

**2026  
DAILY  
DEVOTIONAL**

**APRIL 1 - JULY 1**

## HOW TO PRACTICE THE SOAP METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

The SOAP method is a simple and powerful way to engage with Scripture and apply it to your daily life. It stands for Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer. Using SOAP helps you slow down, reflect deeply on God's Word and respond thoughtfully.

### 1. Prepare a Quiet Space

- Find a calm, quiet place where you won't be disturbed.
- Sit comfortably and take a few deep breaths.
- Begin with a short prayer, asking God to speak to you through His Word.

### 2. S - Scripture

- Choose a short passage of Scripture (a few verses or a chapter).
- Read the passage slowly and thoughtfully, even multiple times.
- Write down the verse or verses that stand out to you most.

### 3. O - Observation

- What do you notice about the passage?
- Who is speaking? Who is being addressed?
- Are there any repeated words, key themes or commands?
- Write down your observations—what's happening, what truths are being revealed?

### 4. A - Application

- Ask: How does this apply to my life right now?
- Is there a sin to confess, a promise to claim, a command to obey or an example to follow?
- Write down how you will live differently because of this truth.

### 5. P - Prayer

- Write a short prayer responding to what you've learned. It could include praise, confession, a request for strength or a desire to grow.
- Talk to God about what you read and ask for help to apply it.

### 6. Conclude

- Close with a moment of stillness, thanking God for His Word.
- Carry the truth or challenge from the passage with you into the rest of your day.

### Helpful Tips

- Keep a dedicated journal or notebook for your SOAP studies.
- Try doing this at the same time each day to create a rhythm.
- Don't worry about making it perfect. The goal is not performance—it's connection with God.

## APRIL 1

### DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE IN CHRIST

*For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

**ROMANS 6:6-7**

Think about your phone when it's running old software. It's slow, glitchy and full of apps you don't even use. Then you update it. Suddenly, it runs smoother, faster and better. That's what happens in our lives when we let Jesus' death change us: we get a spiritual "update" that frees us from old habits and mistakes.

Lent is a season to reflect on the ways sin still affects our lives—anger, jealousy, lies or bad habits. Romans 6 reminds us that when Jesus died on the cross, He didn't just forgive us; He broke sin's power over us. Our "old self" doesn't have to control our thoughts or actions anymore.

In today's world, distractions and temptations are everywhere: social media drama, peer pressure or the urge to act selfishly. But Christ calls us to a new way of living. Being "dead to sin" doesn't mean we'll never struggle, but it does mean we are no longer slaves to it. We are free to choose love, kindness and honesty.

This Lent, take time to reflect on what needs to die so you can live fully in Christ. Let go of old patterns and embrace the freedom He offers.

## PRAYER

*Lord, help me die to sin and live for You. Free me from habits and thoughts that hold me back and guide me to follow You more closely this Lent. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY SENTA HINZMAN

## APRIL 2

### LOVE BEFORE WE ASKED

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**ROMANS 5:8**

A father knelt beside his young daughter after she accidentally broke a cherished family heirloom. Tears streamed down her face as she tried to explain, but he simply wrapped his arms around her and whispered, "I forgave you before you even told me." His love didn't wait for her to earn it.

Maundy Thursday brings us into the upper room, where Jesus washed dusty feet and broke bread with His disciples, even the one who would betray Him. It is the night love moved first. Romans 5:8 captures this truth with stunning clarity: Christ didn't wait for us to be worthy, repentant or holy. He loved us in our brokenness. He died for us while we were still sinners.

As we reflect during Lent, Maundy Thursday reminds us of a love that kneels, serves and gives long before we understand the depth of our need. It is a love that chooses sacrifice over self-preservation, service over status, mercy over judgment.

Timothy Keller once wrote, "You are more sinful than you ever dared believe, and more loved than you ever dared hope." On this night, Jesus embodied both truths exposing our need while pouring out His endless grace.

Let Maundy Thursday draw your heart back to the God who moved first, who served first, who loved first.

## PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me before I ever sought You. As I remember Your humility and sacrifice, teach me to love others with that same grace. Help me walk in the spirit of service You showed on that holy night. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY SENTA HINZMAN

**APRIL 3**  
**THE QUIET BEFORE DAWN**

*The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.*

**LAMENTATIONS 3:25-26**

A woman sat alone in the dark sanctuary on Good Friday evening. The cross stood draped in black cloth, the room still with sorrow. She whispered a prayer but no answer came. Yet in that silence, she felt something deeper than despair. She felt hope; faint, but real, like the first glimmer of light before sunrise.

Good Friday invites us into that same quiet waiting. The prophet Jeremiah, surrounded by ruin and grief, still declared, “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him.” When everything around him had fallen apart, he chose to trust that God’s goodness would rise again.

On the cross, hope seemed crushed. The Messiah was silent. But heaven’s silence did not mean God’s absence. In that stillness, salvation was being written in blood. The waiting between the cross and the resurrection reminds us that God’s greatest work often unfolds in the quiet, unseen spaces.

Jordan Peterson once said, “If you face the things you least want to face, perhaps you’ll find the best that life has to offer.” On Good Friday, Jesus faced the darkest hour and through it, gave us the brightest hope.

As we wait quietly this Lent, may we learn to trust in that same redeeming silence, the space where God is still at work, even when all seems lost.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, teach me to wait with faith when You are silent. Help me to trust that Your goodness is working even in the dark. Strengthen my hope as I rest in Your salvation. Amen.*

*WRITTEN BY SENTA HINZMAN*

**APRIL 4**  
**REFLECTION**

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is slow down. Scripture shows us that God often met His people in the in-between spaces, after the work was done and before the next step began. As you enter the weekend, create room to breathe, reflect and let God re-center your heart. Humility grows when we stop striving long enough to recognize God’s steady presence. Give Him space, and He will speak.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week’s devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse’s entire chapter a little closer.

**QUESTIONS**

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## APRIL 7

### EQUAL TO THE CALL

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

**EPHESIANS 4:2**

In the verse immediately prior to this one, the writer of Ephesians implores the people “to lead a life worthy of the calling to which they have been called.” When we hear this word, “worthy,” often we imagine being acceptable or deserving of what we’ve been given. However, the Greek word that is used here, *axios*, actually means something closer to an old fashioned scale, with a bar across the top and two pans hanging from the ends, being completely balanced by both sides holding an equal weight. To lead a life worthy of our calling, then, means that the way we live our lives needs to match or equal God’s calling for us.

So, when the writer of Ephesians implores us to be humble and gentle, patient and bearing with one another in love, he isn’t merely throwing out random affections that it would be good to show. He is calling us to rise up to the way that we were initially created to live in the Garden of Eden. He is reminding us that, through our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior, we have the opportunity this side of Heaven to begin to live in the way he initially intended for us when he shaped and formed us in his hands and breathed into us the breath of his life. We, now, can be a foretaste to one another and those outside the church of what is to come in eternity.

### PRAYER

*Creator God, you made us in your image to be your people, living humbly and gently with one another, patient and bearing in love. Help us to rise to equal the calling that you have upon our lives that we might live into your will for us even on this side of Heaven. Amen.*

## APRIL 8

### A HEART FULL OF GRATITUDE

*Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:16**

A few months ago, a friend gave me a handwritten note of encouragement. It came at just the right time for me. It wasn’t fancy, just a few simple words on a card, but it meant the world to read how he felt about our friendship. I keep it in a drawer in my office as a reminder of how grateful I was for the encouragement he offered to me and the power of encouragement.

Words, when filled with sincerity, have a way of lifting the soul. Paul writes to those living in Colossae to encourage them to let the message of Christ dwell in them richly, as they taught and encouraged one another through songs and words of gratitude. Worship isn’t just about singing on Sundays; it’s a daily expression of thanksgiving for all Christ has done. When we cultivate a heart full of gratitude, it transforms our perspective, strengthens our faith and overflows into the lives of others.

Let’s be people who speak and sing with hearts full of thankfulness, always pointing back to the goodness of God.

### PRAYER

*Lord, fill my heart with gratitude. Let my words, my worship and my life reflect thankfulness for Your love and grace. May I encourage others with the message of Christ and always sing with joy to You. Amen.*

## APRIL 9 BEARING FRUIT

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

**GALATIANS 5:22-23**

My family loves to take the drive to the NC mountains and go apple picking. When you arrive and park, you walk past the buildings full of already bagged apples, hot cider and the fresh apple donuts (which we all know is the real reason we love apple picking). At the end of the adventure, we tend to buy a bag of apples that have already been picked, but our family grabs a basket and heads for the orchard anyway. Some run to the Pink Ladies, while others head to the Galas. Even though there are different types of apples, each tree at the apple tree farm produces apples.

The Bible uses the comparison of a tree bearing fruit to illustrate the visible results of a life changed by the Holy Spirit. When writing his letter to the church in Galatia, Paul expresses frustration because many are detaching from God's way of life. So, Paul tells them to return to Jesus' real teachings and to join with the Spirit, which provides the 'soil' needed for spiritual fruit to grow. Paul encourages people to "live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16).

As the Spirit changes our hearts, our behavior also changes, leading us to bear fruit. Just as an apple tree is identified by its apples, a person's life can be identified by the presence of these spiritual fruits. The tree is identified by the fruit it produces. Would you be identified as someone who loves Jesus based on the fruits you are producing?

### PRAYER

*Lord, grow in me the fruits of Your Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control—that my life may reflect Christ's character daily. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## APRIL 10 THE KINGDOM

*"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

**MATTHEW 6:9-10**

My childhood church was in a downtown area and surrounded by a large low-income and homeless population. The church, affluent and pristine, had trouble figuring out how to relate to these individuals. For a long time, the church felt it was best to relegate these less well-off individuals to the church's basement, giving them their own breakfast and worship service on Sunday mornings, far out of the eye of the rest of the congregation. But, suddenly, a new pastor was appointed, and he insisted that everyone worship together, upstairs in the Sanctuary. While uncomfortable at first, perspectives began to shift and individuals' hearts were changed as they realized that these folks were not that different from them. They were people who had made some bad decisions, run into trouble along the way or simply had life happen to them.

Part of what it means to live missionally is to embody this prayer that Jesus taught us to pray—to bring God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. It means to worship and live shoulder to shoulder with people who don't look like us, smell like us, act like us or talk like us, realizing that one day we will stand in the presence of Jesus doing exactly the same thing. Any time we treat someone with respect instead of disgust, care for someone's basic needs, try to rectify inequalities that keep others behind, we are building God's kingdom and living out our faith. And, we just might encounter Jesus in the process.

### PRAYER

*Holy God, we pray as you taught us—your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Make us conduits of your Kingdom and show us how to build it here on your earth. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO



## APRIL 13

### THE POWER OF SOLITUDE WITH GOD

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*

**MARK 1:35**

One of my favorite times of day is early in the morning when everything is still and quiet. The world hasn't started to stir, and the sun has yet to rise. It's a moment of peace where I can pause, breathe deeply and connect with God before the rush of the day begins. In Mark 1:35, we see that Jesus did the same. Despite His busy life of teaching, healing and ministering to others, Jesus carved out time to retreat to a quiet place to pray.

His example is a powerful reminder of the importance of making time for solitude with God. In the stillness of the morning, we find clarity and focus, aligning our hearts with God's will before the noise of the day distracts us. In our busy, fast-paced lives, it is easy to rush through these quiet moments, but they are crucial for our spiritual health and growth.

By spending time alone with God, we draw nearer to Him. We are able to receive His guidance and experience His peace. Just as Jesus made prayer a priority, we too should seek moments each day to be still, listen and reconnect with our Creator.

### PRAYER

*Father, thank you for the example of Jesus, who prioritized time alone with You. Help me to carve out moments of solitude to connect with You, seek Your guidance and renew my spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## APRIL 14

### SHARING IS CARING

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.*

**ACTS 4:32**

When a woman feels led to become a nun, one of the vows that she takes is a vow of poverty. What this means is that all that she owns—books, clothes, money, furniture, vehicles, etc.—becomes the property of the community.

No longer does any of it belong to her. As she enters into a convent, she is dependent on the community and trusts in God for her needs to be met.

While we, personally, might not feel called to such a drastic lifestyle, we see here that the early Christian community functioned very similarly. They shared with one another in such a way that everyone's needs were met and no one felt possession over any particular item.

Undoubtedly, this allowed them to spend less time focusing on building up wealth, possessions and the newest gadgets and more time focusing on serving one another and the community in Jesus' name. So often today, we get distracted by earning enough to get the latest and greatest Apple watch, Air Jordans, Gucci bag, truck or even house while others in our community go hungry, become homeless or are unable to buy their children shoes that fit. What items in your life are receiving your attention right now?

How might your perspective shift if you thought of what you had not as your own but as a gift on loan from God, something to be shared with others?

### PRAYER

*Giving God, so often we get distracted by wanting the latest and greatest thing and we forget that nothing that we have is ours, that it's all a gift from you. Remind us that we are not meant to be possessors but sharers that all might have their needs met in Your name. Amen.*

## APRIL 15

### SEEK AND FIND

*You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me with all your heart.*

**JEREMIAH 29:13**

In the mid-1800s, the famous explorer Henry Morton Stanley was sent to Africa on a mission to find the lost missionary Dr. David Livingstone, who had disappeared from public view while working in the heart of Africa. For months, Stanley traversed jungles, crossed rivers and battled disease, all in search of a man he had never met. In one of the most famous encounters in history, when Stanley finally found Livingstone in the small village of Ujiji, he greeted him with the now-famous words, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume?” Stanley’s quest was driven by his determination to find what he was seeking. And when Stanley found Livingstone, it was more than just a moment of relief, it was a life-changing discovery. Stanley didn’t just find a man; he found a connection to something much bigger than himself. This meeting marked a turning point for Stanley’s life as he realized that his quest wasn’t just about a destination, it was about embracing a higher calling that would lead him to a greater purpose in the world. In the same way, Jeremiah teaches us that when we seek God with all our hearts, we find more than we could imagine. We find peace, purpose and a relationship that fulfills every need of our soul. Like Stanley’s search for Livingstone, our pursuit of God isn’t just about reaching a destination; it’s about discovering the deeper purpose He has for our lives. In seeking Him, we encounter the richest treasure of all: the fullness that comes by knowing Him.

## PRAYER

*Lord, help me to seek You with all my heart.  
I know that when I seek You, I will find all that I  
need in You. Teach me to treasure Your presence  
above all else and to live with the confidence  
that You are the fulfillment of every longing.  
Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## APRIL 16

### REVIVAL

*If my people, who are called by my name,  
will humble themselves and pray and seek my  
face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will  
hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin  
and will heal their land.*

**2 CHRONICLES 7:14**

God is moving. There was a spontaneous revival at Asbury University in February of 2023. Students stayed to pray and worship after their weekly chapel had concluded. Word spread around campus and students continued to come. Around the clock prayer and worship for two weeks was the result. A professor who slid in the back row to see this event being talked about said, “The peace that was in the room was unexplainable. No one wanted to leave.” Are we humbly praying for revival? Will we miss it when it happens, or will we be ready to come when the Lord calls?

God’s promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 reminds us that revival begins with humility, prayer and repentance. He calls us to turn away from sin and earnestly seek Him. When we do, He responds with forgiveness and restoration. In a world longing for healing, let us be the ones who seek His face and walk in His ways and humbly pray for revival.

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves  
before You, seeking Your mercy. Forgive our  
sins and guide us in righteousness. Heal our  
hearts, our communities and our land. Help us  
to walk closely with You, trusting in Your grace.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## APRIL 17 AND GOD SENT A SNOWPLOW

*As each has received a gift,  
use it to serve one another.*

**1 PETER 4:10A**

In February of 2010, I took my two oldest boys to the movie theater, leaving my youngest son with his Grandpa. As we walked out of the theater and excitedly discussed the movie, we stopped in our tracks because there was snow everywhere! We ran to the car, cranked the heat and slowly made our way to Grandpa's house to relieve him of babysitting duties. With the car turned in the direction of home, I realized the snow was really coming down and the roads were becoming slick. As I crept down a portion of 378 where there was not a tire track in sight, I began to really get anxious. Sensing my fear, the boys were silent in the backseat, and I began to pray out loud. I prayed for us to get home safely, and I prayed for God to step in and guide us. I will never forget the moment when I saw headlights approach behind us and a large snowplow pulled up beside us! I slid in behind the truck, and he perfectly cleared the road ahead of us. We came to the turn off for our street and we all yelled a thank you that the driver would never hear. Once on our street, I looked back and the snowplow was making a U-turn and heading back up 378.

God sent us a snowplow... in Lexington, SC. God cleared the road for us right to our street. God not only clears the road for us in moments of fear and uncertainty; He often uses ordinary means to do extraordinary work. That night, God sent a snowplow to go before my family—but just as powerfully, once we were home, the plow turned around to clear the road for someone else. In the same way, God calls us to cry out to Him when we need help and then to become instruments of His grace for others—offering guidance, courage, prayer or presence when their path feels dangerous or unclear.

## PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for going before us and making a way when we cannot see one. Open our eyes to recognize the help You give and soften our hearts to extend that same grace to others. Use us to bring light and comfort to people you put in our path. In Jesus' name,  
Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## APRIL 18 REFLECTION

Life doesn't slow down on its own, we have to choose it. In Scripture, moments of pause became turning points where God reminded His people who He was and who they were called to be. As you step into the weekend, take time to breathe deeply and seek God's presence. Humility grows when we release the rush and make room for Him. In the quiet, you may find that God's voice is closer than you thought.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week's devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse's entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## APRIL 21

### LOVE HOW HE LOVES

*“A new command I give you:  
Love one another. As I have loved you...”*  
**JOHN 13:34**

We might be familiar with the general events of Jesus’ final week—his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his Last Supper with his disciples, his prayer in Gethsemane, the betrayal by some of his followers. In one of these moments, the Last Supper, the author of John’s Gospel gives us a different emphasis than the other three Gospel writers. Instead of focusing on Jesus sharing a new meaning of the Passover meal of bread and wine, John sets his sights on a specific action that Jesus does.

When the disciples are seated, Jesus gets up, wraps a towel around his waist, and performs the role of a servant, washing the disciples’ feet. The disciples, particularly Peter, are incredibly offended that Jesus would demean himself in this way, but Jesus proclaims that this very action is the example of his life that they should follow. It is the kind of love that the Church should exhibit; Jesus goes on to say, it is how the world will come to know that they are his disciples. This might mean going above and beyond to be kind to someone who’s not kind to you, stopping to talk to someone and genuinely being interested in who they are and what they have to say or moving seats in worship so that someone might have room to sit with their family. To be a follower of Jesus means to do what he does, to love how he loves, that others might come to encounter his love.

### PRAYER

*Servant God, cultivate within us hearts that mirror your own heart. Help us to be a people whose first response is to kneel and serve others rather than to rise and uplift ourselves. Amen.*

## APRIL 22

### NEVER GIVE UP

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*  
**LUKE 18:1**

Have you ever waited in line for something and felt like it was taking forever? Maybe it was at the grocery store, a theme park or even at the DMV. The line feels endless, and it’s easy to wonder if it’s worth it. You’re tempted to throw in the towel and quit, but when you finally reach the front, and your turn comes, you find yourself grateful that you had “staying power”. Sometimes, our prayers can feel like waiting in a long line. We pray and wait for answers, but it seems like nothing is happening. We ask God for guidance, healing or provision, but the response seems delayed, and it’s easy to grow weary and be tempted to give up. Jesus reminds us to keep praying as he teaches His disciples about persistence. Like a line will eventually move, we can trust that God is listening and working on our behalf, even when we can’t see it. God doesn’t operate on our timeline, but He is faithful to answer in His perfect timing and His perfect way. Prayer is not just about getting what we want; it’s about trusting that God hears us, and that He will answer with Heavenly wisdom. Don’t give up. Keep praying, even when the wait feels long, because God is faithful.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to stay persistent in prayer, even when the answers seem slow to come. Teach me to trust Your timing and believe that You are always at work. Strengthen my faith as I continue to seek You. Amen.*

## APRIL 23

### PASS THE BATON

*Whether you turn to the right or to the left,  
your ears will hear a voice behind you,  
saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

**ISAIAH 30:21**

In a track meet relay race, the “baton” is passed from one runner to the next within a designated zone, and a smooth handoff requires coordination and communication, often using verbal cues like “stick” or “hand”.

When the runners are ready, the gun sounds and the first group takes off. With their backs to the incoming runners, the second group readies to go when they hear ‘Run!’, then throws their hand back to grab the baton when they hear ‘Stick!’. With every relay team yelling ‘Run’ and ‘Stick’, the runners all say it is hard to hear during the baton exchange. They have to concentrate and listen to the one voice that is their teammate.

Life is filled with voices, and sometimes we struggle to know which one to listen to. But God is faithful—He guides us when we seek Him. His voice may come through Scripture, wise counsel or the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit. Trust in His voice above all the others, even when the way seems unclear. As we walk in obedience, He leads us toward His perfect plan.

## PRAYER

*Lord, open my ears to hear Your voice. Guide my steps and give me wisdom to follow Your path. Help me trust You in all my decisions. Amen.*

## APRIL 24

### GOOSEBUMPS

*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”*

**ESTHER 4:14B**

It was late and dark, but my gas tank was too low to make it home, so I pulled into a gas station and began to fill up my car. I looked up and a man was walking straight towards me. As we made eye contact my flesh was covered in goosebumps and I felt a peace come over me. The man introduced himself and told me his story. His wife had been taken to the hospital earlier that day and had, praise God, been deemed well enough to come home that night. As he left the house and ventured to pick her up, he realized his gas tank was empty and he had no money to fill it up. His car coasted into the gas station and he began to pray. He said, “The Lord told me to look up, and there you were.” I grabbed my credit card and swiped it at his pump. And then he called me “sister” and we held hands and prayed for his wife. As he pulled away, I thanked God for using me in that moment for that purpose.

We sometimes question if we should stop and help, but my prayer for each of us is that the Holy Spirit would cover us in “goosebumps” and make it clear. We are to obey the calling, not question how our money will be used.

Perhaps God has placed us in that exact moment for the joy of getting to help one of His children. Perhaps we, too, were born “for such a time as this.”

## PRAYER

*God, safely and powerfully use us. Open our eyes to see Your children and make us brave as we extend our hands to help. Amen.*



## APRIL 27

### THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

**JOSHUA 1:8**

I have always dreamed of growing a flourishing vegetable garden. Excited, I bought the best seeds, carefully planted them and watered them diligently for a few days. But as time passed and life got busy, my enthusiasm faded. I began neglecting my garden, and soon, weeds took over while the plants withered from lack of care. Disappointed, I realized that a thriving garden requires consistent attention and daily nurturing.

Our spiritual lives are much the same. If we neglect God's Word, our faith weakens, and our hearts become overrun with distractions. But when we nurture our relationship with Him daily—through prayer, meditation and obedience—we grow strong and fruitful in our walk with Christ.

God instructed Joshua to meditate on His Word day and night. This wasn't just a casual suggestion; it was the key to success. Meditating on Scripture means more than simply reading—it involves reflecting on it, speaking it and applying it to our daily lives. When we consistently immerse ourselves in God's truth, we gain wisdom, strength and courage to face life's challenges.

Are you tending to your spiritual life with the same care as a well-kept garden? Just as a plant needs water and sunlight to thrive, our hearts need the nourishment of God's Word to grow.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to cherish Your Word and meditate on it daily. Strengthen my heart to follow Your ways so that I may walk in Your blessings. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY SENTA HINZMAN

## APRIL 28

### REAL REJOICING

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances...*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18**

Have you ever met someone who's happy all the time? Every time you see them, they are smiling. Every time you ask how they are, they give you an over-the-top positive response. You've never seen them cry, get frustrated or bat an eye at anything. Every situation, circumstance and obstacle is sunshine, roses and joy at all times.

When the author of 1 Thessalonians writes these verses in Chapter 5 of his letter, saying "rejoice always," he is not referring to modeling ourselves like people whose fake happiness pervades every aspect of their lives. He is calling us to remember the greater truth that Christ offers in the midst of whatever we face, that he has conquered every enemy, evil and death. As a community, we can remind one another of this, that no matter what comes our way, we can trust that the Spirit is not only with us but has already accomplished defeating it on our behalf and because of that truth, we can rejoice! In fact, we will be reminded to rejoice by doing what the author names next: praying continually. This doesn't mean that we have to spend our entire day kneeling on the floor, our eyes closed and our heads bowed. It means that we need to be in conversation with God regularly throughout our day, giving thanks to Him for the good that He has given to us and bringing our concerns before Him that we might see His greatness above what stands in our way.

### PRAYER

*Accompanying God, no matter where we find ourselves this day, help us to rejoice, knowing that you go with us and you have already created a way to conquer whatever stands in the way of our fullest life with you. Teach us to pray in every circumstance and every moment, never fully leaving our conversation with you. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO

## APRIL 29

### FASTING FOR A GENEROUS LIFE

*“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

**MATTHEW 6:16-18**

In 1964, Catherine Marshall, a well-known Christian author, decided to give up criticizing others for one day as a spiritual discipline. She quickly discovered how deeply ingrained her habit was, and how much self-denial it took to keep silent when tempted to pass judgment. At the end of the day, she realized the fast wasn't just about avoiding criticism; it was about making space for compassion, generosity and grace to grow in her heart. In the same way, Jesus teaches that fasting isn't about impressing others or proving our holiness. It's an act of self-denial that creates room for God to shape our hearts toward His purposes. When we give up something—whether food, comfort or convenience—we're reminded that life's truest satisfaction doesn't come from what we consume but from the One who sustains us. Fasting, practiced in humility and secrecy, draws our hearts closer to God and opens our hands to live more generously.

When we fast to seek God, we begin to see that every sacrifice becomes a seed for greater compassion, generosity and love toward others.

### PRAYER

*Lord, teach me the beauty of fasting that is done for You alone. Help me to see self-denial not as loss, but as a way to make more room for Your love to flow through me. May my private devotion lead to public generosity, so that my life reflects Your heart. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## APRIL 30

### ASK FOR HELP

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

**PROVERBS 11:2**

It was about 6:30 in the morning and we were in the bathroom getting ready for work. Our son, who was 7 at the time, came in with his head down and tears streaming down his face. We bent down to find out what was wrong, and he admitted that he had put an eraser in his ear, and it was hurting. Three days earlier, a boy in his class had dared him to shove the eraser in his ear and he had taken the dare. After a few minutes of looking in his ear we decided to take him to the ER. Many painful hours later, the eraser was eradicated, and my son had decided two things. First, he would humble himself and ask for help sooner next time he couldn't solve a problem on his own and second, he would no longer take dares!

*“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”* Pride often blinds us, making us think we have all the answers, while humility opens our hearts to learn from God and others. True wisdom is not just knowledge but the ability to recognize our dependence on God. Humility allows us to grow, serve and walk faithfully in His ways. Today, let us seek humility in our thoughts, words and actions, asking for help and learning from our past mistakes.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me walk humbly before You. Remove pride from my heart and fill me with Your wisdom. Teach me to listen, learn and ask for help with a humble heart. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## MAY 1

### BASEBALL WITH A MISSION

*So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:31**

Years ago, my husband and some of his friends formed a traveling baseball team made up of boys from our community. They wanted this baseball team to be different and about the right things. They called themselves “Lexington Cross” and had Bible verses embroidered onto the uniform sleeves. To get their uniforms, the boys had to memorize a couple of verses, one of which was 1 Corinthians 10:31. The team talked about that down to the most basic thing, like drinking a Gatorade or catching a baseball, they wanted to do it with excellence and represent Jesus. That meant the boys and the coaches had to play with joy and kindness and not yell at the umpire or speak ugly about other teams. The families that formed this team wanted to play baseball in such a way that they would reflect God’s heart.

Living missionally is about being on mission for God every day. It’s about bringing God’s love to the world around us. Whether we are at work, home, out with friends or on the sports field, we are called to share our faith through our actions and words. Every action, from the simplest to the greatest, should be done for the glory of God.

## PRAYER

*Lord, help us remember that every moment of our lives belongs to You—not just the big ones, but the small and ordinary ones too. Teach us to live with excellence, humility and joy so that everything we do reflects Your character. Use our actions, words and attitudes to point others to You. Amen.*

## MAY 2

### REFLECTION

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is slow down. Scripture shows us that God often met His people in the in-between spaces, after the work was done and before the next step began. As you enter the weekend, create room to breathe, reflect and let God re-center your heart. Humility grows when we stop striving long enough to recognize God’s steady presence. Give Him space, and He will speak.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week’s devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse’s entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## MAY 5 PRAY, NOT SCROLL

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your request to God.*

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6**

When you're at the doctor's office, in the school pick-up line, in a drive-through, even at a stoplight, what is the first thing you reach for while you're waiting? For most of us, the answer to that question is our cell phone. Somewhere along the way, as cell phones became prevalent, we forgot how to wait without playing with that digital device in our hands. Now, anytime there is a break in the action, we immediately reach for our phones and begin scrolling so that we have no downtime or inactive waiting.

What if instead of reaching for our phones in the waiting, we reached for God? So often when we are waiting on God's promises, our anxiety is heightened that the promise won't actually come to fruition, that this is the one time that God really won't come through on what he said he would do. The apostle Paul reminds us that the best course of action when we are waiting is not to pick up our phones and read more things that will induce anxiety. The best course of action is to pray...

about everything, the big and the small.

Even better, he shares with us how to pray—telling God what we need and thanking him for what he's done. This change won't be easy!

In fact, it will take many days of failure and missteps before we begin to get into a new habit.

But, together, as a community we can hold one another accountable, encouraging one another in this new way of waiting as we pray instead of scroll.

### PRAYER

*God of the waiting, you know how challenging it can be for us to keep our focus on you in our seasons of waiting or even simply in the busyness of everyday life. Help us to return our attention to you throughout the day today, giving you all of our worries as well as our gratitude. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO

## MAY 6 HUNGRY FOR JUSTICE

*"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"*

**ISAIAH 58:6**

In 1965, a young college student named John van Hengel began volunteering at a soup kitchen in Phoenix, Arizona. He met a mother who relied on discarded groceries to feed her children. Her struggle stirred something in him.

John realized that while many people were going hungry, tons of perfectly good food was being thrown away every day.

In a bold act of self-denial, John left his job and dedicated himself to collecting surplus food and distributing it to those in need.

That small start would become the world's first food bank, launching a movement that has fed millions around the globe. Founding St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance is his lasting legacy and he became known as the

"Father of Food Banking". In Isaiah 58, God reminds us that fasting isn't just about skipping meals—it's about emptying ourselves so we can be filled with His compassion and pour it out on others. True fasting shifts our focus from personal comfort to the needs of those around us. It frees us from self-centered living so we can join God's mission to lift burdens, break chains and bring hope. Like John, when we practice self-denial in God's way, it doesn't just change us—it changes the world.

### PRAYER

*Lord, teach me to fast in a way that pleases You. Help me to see beyond my own needs and be moved by the needs of others. As I lay down my comfort, fill me with Your compassion so I can live generously and bring freedom and hope to those who need it most. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## MAY 7

### GENTLE AND LOWLY

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

**MATTHEW 11:29**

As a human being, it's natural to think about things you want and need. It's easy to get consumed and focus mostly on yourself and become self-absorbed. Jesus teaches us a different way to live and He calls it humility. Before coming to earth, Jesus resided in heaven at the right hand of the Father. He was and always will be King over the universe. He created everything and is the most awesome ruler.

But, when Jesus came to earth, He chose to be born in a stable. He was born the child of a simple family living in an oppressed country. He was born a Jew, a lowly race of people under the Roman empire. Jesus lived out His adult ministry as a homeless preacher and teacher. He was humble in every sense of the word.

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus shows us His servant heart. This is the only place in scripture Jesus pulls back the veil and tells us about His heart with His own words. He could have told us ANYTHING about Himself. But Jesus chose to tell us he is Gentle. He is Humble. This is significant! This is our Jesus, our friend and our Savior. He is gentle and humble and He calls us to be the same.

### PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, teach me Your gentleness and humility. Help me take Your yoke, follow Your ways and find true rest for my weary soul today. Amen.*

## MAY 8

### FULL HOUSE

*Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

**ROMANS 12:13**

Back in 2015, a good friend of ours was between apartments and struggling to find a place to live. One night while he was at our house, we told him to move in with us. We had a spare bedroom, and with seven people already in the house, what was one more? The move was seamless, and our home felt fuller in the best way.

A few months later, he came home from the doctor with a cancer diagnosis. The first words he spoke were, "I don't want to be a burden to you guys." Without hesitation, we responded, "God knew you were going to need to be with family, so He made room for you here."

Scripture reminds us, "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." What we might see as inconvenience, God sees as preparation. Before the diagnosis ever came, God had already prepared a place, a people and a plan.

When we choose to live missionally, we discover that generosity isn't about having extra—it's about trusting God enough to say yes.

### PRAYER

*Lord, teach us to live with open hands and open hearts. Help us see people the way You do—as opportunities to love. Melt what is hardened in us, mold us into the likeness of Christ and fill us with Your compassion. Use our homes, our time and our lives to carry the burdens of others, so Your love is made visible through us. Amen.*



## MAY 11

### NAVIGATING WITH GOD'S LIGHT

*Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.*

**PSALM 119:105**

While on vacation, I had the chance to climb to the top of a lighthouse. As I looked out over the coastline, I realized how crucial that lighthouse is to a captain navigating through the night. The captain depends on it, along with navigational charts, to safely guide the ship to shore. Without the lighthouse, the captain could easily veer off course or encounter hidden dangers. The light doesn't illuminate the entire journey, but it provides just enough guidance to keep the ship on the right path.

In many ways, our lives mirror that journey. We often face uncertain paths, and without direction, we can make wrong decisions or feel lost. But God's Word serves as our lighthouse, a constant guide to show us the way forward.

The Bible doesn't always reveal the entire journey at once, just like a lighthouse doesn't light up the entire ocean. Instead, it provides wisdom for each step, guiding us through life's challenges. By trusting and following Scripture, we avoid dangers, stay on track and find peace knowing that God is leading us.

### PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for Your Word, the light that illuminates my path. Help me trust Your guidance, even when I can't see the entire road ahead. Keep me grounded in Your truth and lead me through every step. Amen.*

## MAY 12

### A WEIGHT LIFTED

*Therefore confess your sins to each other  
and pray for each other...*

**JAMES 5:16**

When I was a kid, I had gotten caught in the cycle of repeatedly doing something that I shouldn't have been doing. After weeks of it stirring in my soul, one Saturday afternoon, when my parents were both in the kitchen together, I went downstairs and in a written apology, I confessed my sin before them. Even though I was embarrassed by what I had done, I remember in that moment feeling like a great burden had been lifted from me because my secret was out in the open and they welcomed me, forgiven, into the warmth of their arms.

In the community of the church, we too are called to confess our sins to one another. This is not an attempt to shame anyone or rank whose sin is worse. It's an opportunity for that weight to be lifted from our own lives as what we've been carrying alone is revealed. In that moment, our brothers and sisters can come alongside us, grieving the sin with us and praying that we might be released from its grip, even ushering us toward resources that might help us as we journey forward. We can model for one another the forgiveness and grace of God who cleanses us of our sins when we humbly confess them and seek to realign with his will and peace. We can be a community that fosters space for honesty, vulnerability and an encounter with God's unending love.

### PRAYER

*Gracious God, who knows our sin intimately and loves us in spite of it, give us the courage to confess our sins to you and to one another, to reveal what we've been hiding and to encourage one another through your spirit of forgiveness and grace as we seek to more faithfully follow you. Amen.*

## MAY 13

### THE COST OF A COFFEE

*“Even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”*

**JOEL 2:12**

When I was fresh out of college, my budget was tight. Like most people my age, I had a daily ritual: stopping for coffee on my way to work. One day, I felt a tug on my heart to sponsor a child through a ministry I had been exposed to during a youth ministry conference called Compassion International. The cost was about the same as my monthly coffee habit. I wrestled with the thought, giving up that small luxury for someone I’d never met. But as I prayed, I realized this was a moment of self-denial that could open the door to generosity. So, I gave up my daily coffee run and redirected that money to support a little boy across the world. Over time, I began to see that fasting, whether from food, comforts or routines, isn’t just about going without; it’s about creating space to give, serve and draw closer to God. Joel’s call to “return to the Lord with all your heart” reminds us that fasting is more than a ritual, it’s a realignment of our priorities with His heart. And in that space of self-denial, we find the joy of living generously and the blessing of being part of God’s work in someone else’s life.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to practice self-denial not out of guilt, but out of love for You and others. Teach me that fasting is an opportunity to redirect my resources, my time and my attention toward what truly matters. May my sacrifices lead to generosity that honors You and blesses others. Amen.*

## MAY 14

### WALKING IN TRUTH

*In the same way, you who are younger,  
submit yourselves to your elders. All of you,  
clothe yourselves with humility toward one  
another, because, “God opposes the proud but  
shows favor to the humble.” Humble yourselves,  
therefore, under God’s mighty hand,  
that He may lift you up in due time.*

**1 PETER 5:5-6**

“The Emperor’s New Clothes” is a tale many of us have heard by Hans Christian Andersen. The story goes that two men posing as weavers offer to supply the emperor with beautiful clothes that are invisible to those who are incompetent or stupid. The gullible emperor hires them, and they set up looms and pretend to go to work. A stream of officials, starting with the emperor’s wise minister, and then ending with the emperor himself, visit them to check their progress. Each sees that the looms are empty but pretends to see the clothes to avoid being thought stupid. Everyone pretended to see what wasn’t there—until a child spoke the truth. Pride, fear and the desire for approval blinded the people, and the emperor was left walking the streets in his underwear.

How often do we hide behind appearances, afraid to be real before God or others? But God sees us fully—and loves us still. True freedom comes when we walk in truth, not illusion. Let us be humble, honest and brave enough to speak—and live—the truth.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me walk in truth, not image. Strip away pride and fear, and clothe me in humility, honesty and grace. Amen.*

## MAY 15

### DRY ROT

*...for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

**PHILIPPIANS 2:13**

My husband and I were heading to New York City for the weekend and the weather report said rainy. We both pondered the best shoes to wear to keep our feet dry. In our closet he grabbed a leather pair he hadn't worn in many years and said, "These will keep my feet dry and it's ok if they get messed up!"

As we walked the streets Saturday afternoon, he told me his sock was getting wet and there must be a hole somewhere in the right shoe. As we left dinner, the entire sole of his shoe had come loose. His sock was soaked and he had to lift his foot with each step like he had on swim flippers. We laughed the 15 blocks to the hotel! The shoes, though they still looked good on the outside, had sat for years on the shelf in our closet and dry rotted. They seemed solid. But sitting unused had quietly weakened them from the inside out.

It's easy for our faith, gifts and obedience to do the same. God doesn't give us abilities, resources or opportunities to sit untouched on a shelf. When faith is only stored and never practiced, it grows fragile. The shoe didn't fall apart because of the rain alone. The rain just revealed what time and neglect had already done.

Living missionally means using what God has already placed in our hands—our time, words, resources and faith—right where we are. God doesn't ask us to preserve our resources carefully on a shelf; He invites us to use them for His purposes. We are reminded that we are a sent people, called to walk intentionally in a world that desperately needs the hope we carry.

## PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for the gifts, faith and opportunities You have given us. Forgive us for the ways we have stored them instead of using them. Strengthen our faith as we walk in obedience, even when it's uncomfortable or costly. Help us trust You and use what we have for Your purposes. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## MAY 16

### REFLECTION

Life doesn't slow down on its own, we have to choose it. In Scripture, moments of pause became turning points where God reminded His people who He was and who they were called to be. As you step into the weekend, take time to breathe deeply and seek God's presence. Humility grows when we release the rush and make room for Him. In the quiet, you may find that God's voice is closer than you thought.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week's devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse's entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## MAY 19

### PRAY, WATCH, THANK

*Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful and thankful.*

**COLOSSIANS 4:2**

I have a friend who went through a horrible divorce, leaving her a single mother to raise her daughter all on her own. Having stayed home with their daughter up to that point, in a matter of days, she had to go and find a job and the only one she could get gave her barely enough money for their mortgage and bills. She wasn't sure what they would eat or how they would purchase other needs. Fervently, she prayed that the Lord would sustain them. Looking back now, she reports that miraculously, the shampoo lasted longer than it ever had before, the food seemed to multiply in their cabinets and never did they want for anything that they truly needed. Undeniably, she could see the hand of God and the answer to her prayers.

So often we pray and then never think another thought about what we've lifted up before the Lord. But, the author of Colossians reminds us that it's not enough just to pray. An integral part of prayer is watching for God's presence and provision to be unveiled in the days or even years to come. We are invited to pay attention to how He is at work answering our prayers and, then, to be thankful, giving Him all the praise and glory for what He's done. When we share what we are praying for with our community, they too can be our eyes, watching and pointing when we may not notice His work.

## PRAYER

*Good God, who is faithful to answer our prayers  
whether we notice your response or not,  
give us the eyes to see what you are doing.  
Remind us that our prayer extends beyond our  
spoken words to watching and giving thanks  
for your answer. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO

## MAY 20

### FASTING FOR A GREATER FEAST

*So we fasted and petitioned our God about this,  
and he answered our prayer.*

**EZRA 8:23**

Have you ever watched one of those survival shows like *Alone* or *Survivor* where contestants go days without food, battling bugs, bad weather and all kinds of discomfort, just to win a prize? They willingly give up their comfort and meals because they believe the reward is worth it. In Ezra's time, fasting wasn't a game or a challenge. It was a serious act of humility and dependence on God. Ezra and the people fasted to show God they trusted Him for protection and guidance. Fasting was their way of saying, "God, You are more important to us than even our next meal." But fasting isn't only about skipping food. It's about surrendering something valuable so we can focus more fully on God and serving others as an act of trust. It is our way of saying, "God, You matter more than my little daily comforts, and I want to invest in what lasts." Fasting reminds us that self-denial is not about losing; it's about making room for something greater. The feast to come far surpasses anything we give up today. Fasting prayer moves us past our greedy nature and toward having generous hearts.

## PRAYER

*Lord, help me to treasure You above my own  
comfort. Teach me to fast, not as a mere  
sacrifice, but as a way to draw closer to You  
and live with open hands and a generous heart.  
Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## MAY 21

### THE DEEP END

*Be completely humble and gentle;  
be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

**EPHESIANS 4:2**

When my oldest son was four we signed him up for swim lessons. He loved them, until the day the instructor wanted them to jump into the deep end and swim to the side. He wanted no part of that! My super sweet, obedient child became sassy and combative (a behavior I watched over the years only rear its head when he was scared). The same thing happened the next day when they approached the deep end. The third day I watched this same scenario play out and I was at my wit's end. We went home that night and I called my Mom and asked her and my Dad to pray. I was on the phone with another friend and described the scene and also asked her to pray. The next day when we approached the pool, my brave boy walked up to the edge and jumped in and swam to the side! We were so proud and relieved! I told him we had all been praying the night before and that people were praying during the class. His four-year-old response was, "Why didn't you just pray in the first place so I didn't have to go through all this?"

As parents we often try to handle things all on our own, forgetting we are merely ambassadors of the children that God has entrusted us with. We forget to humble ourselves and pray to the One who can really step in and help. Living out love begins with humility and patience. We grow when we choose to lean into His power and sovereignty.

## PRAYER

*Lord, teach me to walk in humility, gentleness and patience. Help me love others as You love me. Remind me to seek You in every area of my life. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## MAY 22

### EXTRA SNACKS

*And I am praying that you will put into action your generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ.*

**PHILEMON 1:6**

In fifth grade our son came home from school and said his friend's chips were gone each day when he opened his lunch box. They noticed another boy in their class eating what they assumed were the missing chips on the playground. We asked if they told the teacher and our son said, "No. Jackson asked his parents if he could bring two bags of chips each day so the boy could still have some." That is faith put into action.

Philemon 1:6 reminds us that genuine faith doesn't stay theoretical. As we understand and experience the goodness of Christ, it naturally spills over into generosity. Jackson didn't excuse the wrongdoing, but he responded with grace. He didn't wait for someone else to fix the problem; he simply used what he had.

Living missionally often looks small and ordinary—extra chips in a lunchbox, quiet kindness on a playground, generosity that costs us something but protects another's dignity. These are the moments where faith becomes visible and Christ is made known.

## PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for the good things You have given us. Open our eyes to see the needs around us and give us hearts to respond with generosity and grace. Teach us to live missionally in ordinary moments, trusting that You use small acts of faith to reflect Your love. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES



## MAY 25

### HOPE THROUGH ENDURANCE

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

**ROMANS 15:4**

Imagine an athlete preparing for a marathon. The training is tough, the miles are long and fatigue sets in. Yet, the athlete draws strength from the stories of others who've completed the race, knowing their struggles led to victory. These stories inspire perseverance, reminding the runner that every step, though challenging, is worth it when they cross the finish line. Like that athlete, we, too, are running a race in life, and God's Word is our source of encouragement, empowering us to keep going despite the obstacles we face.

The Bible is filled with accounts of people who faced hardships but trusted God and pressed forward. Their stories were not just meant for the past; they were written to guide us in our own struggles. Through Scripture, we discover that we are never alone in our trials. God's Word equips us with the endurance to press on, reminding us that He is faithful to fulfill His promises. When we trust in Him, we can endure and find hope, knowing the journey is never without purpose.

### PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for the encouragement and strength found in Your Word. Help me keep my focus on You, knowing that through Your power, I can face anything with hope. May Your Word continue to guide and sustain me as I endure life's challenges. Amen.*

## MAY 26

### PRIORITIES, PRIORITIES

*But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*

**LUKE 5:16**

For months, I went to bed with good intentions of exercising "tomorrow," but every single morning when I got up, I seemed to find a reason why I couldn't do it. Some days my workout clothes weren't clean, the weights weren't out or I overslept. One night, I prepared differently. Before I went to bed that night, I laid out my workout clothes, setup the room where I'd be exercising and created extra alarms so that I would not oversleep. That morning, I got it done, because I'd already decided that that time was set-apart.

Just as Jesus did, we are called too to set-apart time to meet with God. From attending weekly worship to spending time daily in prayer and his Word, he wants to be in deep relationship with us. Often, our immediate response is, "But I don't have enough time," but the truth is that we will have enough time if we prioritize it and consider it time already set-apart. Maybe to get to church each week, we need to set out our clothes the night before and have breakfast ready to go. Maybe to spend time with God each morning, we need to set our alarm earlier and have our Bible and cup for coffee already out when we sleepily get up. In order to truly be his disciples, we need that time set-apart, and we must encourage one another to make it a priority.

### PRAYER

*Holy God, just as Jesus carved out time to step away and be with you in prayer, you are asking the same of us. Help us to create space and time in our lives to deepen our relationships with you that we might be growing all of our days. Amen.*

**MAY 27****SEEKING GOD THROUGH FASTING & GENEROSITY**

*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*

**ACTS 13:2-3**

In the early church, fasting wasn't just about skipping meals; it was a powerful way to seek God with focused hearts and humble spirits.

In Acts 13, we see the believers gathered in worship and fasting, fully surrendering themselves to God's leading. It was in this place of self-denial that the Holy Spirit spoke clearly, calling Barnabas and Saul to a new mission. Fasting and prayer weren't ends in themselves but tools for seeking God's direction and surrendering personal comfort for His greater purpose. Like someone searching tirelessly for what their heart truly longs for, the early church sought God with all their hearts through fasting, and in doing so, discovered a mission that changed history. This passage reminds us that fasting isn't just about what we give up, it's about what we gain when we say "yes" to God's calling. When we fast and deny ourselves, we open space to hear God's voice and live generously, whether that's sharing our time, resources or love with others. Imagine what happens if we fast not only from food but also from distractions, selfishness or excess and use what we save to bless those in need. Our self-denial becomes an investment in God's kingdom, a way to live generously and reflect His heart.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, teach me to seek You with a humble and willing heart, through fasting, prayer and self-denial. Help me live generously, offering not just my resources but my whole life to Your service. Guide me to hear Your voice clearly and follow where You lead. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

**MAY 28****THE RACE BEFORE YOU**

*For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

**MATTHEW 23:12**

One hot summer night as my husband was standing at the blocks preparing to hit the stopwatch and time another 50-meter freestyle event, he overheard one of the swimmers talking. The swimmer said to the boy beside him, "Get ready to lose. I'm going to outswim all of you." My husband knew the boy the arrogant boy was speaking to. Zach was his name, and he knew that Zach hadn't lost a race so far that summer. He waited to see what Zach would say. Zach said nothing. He just looked at the boy and nodded. They took their marks and waited for the gun. The boys dove off the blocks, swam to the other end, did their flip turns and started back to the finishing wall. Zach touched the wall long before anyone else. He waited in the water and shook the hand of the arrogant boy beside him, looked him in the eye and said, "Good race," before he got out of the water and walked away.

Jesus teaches that true greatness comes through humility. In a world that often promotes pride and self-exaltation, He calls us to lower ourselves, trusting God to lift us in His time.

When we humble our hearts, we reflect Christ's character.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, teach me to walk in humility. Help me serve others with grace and reflect Your love. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## MAY 29

### GRACE GOES BOTH WAYS

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

**EPHESIANS 4:32**

I can reflect back on one particular time that I lost it on one of my kids. Things had come to a head in a rough situation and I spoke words that needed to be heard, but the volume with which I spoke them and the way that I said those words was 100% not pleasing to God.

Thirty minutes later, as I was praying and crying, I went upstairs. I sat on the edge of the bed and repeatedly said I was so very sorry for the way that I spoke.

My sweet child wrapped their arms around me and said, “I forgive you, Mom. I probably needed to hear it.” Grace was poured over me in that moment.

One of the reasons I think my child was able to forgive so quickly is because there have been mistakes in their life where my husband and I had been able to pour grace onto them. Covering each other in grace can be a beautiful back and forth with our children, our spouses, our friends and our family.

When the people in our lives experience mercy instead of condemnation, patience instead of harshness and restoration instead of shame, they learn the rhythm of grace. Forgiveness flows best in an environment where it is regularly practiced. Homes become gospel training grounds when parents repent openly, children are invited into forgiveness and realize grace is not earned but given.

Living missionally begins not across oceans but across the dinner table. Our first ministry is the hearts entrusted to us. When we repent, forgive and restore, we proclaim the gospel without leaving home.

Everyday moments become sacred ground where Christ’s love is practiced and experienced.

## PRAYER

*Thank You that Your mercy is new every morning and that You do not treat us as our sins deserve. Let our homes be a place where the gospel is lived, not just spoken. May forgiveness flow freely, humility be normal and grace be abundant. Help us live missionally within our own walls in a way that reflects Jesus. Make our families be a testimony of Your love.*  
Amen.

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## MAY 30

### REFLECTION

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is slow down. Scripture shows us that God often met His people in the in-between spaces, after the work was done and before the next step began. As you enter the weekend, create room to breathe, reflect and let God re-center your heart. Humility grows when we stop striving long enough to recognize God’s steady presence. Give Him space, and He will speak.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week’s devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse’s entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## JUNE 2

### MORE THAN A HIGHLIGHT REEL

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

**EPHESIANS 6:18A**

When I was growing up, I looked forward to my parents picking me up after school.

When I went to college, I looked forward to meeting my roommate at the end of each day.

Now that I'm grown, I look forward to eating with my family around the dinner table at night.

For me, there is nothing more exciting than having a captive audience with which to share the specific details of my day. And when I say details, I mean it, down to every bit of work I did and how long it took me to eat my lunch. I remember early in our marriage my husband saying that when he asked me about my day, he didn't need to know everything, just the highlights.

So often when we pray, we expect that God doesn't want to know everything, that He isn't interested in the details but only wants us to pray about the big things, the highlights of our day and our lives. However, this text from Ephesians reminds us that we are to pray "on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

God is our captive audience, always ready to receive whatever we want to share with him, ask of him and pray over. As we seek to live and grow together in the church, we can model this for one another by praying over both big things and small things, happy requests and sad ones, specific details and highlights, knowing that He cares for them all.

## PRAYER

*Compassionate God, remind us constantly that you are a God who cares deeply not only for the highlights of our lives but for the small details as well. Allow us to encourage one another to pray to you in every circumstance, bringing all that we have and all that we are before you in prayer. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO

## JUNE 3

### GENEROSITY BY THE BOOK

*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

**JOSHUA 1:8**

My sister-in-law is a really gifted baker. Cakes, cookies and bread are all her specialties.

She wasn't always like that though. At first, everything about baking felt unfamiliar—the measurements, the kneading, the timing. But as she returned to the recipes day after day, practicing patiently, baking became easier and more natural to her. Eventually, her tasty treats were perfected and ready to share. Joshua was given a similar challenge: to keep God's Word close, to think about it constantly and to live by it faithfully. His success depended on steady obedience, much like a baker mastering their craft through consistent practice. One important part of God's Word is the call to live generously. Just as a baker shares treats straight from the oven with others, we are called to share our resources, time and love because God has first shown generosity to us. When generosity becomes part of our daily life, it transforms us and those around us. Living by God's Word leads to a life full of blessing, a life that feeds others and honors God. As we meditate on Scripture and practice generosity, we create something good and life-giving for those around us.

## PRAYER

*God, help me to keep Your Word close every day and live it out with intention. Teach me to be generous with what You've given me, so my life may bless others and bring glory to You. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## JUNE 4

### WHEN THEY DRIVE AWAY

*“He must become greater; I must become less.”*  
**JOHN 3:30**

It’s a beautiful fall day and I am standing at my front window wringing my hands as my child pulls out of the driveway on their own for the very first time. As the car pulls out of sight all I can do is trust their newly learned driving skills and pray. And pray. And then pray some more. In that moment I fully feel the reality that this child of mine is more deeply loved by their heavenly Father than even by me. They have pulled out of my sight into this great big world, but they are still directly in the line of God’s sight.

He must become greater and I must become less. As kids get older and they drive for the first time or when they go off to college, we have to choose to open our hands and let go and let God. As they gain independence, we learn to release control and allow Christ to increase in their lives. Our peace comes not from our will and protection, but from surrendering them to His greater care.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me trust You. May Christ increase in the heart and life of the people that surround me, and may my fears decrease through faith. Guard their steps, calm my worries and guide us both in Your perfect care. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## JUNE 5

### PEOPLE OVER PRODUCT

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*  
**MATTHEW 25:40**

Just down the road in Greenwood, SC you will find the home of Greenwood Mills, a much-revered textile company. During the Great Depression and both World Wars, the mill remained open, profitable and committed to its people—a rare stability in uncertain times.

In 1935 James Self became the sole owner of the mills and his philosophy was, “Start with the best cotton you can buy, the finest machinery made and the best people there are to operate this equipment.” Excellence mattered, but so did people. In 1942, he established The Self Foundation, demonstrating a profound commitment to the local community and economy. Nice housing, churches, schools, sports teams and company stores for workers and their families were provided.

James Self did not settle for the bare minimum. He went beyond wages to provide dignity—education, medical care and places of worship. He was not a distant executive; he was known personally and respected deeply. His leadership modeled something profound: when you invest in people, you strengthen both business and community.

Living missionally is not reserved for pastors or missionaries overseas. It often looks like leadership rooted in care for the people right in front of you. James Self understood that influence is stewardship.

By investing in housing, education, worship and medical care, he shaped more than a company—he shaped a community. Mission begins wherever God has placed you: in your workplace, neighborhood or town. When we pursue excellence and prioritize people, we reflect Christ’s heart. Living missionally means seeing our resources, positions and daily decisions as opportunities to bless others and build something that outlives us.

### PRAYER

*Teach me to live missionally where You have planted me. Help me see my work, influence and resources as tools for Your kingdom. Give me a heart that values people over profit and legacy over recognition. Help me to love the people You put in my path. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES



## JUNE 8

### FASTING IN SECRET

*“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do... But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

**MATTHEW 6:16-18**

You probably know someone like this—the person who loves to give gifts, but only if everyone’s watching. They announce their generosity loudly, making sure no one misses it. While the gift itself might be generous, the motivation behind it feels off. Now, think of someone who gives quietly, anonymously, purely out of love. That’s the kind of heart Jesus invites us to have in our spiritual lives. Jesus teaches that fasting isn’t about gaining attention or looking spiritual. It’s about quiet surrender and deeper intimacy with God. Fasting is a personal act of worship—laying aside something physical to pursue something spiritual. In doing so, we make room to hear God more clearly and align our hearts with His.

So, if you’re fasting, shift your focus. Don’t dwell on what you’re giving up—celebrate what you’re drawing closer to: the God who sees, who knows and who deeply loves you.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to seek You sincerely—not for recognition or approval, but to know You more intimately. Let my devotion be for Your eyes alone. Amen.*

## JUNE 9

### FIRST RESPONSE, NOT LAST RESORT

*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus...*

**ACTS 1:14**

On January 1, many of us set out to establish a new year’s resolution. Maybe we want to drop pounds, read more, set aside time for family or grow deeper in faith. Often these resolutions or new habits start out with great enthusiasm but by the time we reach this point in the year they are no longer in practice, so far removed from our minds that we might not even be able to remember what we resolved to do. And, yet, if there is one that sticks, something that we do for at least twenty-one days they say, it becomes normal to our routine. Never are those habits of our lives more evident than in crisis.

In this passage from Acts, the disciples are in crisis. They have watched Jesus ascend into heaven and were told to wait until his Holy Spirit would come to send them out into the world to make more disciples in his name. But, right now, they are in the in-between and are having to trust that Jesus will make good on his promise. Interestingly, their first response is not to panic but to pray. What we should assume is that praying is something they’ve been doing regularly before they got to this point. It is a habit, a part of their routine that is normal for them. Do you pray regularly so that it would be your first response not your last resort? Could you start today to make prayer a daily practice in your life?

### PRAYER

*Gracious God, well up inside of us a desire to pray to you not haphazardly but consistently throughout our days on earth. Help prayer to become so integral to who we are that it is the first place we turn in the midst of crisis. Amen.*

## JUNE 10 TUNING OUR HEARTS

*I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.*

**PSALM 119:11**

My church once received a generous donation when I was young, a beautiful piano gifted by a family whose loved one passed away.

When it arrived, the piano was out of tune and didn't sound quite right. It took time, patience and several tunings to get it dialed in. That same piano was used to fill the chapel of the church with rich, uplifting music that blessed everyone who heard it. Psalm 119:11 reminds us that hiding God's Word in our hearts is like tuning that piano. It takes time and care to let Scripture shape us, protecting us from sin and guiding how we live. Living generously is part of that transformation. Just as the piano needed careful tuning before it could produce beautiful music, our hearts need God's Word to be deeply rooted before generosity flows naturally. When Scripture is truly hidden in us, generosity becomes a joyful expression of God's love, blessing others in ways we never imagined.

May our lives be like that piano, carefully tuned by God's Word, producing a melody of generosity that glorifies Him and encourages those around us.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me to hide Your Word in my heart and be patient as You tune my life. Teach me to live generously, sharing freely as You have blessed me. May my life bring joy and blessing to others. Amen.*

## JUNE 11 COVERING YOUR BACK

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed  
for I am your God; I will strengthen you,  
I will help you, I will uphold you with my  
righteous right hand.*

**ISAIAH 41:10**

My husband has what he considers, a fool-proof way to apply sunscreen. It involves lots of SPF 50 lotion and a sideways method of application on his arms and legs. He sprays the tops of his feet and the top of his head. He then grabs the bottle of lotion and walks around until he finds someone in the house to slather the sunscreen on his shoulders and back. He learned long ago that trying to cover every part of his back with his own two hands is a futile venture. He does what he can and then he asks for help with what he can't.

There are so many areas in our lives that we stubbornly try to cover on our own that result in us getting burned. God clearly tells us that He will help us and uphold us if we are willing to humble ourselves and just ask. Asking for His help isn't a sign of weakness—it's trust. God promises His presence, to uphold us, and to guide us with the things we cannot do on our own. Humbly seeking His help opens our hearts to His peace and power, reminding us we are never alone. So, grab that bottle of sunscreen and do what you can and then ask for help to make sure your back is covered.

### PRAYER

*Lord, I humbly ask for Your help today. Strengthen me where I am weak, guide me where I am lost and fill me with Your peace. Amen.*

## JUNE 12

### A RUN-DOWN HOUSE WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:11**

When I was in high school, my youth group went on a mission trip deep in the mountains of West Virginia. We arrived in time to eat supper at the old elementary school where we would be spending the week. We were sleeping on hard floors in the classrooms, eating cafeteria food that was less than okay and our one shower was an old refrigerator with door removed and a hose hung over the edge that ran from the freezing cold creek behind the school.

On Monday morning we set off for our work site. The van had to stop pretty far from the home because the dirt road turned into a narrow dirt path. We walked a quarter of a mile to get to the house and I had never seen anything like it. The roof was caving in, the stairs up to the porch had rotted and there was no running water or bathroom on the property. We all looked at each other, wondering how did people live like this? The couple who owned the home came out to greet us. The man was missing three of his front teeth, which was obvious to see because he had the biggest most genuine smile on his face. His wife had a hard time walking, which meant getting off that porch with the stairs broken was almost an impossibility. The joy that they exuded as they greeted us was something I had never felt.

We went back to the school each night realizing we had a solid roof over our head, blankets and pillows to pad the hard floor with, working toilets and a source of water to rinse off with. By the end of the week we had repaired the stairs to the porch, dug and built an outhouse for them and used some water pipes to tap into the creek near them. We all stood in front of the house that last day with tears streaming down our faces as we said our goodbyes. It was quiet in the van back to the school that night, as we all thought about how physically comfortable our lives were, but that we had been missing the peace and the joy that this couple had in this rundown house in the middle of the mountains.

True mission is not about comfort, but presence. In the mountains of West Virginia, we saw a couple with almost nothing, yet overflowing with joy and peace. Serving them reminded us that God's kingdom isn't measured by possessions, but by love, gratitude and service. Living missionally means stepping into the lives of others with hands ready to help and hearts ready to learn.

## PRAYER

*Lord, open my eyes to see where You've placed me.  
Help me serve others with humility, love and joy,  
trusting You to work through my hands. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## JUNE 13

### REFLECTION

Life doesn't slow down on its own, we have to choose it. In Scripture, moments of pause became turning points where God reminded His people who He was and who they were called to be. As you step into the weekend, take time to breathe deeply and seek God's presence. Humility grows when we release the rush and make room for Him. In the quiet, you may find that God's voice is closer than you thought.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week's devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse's entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## JUNE 16

### BELIEVING IS SEEING

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it...*

**MARK 11:24**

Back in the 90s a movie came out called “The Santa Clause” that instantly became a Christmas classic. In one scene, Tim Allen who is struggling to believe in Christmas magic is taken to the North Pole and shown all that is happening as elves prepare for the upcoming Christmas. Flabbergasted, he stands there questioning how anyone who hasn’t seen that place could believe in it, but one of the elves declares, “Seeing isn’t believing, believing is seeing. Kids don’t have to see this place to know that it’s here.”

In this passage out of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is telling us that before we ever see the results of our prayers, before God ever brings His will to fruition, we should believe that what we have asked in His name has already happened.

This takes faith that God will be faithful as he has always been. In addition, when we pray we shouldn’t expect God to slam us in the face with the answer every time. Instead, through our prayers, we should be asking for our hearts to be transformed to see when he answers them. In fact, the body of Christ can come alongside us as we believe for that which we have prayed, on the lookout as well to point out to us where God has answered in a way we might have missed. We shouldn’t have to see the answer to our prayers to believe them, by believing in advance we will be ready to see his answer.

### PRAYER

*Faithful God, give us deep faith to believe that what we pray in your name will be done. Give us eyes to see your answers come to fruition. Amen.*

## JUNE 17

### EQUIPPED TO BE GENEROUS

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17**

The Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, dreamed of flying high in the air. They didn’t just build a plane and hope for the best; they studied aerodynamics, tested designs and made adjustments based on careful observation and learning. Their preparation equipped them to accomplish something extraordinary. Similarly, Scripture is God’s manual for our lives. Paul tells Timothy that all Scripture equips us thoroughly for every good work, including living generously. Just as the Wright brothers prepared themselves to soar, God’s Word trains and shapes us to live with open hands and hearts. Generosity isn’t a spontaneous act; it’s a skill and a lifestyle nurtured by God’s truth. When we internalize His Word, it changes how we view our resources, time and love, not as things to hoard, but as gifts to be shared freely. Being equipped by Scripture means we’re ready to serve and bless others every day, worshiping God not just with words, but through generous living. God has plans for us to make a difference in the world through good works, don’t miss it.

### PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for Your Word that equips me to live generously. Help me to study it, let it shape my heart and use what You’ve given me to bless others. May my life be a daily act of worship through generosity. Amen.*

## JUNE 18

### THE GREAT TURTLE ESCAPE

*For we walk by faith and not by sight.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**

I walked out onto my back patio and was immediately startled by a very large turtle. Obviously, I startled him too and he began to quickly walk away from where I was standing and towards the lake. When he got to the patio stairs, he tucked his arms and legs and head inside his shell and slid like a bobsled straight down the stone steps to the edge of the water, leaving a trail of frightened pee the entire way. He scrambled down the riprap and I heard the splash as he slid back home. That turtle probably couldn't see a thing when he tucked himself in his shell, but he had faith he was going to slide all the way away from me and into the water.

Faith is trusting God with your heart, believing in His promises even when you can't see the outcome. Life can feel uncertain, and sometimes it's hard to see what's ahead. Walking by faith means trusting God even when we don't have all the answers. It's believing He's working behind the scenes, guiding our steps and keeping His promises. Faith isn't about having perfect clarity—it's about trusting the One who does. When we walk by faith, we gain courage, humility and peace, even when our head is in our shell and we can't see ahead.

### PRAYER

*God, help me trust You when life feels unclear. Teach me to rely on Your promises and truth, not what I see. Strengthen my faith, humble my heart and guide my steps. Amen.*

## JUNE 19

### THE EVERYDAY MISSION

*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 28:19-20**

This reminds me of a teacher giving students a project without showing them the finished result. They explain the first step and then tell the students, "I'll be with you the whole time." Some students might feel unsure or overwhelmed, but they keep going because they know the teacher is present. Following Jesus works the same way.

Jesus' call isn't only for pastors or missionaries, it's for every believer, in every season of life. Making disciples happens in small, everyday ways: mentoring a co-worker, showing kindness to a neighbor, modeling integrity at school or living out your faith authentically at home.

In today's fast-paced culture, we often want instant results, recognition or clear outcomes. But God asks us to take one faithful step at a time, trusting Him to guide and multiply our efforts. The impact of your obedience may not be obvious, but Jesus promises His presence every step of the way. So, focus on the next step He is calling you to take, knowing He walks with you through it all.

### PRAYER

*Lord, help me live on mission every day. Give me courage to obey, love and serve, trusting that You are with me every step of the way. Amen.*



**JUNE 22****DISCIPLINED FOR THE PRIZE**

*No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 9:27**

This brings to mind an Olympic runner preparing for the biggest race of their life. Every morning, they rise before dawn, rain or shine, to train.

They carefully plan every meal, every step, every breath. Their whole life is ordered around the goal: to finish well and win the prize.

Without discipline, they would never make it to the podium.

Paul understood something we often forget; passion alone isn't enough to finish well. It takes discipline—intentional, daily choices to choose

Christ as your Lord. Like an athlete, we must bring our desires, habits and even our thoughts under control.

Without discipline, small compromises over time can erode our faith. Left unchecked, distractions and temptations pull us off course. But when

we choose spiritual discipline, consistent prayer, scripture study, repentance and accountability, we build endurance to run the race God has set before us.

Paul wasn't motivated by fear but by a holy desire to honor God fully. He longed to not just start strong but to finish faithfully. We are called to the same mindset: to submit ourselves to Christ.

**PRAYER**

*Lord, help me to live a life of discipline, surrendering every part of myself to You. Strengthen me to run the race faithfully, and to finish well for Your glory. Amen.*

**JUNE 23****LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATION**

*The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

**PSALM 145:18**

At the beginning of our careers, my husband and I dated long-distance. Besides three-and-a-half-hour drives over the mountain to get to each other a couple of times a month, the main way we stayed in contact was by calling each other regularly on the phone to share about our days. In fact, some days we would call one another multiple times in-between events, unable to wait any longer. Some nights we would stay on the phone for hours, too much to share as we longed to spend time together.

On the whole, our entire relationship grew simply by us being in verbal communication with one another, even at a distance.

So often, we think of God as being so far away from us that it makes it feel impossible to grow in relationship with Him, because we can't see Him physically before us. However, this passage from the Psalms reminds us that God draws near to those who call on Him. If my husband and I had tried to date long-distance but never communicated with one another, we wouldn't have had much of a relationship. Similarly, we can't expect to have much of a relationship with God if we don't regularly communicate with Him. Prayer is the channel through which God has called us to meet with Him, to share our joys, our struggles, our adoration for who He is and our gratitude for what He's done. Together, as believers, we can remind one another to regularly be in communication with Him.

**PRAYER**

*Triune God, you are relational in yourself and so deeply seek to be in relationship with us. As we speak to you through prayer, speak to us, showing us your nearness and your care. Amen.*

## JUNE 24

### GOD SO LOVED

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**JOHN 3:16**

The word generosity comes from the Latin *generosus*, which means “of noble birth” or “noble in spirit.” Originally, it described the qualities expected of those with noble character—courage, honor and a willingness to act selflessly. Over time, the meaning broadened to focus on giving freely and generously to others. At its core, generosity is more than just the act of giving; it reflects a noble heart, a character shaped by kindness, love and the desire to bless others. Generosity begins with understanding the greatest gift ever given. God’s love for us wasn’t passive, it was active and costly. He gave His Son so that we could experience life with Him forever. This ultimate act of generosity sets the pattern for how we are called to live: with open hands, willing to share and hearts shaped by God’s love. Just as God gave freely, He equips us to do the same. Living generously doesn’t happen by chance; it flows from hearts transformed by His love. When we internalize John 3:16, we see that everything we have—our time, talents and treasures—is a gift from God meant to be shared. Generosity becomes less about obligation and more about responding to God’s immense love with gratitude and action. Being generous reflects God’s heart and allows His love to flow through us. Every act of giving, whether big or small, becomes a way to worship Him and extend His love to the world. God has entrusted us with resources and opportunities to make a difference, so let’s not hold back.

### PRAYER

*Lord, thank You for giving Your Son and showing me what true generosity looks like. Shape my heart to reflect Your love, and help me to give freely, blessing others as an act of worship.*  
Amen.

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER

## JUNE 25

### NEVER GIVE UP

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

**GALATIANS 6:9-10**

We got the call at about 5:00 PM. My son had been on mission in Asia for the summer and was on his journey home when his final flight was cancelled. He worked his way down to baggage claim and the airline desk to rebook. His bag never came and the flights were booked so quickly there was nothing left. As we talked to him on the phone, his voice broke from exhaustion and frustration. We got him to a hotel and said, “Go to sleep while we find you a flight!” The first representative we talked to said, “I’m sorry there are no flights and I can’t help you.” The second representative said basically the same thing. As my husband called the airline a third time I began to fervently pray for help. The man who answered immediately said we will stay on the line until we get your son home. He searched for flights on his end as we searched on ours. My husband found a flight and gave him the flight number and the representative looked and looked until he found it and quickly booked our son for his final leg home. I cried and my husband thanked him over and over. The man was so gracious and kind and humbly thanked us for helping him do his job well.

Each act of kindness and service matters and has an eternal impact. Even small acts of love plant seeds for His glory. God honors faithful perseverance. Let us seize every opportunity to humbly serve and bless others.

### PRAYER

*Lord, strengthen me to keep doing good with joy and endurance. Help me see each moment as a chance to bless others. I trust You for the harvest.*  
Amen.

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## JUNE 26

### IF I WEREN'T SO LAZY

*We were also chosen to belong to him. God decided to choose us long ago in keeping with his plan. He works out everything to fit his plan and purpose.*

**EPHESIANS 1:11**

I was going back through the notes app on my phone, and I found a quote from my son from 2017. He said, “You know Dad, I could be a perfectionist if I weren’t so lazy.”

A simple, humorous statement from a middle schooler but it carries a subtle truth about human potential and limitation. Each of us is a mix of gifts, tendencies, strengths and weaknesses. We could be disciplined if we wanted, bold if we weren’t fearful, patient if we practiced, generous if we prioritized, missional if we didn’t think so hard. But God doesn’t just call us to what we could be—He calls us to be what we are in Him.

Our identity is not found in potential alone, but in presence. Ephesians 1:2-14 tells us who we are in Christ and all that we have in Christ. God has chosen, redeemed and sealed us through Christ’s blood. Before the foundation of the world, He planned our adoption, blessing us with every spiritual blessing. Living in this truth, we can walk confidently, knowing we are loved, secure and called for His glorious purpose. God meets us where we are, shaping who we are into who we are meant to become. We were each made on purpose for a purpose. Are we living into that purpose or only thinking about what could be?

## PRAYER

*Thank You for meeting us where we are, not where we think we should be. Help us embrace our strengths and weaknesses, using both for Your glory. Teach us to walk faithfully in the gifts You’ve given, to grow in patience, love and humility, and to laugh at our imperfections while trusting Your perfect plan. Shape our potential into purpose. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA COATES

## JUNE 27

### REFLECTION

Sometimes the most spiritual thing we can do is slow down. Scripture shows us that God often met His people in the in-between spaces, after the work was done and before the next step began. As you enter the weekend, create room to breathe, reflect and let God re-center your heart. Humility grows when we stop striving long enough to recognize God’s steady presence. Give Him space, and He will speak.

Instead of a new Scripture text today, look back over this week’s devotions and select the bible passage that stuck out to you. Use the SOAP method (at the front of the booklet) to read and study that verse’s entire chapter a little closer.

## QUESTIONS

Where have you noticed God at work in your life this week—whether through challenge, blessing or unexpected moments?

What is one area of your heart that God may be inviting you to surrender, soften or realign before a new week begins?



## JUNE 30

### A FLAMING ARROW

*Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me."*

**ACTS 10:30**

One winter, I was in the midst of transition, interviewing for a new job while trying to decide if it was time to leave my current work. I remember calling my mom and anxiously naming that I wasn't sure how I was going to know the correct choice to make. What did God want me to do? My mom told me she was going to pray for a flaming arrow, something that would make it incredibly obvious what I was supposed to do. The next week at work, my boss accused me of something completely irrational that I hadn't done. She scolded me for my disobedience and refused to listen to anything I said. When I called my mom to describe the scene, all she could say was, "My prayer was answered. You got your flaming arrow." Soon after, I moved on to the next job God had for me.

Here in our passage out of Acts, Cornelius gets his own flaming arrow in an angel brought down before him as he prays, telling him exactly what he should do next in the name of God. Unfortunately, God's answers to our prayers are not always this clear to us. However, always we have the opportunity to pray with such boldness and clarity that we cannot deny when he answers in an obvious way. When is a time when God has given you a clear answer to your prayers? Who's someone with whom you could share this testimony as they wait for God's answer?

## PRAYER

*Bold God, sometimes you answer our prayers in loud and obvious ways. Sometimes your answers are much quieter and pass us by. Allow us to help one another to see where you are responding around us that we might not miss you along the way. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY RACHEL CAROSIELLO

## JULY 1

### DELIGHTING IN GOD FOR A GENEROUS LIFE

*But whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.*

**PSALM 1:2**

In the 1970s, Henri Nouwen, a renowned Christian writer and priest, decided to live in a small community for people with developmental disabilities. He gave up the comfort of his academic career and a predictable life to serve those often overlooked by society. At first, the work was humbling and exhausting. It drained him of his energy and delight. But as he immersed himself in daily acts of service, his heart began to change. The more he meditated on God's Word and delighted in God's presence, the more generosity in the form of patience, kindness and compassion flowed from him naturally. Psalm 1:2 reminds us that delighting in God's Word shapes not only our minds but our hearts. When our joy is rooted in Him, generosity becomes a delightful overflow, not an overwhelming chore. Living generously begins with a heart aligned with God, open to His guidance and willing to give beyond comfort or convenience. As we meditate on His Word day and night, our lives are shaped by truth, and we begin to reflect His love in tangible ways.

## PRAYER

*Lord, teach me to delight in You and Your Word. Shape my heart so that generosity flows naturally, for Your glory, not my recognition. Speak to me through the scriptures so that I might be more like you. Amen.*

WRITTEN BY TREVOR MILLER