounces of mascarpone cheese
- 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups strong black coffee
- 6 ounces of ladyfinger cookies
- Cocoa powder

Instructions:

1. To make the custard, combine the egg yolks, white sugar ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup), and milk in a saucepan. Mix it until well combined, then heat the mixture over medium heat, stirring continuously. (If you don't stir continuously, the eggs will scramble!) When the mixture comes to a boil, continue to cook and stir for one more minute.
2. Remove the mixture from the heat. Pass it through a fine mesh strainer and into a bowl to remove any lumps. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, placing the plastic wrap on the surface of the custard. Refrigerate the custard until cool, for about one to two hours.
3. While the custard is cooling, brew the coffee. Allow it to come to room temperature.
4. Make the whipped topping by mixing the heavy cream, vanilla, and sprinkle

of sugar in a blender. Whip the mixture until it forms a whipped cream consistency, then set it aside.

5. Once the custard has cooled, remove it from the refrigerator. Mix the mascarpone into the custard until it becomes smooth.
6. Dip the ladyfingers into the coffee until they are soft but not soggy. (Note: They absorb the coffee quickly, so this won't take long!)
7. To construct the tiramisu, arrange a layer of soaked ladyfingers on the bottom of a 8x8 or 11x7 dish. The next layer is half of the custard mixture, followed by half of the whipped cream. Repeat these layers again, ending with the whipped cream.
8. Chill the dessert in the refrigerator for at least one hour.
9. Sprinkle a fine layer of cocoa powder on top, then serve!

for more fun, check out the road trip rescue series!

The Road Trip Rescue series of faith-filled contemporary adventures for kids ages 8 to 12 features themes of travel, family, and friendship.



road trip rescue (book 1)

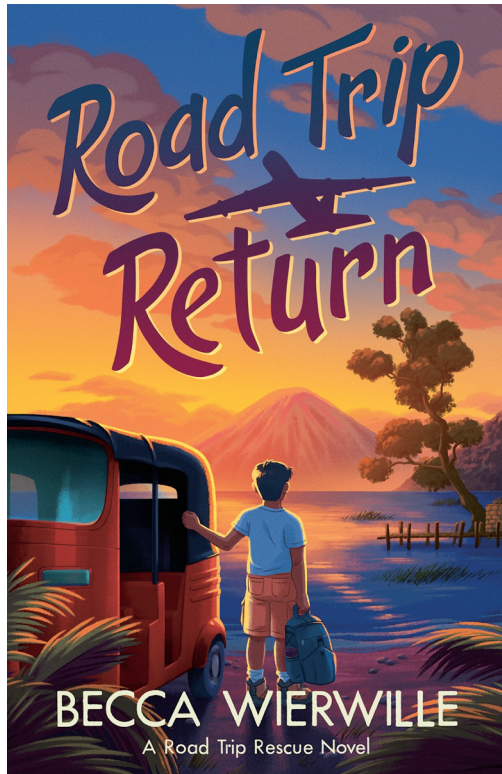
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Kimmy jumps at the chance to bring her furry family member home.

Unfortunately, Aunt Skylar's idea of a road trip isn't the rescue mission Kimmy had in mind.



road trip return (book 2)

Daniel likes his life the way it is.

Simple. Predictable. And most importantly, just him and his older brother, Mateo. But as Mateo's wedding approaches, life is already changing. And Daniel worries Mateo's fiancée, Skylar, will ruin everything.

When Skylar disappears a week before the ceremony, Daniel's concerns are confirmed. Skylar is trouble. The wedding must be stopped.

Drawing on his twelve years of wisdom, Daniel vows to save his family from disaster. Even if

that means traveling to Guatemala—the home of his father, and the last place he ever wanted to visit.

Daniel must sabotage the search for Skylar before Mateo makes the biggest mistake of his life.

road trip redemption (book 3)

Three years ago, Jada Robinson betrayed her best friend.

Now, her family has moved, and thirteen-year-old Jada struggles to make friends. Realizing how it feels to be bullied, she'd give anything to undo the past.



trip rescue series:

When Jada finds a stray dog, she is sure he's the same beloved pet her ex-best friend, Kimmy, once lost. This feels like Jada's chance to make things right.

Jada talks her two older sisters into a trip to Pennsylvania to reunite Kimmy with her furry friend. But as new questions about their canine companion unravel Jada's plans, she wonders how she'll face Kimmy after all these years.

The road ahead may be more complicated than Jada imagined.

learn more about the road



beccawierwille.com/road-trip-rescue

stay connected + a free gift



Sign up for Becca's email newsletter to receive a devotional ebook and audiobook with ideas to make road trips fun! Plus, be the first to know about upcoming books and exclusive content. If you're under age 13, please ask a grown-up to sign up for you.

beccawierwille.com/newsletter



also by becca wierwille

Road Trip Rescue (Road Trip Rescue, Book 1)

Road Trip Return (Road Trip Rescue, Book 2)

Road Trip Redemption (Road Trip Rescue, Book 3)

If you enjoyed *Road Trip Rescue* or any of Becca's other books, please review them online. Reviews help immensely. Thank you!