

The background is a solid pink color. It is decorated with several stylized purple butterflies of various sizes and white star-like symbols. A dotted line with an arrow points from the top left towards the title.

True Girl Daily Devos

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR

MARCH
& APRIL

BY DANNAH GRESH,
THE TRUE GIRL TEAM, AND OTHERS WE LOVE!



Hello Friend!

Welcome to spring. I sure hope it's going to be nice and sunny but, no matter what, the power in the pages of this book are going to brighten your days.

How do I know?

When I was eight years old, my mom handed me a booklet a lot like this one. It taught me how to read my Bible and I learned to LOVE it! I also discovered something important that Jesus said when He was on this earth:

*If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples.
Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*

— John 8:31,32

A lot of people aren't free! They're locked up in fear, stress, sadness, and a lot of other bad emotions. But Jesus said that we can know the truth and be free. How? By continuing in His Word, which is found in the Bible.

So, whatever this spring looks like, you—my friend—could be lookin' content, happy, peaceful, joyful and free. Just stay in the pages of your Bible! I'm going to help you do that and I've asked some other awesome writers to help me!

In Jesus' Love,

Dannah Gresh,
Founder of True Girl



What is Loyalty?

"May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us."

{ Ruth 1:17 }



I love my Tennessee Walking Horse named Trigg. What if I told you he became a lot of work because he got fat? I needed to let him in and out of the barn to keep him from eating too much. He also got a bad infection in his eye and needed medicine three times a day. And then, I decided I just didn't feel like doing those things...maybe because I wanted to play with my mini fainting goats!

Would you still believe I loved Trigg? Probably not!

If I was really being loyal to Trigg, I'd be interested in him, even when taking care of him became difficult. Loyalty is staying true to our commitments no matter what!

The book of Ruth teaches us about loyalty when a daughter-in-law has to give up everything and everyone she knows to be loyal to her mother-in-law, Naomi! Ruth said, "May the Lord punish me...if I allow anything but death to separate us!" She is a brave example of what it means to be loyal. Are you loyal? Do you take care of your pets, your friends, and your family no matter what?



ACTION POINT: Grab your prayer diary! Write a thoughtful answer to this question: Am I a loyal person? Why or why not?

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*Today's encouragement was inspired by  
Ruth: Becoming a Girl of Loyalty by DANNAH GRESH.  
Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



MARCH 1



# \* Be a Promise Keeper

*"God will do this, for He is faithful to do what He says, and He has invited you into partnership with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

{ 1 Corinthians 1:9 }



I couldn't wait for Christmas with my cousin! For weeks she'd been telling me that she was getting me the mini-backpack that I really wanted! It was at the top of my Christmas list and my cousin had promised she'd get it for me.

When I opened my present from her, it wasn't the mini-backpack! I was devastated. Why didn't she keep her promise?

Sometimes people break their promises, even if they are usually pretty awesome. *But we serve a God who never breaks His promises.*

The Bible is full of promises God has made. In Genesis, God promised Noah that He would never flood the Earth again—and He hasn't. God promised to send someone who would save us from our sins—and He did. He sent Jesus.

As you read through the pages of His Word, you will come across His promises. Remember that He is faithful to do what He says He will do. He's a promise keeper.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** If you are a Christian, God wants you to become more like Him. Use your journal to write about being good at keeping your promises.

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*AMBER PIKE is the editor of KidzMatter Magazine and a momma whose passion is to see kids loving the Word of God and walking with Him! [AmberPike.org](http://AmberPike.org)*



MARCH 2





## Character Counts

*"Don't be fooled by those who say such things,  
for 'bad company corrupts good character.'"*

{ 1 Corinthians 15:33 }



**A** famous motivational speaker once said, "You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with." Many studies prove that to be true! The people around us can make a big impact on who we are and who we'll become.

Does that mean you should drop this devo book right now and run out to find the prettiest, richest, most popular people and make friends with them as quickly as possible? Not quite. This quote, and your key Bible verse for the day, are both focused on something a little deeper than that—character.

Our character is made up of our inner qualities. It includes things like kindness, honesty, and patience. Negative character qualities can include things like selfishness, dishonesty, and laziness. According to our key verse, these bad qualities can corrupt the good ones very quickly. For that reason, it's important to be careful about which friends we spend our time with.

While you're thinking about your friendships, don't forget that this principle applies both ways! How's your character impacting the people closest to you?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Grab your diary and take a quick friendship inventory! Think about the five closest people to you. What character qualities do you admire about them?

*AUBREY BRUSH is the Brand Manager at True Girl and  
loves reading the freedom stories from girls who participate  
in our online Bible studies! [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com)*



MARCH 3




# \* Cool Friends...Or Fool Friends?

*"Walk with the wise and become wise;  
associate with fools and get in trouble."*

{ Proverbs 13:20 }




 I'll never forget my fifth grade talent show. Samantha kindly offered to turn the pages while I played a difficult piano piece. But she didn't fit in at school (and I really wanted to), so I assured her I would be just fine. Everything went well—at first. But as I turned a page, my book crashed onto the keys, interrupting my performance with a jarring bang. I finished the rest of the piece through tears.

Worse than this embarrassing moment, were the times my desire for what I thought were "cool" friends led me to sin. One convinced me to date a non-Christian boy behind my parents' backs. Another sneaked a pair of itty-bitty shorts to school for me to wear without my parents knowing about it.

The Bible says that when we associate with "fools" we will get into trouble. I know something about that first hand. These friends were not as "cool" as I thought. They were my "fool" friends. They didn't believe in God (Psalm 14:1), put other people down (Proverbs 10:18), laughed at sinful things (Proverbs 10:23), hated their parents' rules (Proverbs 15:5), and couldn't be trusted (Proverbs 26:6).

Avoid friends like that. Find wise ones. They're the truly cool ones.

 **ACTION POINT:** Which is more important to you: your friendship with God or your friendship with "cool fools?" Tell God about it by writing in your diary.

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*PAULA MARSTELLER lives with her husband and their two, blue-eyed boys. She authored Confessions of a Boy-Crazy Girl: On Her Journey from Neediness to Freedom. [PaulaWrites.com](http://PaulaWrites.com)*



MARCH 4





## Loyal People “Cling”

*“...Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye.*

*But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.”*

*{ Ruth 1:14 }*



**H**ave you ever had a bad day? Like a really, really, really bad day? Maybe you were running late and didn't have time to eat your cereal in the morning. When you got to school, you found out that you failed your math test. Then at lunch, you had a fight with your best friend, and in the afternoon, your soccer match was cancelled by a thunderstorm!

Life isn't fair sometimes. Everybody has these kinds of days now and then, but we can generally get to the next sunny day and life gets better. What about when the bad days seem to come one after the next and turn into bad weeks, or even months? What about when things are just...bad?

The book of Ruth starts in one of those bad times. It shows how we can respond to friends and family when the tough stuff happens. Orpah is selfish and leaves her mother-in-law to deal with the hard days alone. Ruth is loyal and stays even though it's going to be difficult. The Bible says she “clung” to Naomi. That means she held tightly.

Sometimes when times are hard you need to grab your nearest family member or friend and just cling! Tight! Don't be tempted to run like Orpah. If you look at the book of Ruth, one of these women got a really big blessing and the other one was never heard from again. I bet you can guess which is which. The question is: which will you be?



**ACTION POINT:** Go cling to someone for a little bit today.

*Today's encouragement was inspired by Ruth: Becoming a Girl of Loyalty  
by DANNAH GRESH. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



MARCH 5



# \* Daniel and the Biblical Vegetable Tales

*"But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods."*

{ Daniel 1:8 }



**M**ost people know the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. But have you heard the story of Daniel and the vegetables? Daniel and some friends were living in Judah when the huge nation of Babylon came marching in and took over their country. They took Daniel, his friends, and other young men back to Babylon to be "re-educated." Their names were changed; their clothes were different. They had to learn a new language. And, they were allowed to eat all sorts of yummy food straight from the king's own table.

But Daniel and his three friends said no to eating the king's food. No?! Why not, what's the big deal with food?

Daniel and his friends were Jewish. They knew that the king's table would often be filled with food God said the Jewish people shouldn't eat. Eating only vegetables would make sure they obeyed God and ate only the right foods. It was a choice between obeying the king of Babylon or obeying God. Daniel 1:8 tells us Daniel and his friends put their lives on the line and obeyed God.

Isn't it interesting how the Bible tells us that they did it together? Friends can help you make good choices.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Ask God to give you strength to always obey Him, no matter what, and to provide friends who help you do that. Write a prayer in your diary.

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ERIKA VANHAITSMA is a wife and homeschool mom of 5 kids who loves to bring the Bible to life through understanding its culture. She has a podcast called The Context and Color of the Bible. ErikaVanHaitsma.com



MARCH 6





A Big God Looks Your Way

*"I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous,
your handmade sky-jewelry, Moon and stars mounted in their settings.
Then I look at my micro-self and wonder, Why do you bother with us?
Why take a second look our way?"*

{ Psalm 8:3-4 MSG }



I hear so many worship songs that talk about God as our friend. One of my favorites says, "I am a friend of God!"

These songs should always remind you that God likes you.

He is your Friend and even makes a point to tell you so in John 15.

But God's not just like any friend. My dad once told me something like this: "Be careful how you treat God. It's getting popular to call him your 'buddy' or 'pal,' but remember, He's God. He's King." When Dad said that, it made me realize God's my dear, sweet, intimate friend but I can't put him on the same level as my best girlfriends. He's also my majestic, all-knowing, supernatural King.

The friendship of God is like no other relationship. We need to enjoy Him and laugh with Him, but we need to worship Him and honor Him with all that we are. He is our King. And deserves respect.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** In your prayer diary, write a letter to God declaring how big He is and how small you are. Take time to thank Him for looking your way!

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*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from  
The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH  
with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*




MARCH 7



# \* You Need A Monkey

*"Two people are better off than one,  
for they can help each other succeed."  
{ Ecclesiastes 4:9 }*




 Did you know we can learn about the power of friendship from monkeys? In a study, scientists put monkeys in cages. Then they created high stress situations using lights, noises, and other things to create fear. The monkeys sure were afraid!

But when the scientists did the experiment again, the monkeys had one extra thing in the cage with them: a friend. That's right, they had another monkey in the cage. Guess what!? It wasn't as scary as the first time...for either of the monkeys!

Can you believe what the power of companionship can do? Jesus does! That's one of the reasons He sent his disciples to work in pairs and why He encourages us to care for one another, love one another, teach one another, and strengthen one another.

God knows we aren't meant to live the Christian life alone. He knows that we aren't meant to go through difficult times alone and apart from His presence. He created us to live in community. And that's one of the reasons why He commands us to attend church and meet with other believers. We need one another. It's God's design.

Get some other monkeys in the cage of life with you!

 **ACTION POINT:** If you aren't attending or haven't yet joined a church, look up one that you can attend locally, decide to go regularly or join a discipleship group.

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LISA YABRA is a teacher on our Spanish True Girl team which is called Chica Verdadera. Two of her favorite things are her Bible and chocolate chip cookies. [puralibertad.org](http://puralibertad.org)



MARCH 8





## \* I LOVE Sugar!

*"So encourage each other and build each other up,  
just as you are already doing."*

{ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 }



I love sugar! There was one day I woke up and ate cinnamon rolls for breakfast. I then had a cookie for a snack. For lunch I had cereal and for dinner I had pancakes with syrup. YUMMY! By the end of the day, though, I felt terrible! Do you know why? Because I ate badly.

Did you know that friendships can be like this? If we don't have healthy friendships, we can feel terrible, act terrible, and be a terrible friend to others. Wow! That sounds awful doesn't it?

Think about the qualities you want and like in a friend. Maybe you want someone who's trustworthy, loyal, kind, honest, and loves Jesus. Doesn't that sound great? Guess what...in order to HAVE that kind of friend, you have to BE that kind of friend.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 is a good reminder that we should not just wish for good friends to make us feel loved and strong. But we should look for ways to encourage and build others up. How have you done that lately?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Make a list of the qualities that you want in a friend in your prayer journal. How many of the things that you listed describe you? Pray and ask God to help you be this type of friend.

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MARCH 9




# \* Speak Up!

*"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;  
ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the  
poor and helpless, and see that they get justice."*

{ Proverbs 31:8-9 }




 Grace had a great sense of humor, and she loved talking to her friends. But she also had a big secret, and she didn't talk about that to anyone. Someone was hurting her, and she was afraid to tell anyone. One day her friend Selah came over to play. While Selah was there, Grace told her secret. Selah gave Grace a big hug and said a prayer for her right there.

Later, Selah shared with her mom what Grace told her. Selah's mom knew Grace's mom, so she called her up and asked to talk. Very carefully and with a lot of prayer, she shared what Grace told Selah. At first Grace's mom was upset, but soon, she calmed down and realized she needed to talk to her daughter.

Grace was so relieved finally to be able to tell her mom her painful secret. She felt a huge weight lift off her shoulders. Her mom prayed with her and began to take steps to protect her from any more hurt.

Hard things happen. Sometimes kids feel that they shouldn't talk about things that hurt them, but if they don't tell someone, they may never get the help they need. Some secrets are too harmful to keep. Speak up for those who feel they have to be silent. It may be difficult to do, but it's a big way of showing love for your friends.

 **ACTION POINT:** Are you one of those girls who feels like you're not allowed to talk about something that's hurting you? Or do you know one of those girls? Tell an adult you trust. Let this be a day of breaking the silence.

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*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo
by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.*



MARCH 10





Cool Friendships

*"There are 'friends' who destroy each other,
but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."*

{ Proverbs 18:24 }



I remember when I was in elementary school. Perhaps the most memorable year for me was fifth grade. How I wanted to fit in with who I considered to be the "cool" girls. They all sat together whenever they didn't have assigned seating. How I desired their acceptance and friendship beyond what words could say.

I'll never forget the day I was sitting in class under those bright white fluorescent lights and the unthinkable happened. One of the "cool" girls passed a letter to my desk. I thought to myself, "I've done it! I'm finally going to gain the friendship of the 'cool' girls in my class." Unfortunately, the message waiting for me on that crumpled up paper was not kind. It read, "Please don't talk to us or our boyfriends!"

So many thoughts and emotions flooded me. The first thought was, "Who in the world has a boyfriend in the fifth grade?" But the second (and most powerful one) was rejection. I felt it for a long time.

Thankfully, time took away my desire to hang out with the "cool" girls. And something incredible happened. God sent me a wonderful friend who loved my every quirk. I never had to be someone fake. Since then, God has given me other amazing friends who've stood by my side. And together, we're the coolest! (At least to me.)

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Think about three ways you can reflect God's love and be a cool friend to someone around you who could really use one. Write these three ways in your diary.

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MARCH 11




# \* Trusted Wounds

*"Wounds from a sincere friend are better  
than many kisses from an enemy."*

{ Proverbs 27:6 }




 **T**here I was once again. Circled around the lockers participating in the latest school drama. The usual questions flying left and right. "She said what?! To who?! What happened next?!"

Gossip was something I'd made sure to steer clear of in the past. But as the year progressed, I was gathering around those lockers every day after lunch to dive into the rumors.

After a few weeks I had a close friend pull me to the side for a quick conversation. She asked me why I had become so involved in all of the gossip around school. She reminded me of how unhealthy it was and how we both knew it only stirred up conflict. I remember being upset and embarrassed as she spoke. I told her I heard what she said and headed to my next class.

That night I had time to think about what she'd said. I realized she was right! I'd allowed myself to be pulled into something that wasn't pleasing to God. Oh, how grateful I was for her. She was a friend that told me the truth even though it hurt a bit in the moment.

Do you give your friends honest, godly advice even when it's hard? Do you receive honest, godly advice from friends even when it hurts? A true friend loves their friends and knows the importance of helping them live in God's Truth even when it requires tough conversations.

 **ACTION POINT:** Use your prayer diary to ask God if there's any tough truth you need to share with or receive from a friend. Be courageously obedient to what God brings to your mind.

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MARCH 12





One Good Friend

*"A friend is always loyal, and a brother
is born to help in time of need"*

{ Proverbs 17:17 }



One good friend can make all the difference in the world. A healthy friendship is built on qualities like loyalty and faithfulness. Those aren't the qualities most celebrities are famous for, so we shouldn't base our friendships on them. You know who we can take friendship advice from? Jesus. He left us a great guide to friendship in the Bible.

Proverbs 17:17 tells us not only is a good friend loyal, she is also helpful. All of us go through times when we need help from others. I bet you can think of a few times when that was you! It's okay to need and accept help. It strengthens our relationships when we allow others to help and when we help them in return. Best of all, it makes Jesus happy.

Friendship is a gift from God. We should treasure it and treat our friends with kindness and love. When you find a faithful friend, rejoice and do everything you can to keep that friendship alive and healthy.



ACTION POINT: Think of a friend or family member who's going through a difficult time. Talk to your mom or a trusted adult about what your friend is going through and brainstorm some ideas of how you can help. Then, pick one and put it into action!



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MARCH 13



* Slumber Party Gone Bad...

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. But even if He doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

{ Daniel 3:17-18 }



I was always one of those kids who preferred to sleep in my own bed. I wanted sleepovers to be at my house. I liked my mom's food the best. We had a swimming pool. I didn't like to be away from my pets.

When I was away from home, the rules I was familiar with went out the door. I knew that sometimes my parents wouldn't approve of games we were playing or movies we were watching. I felt very awkward in these situations. I would wonder things like, "Should I call my mom? Should I say something to my friend's mom? Do I participate or sit out? Will I be made fun of if I don't go along with everyone else?"

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were faced with doing something wrong—when they were asked to worship a false god—they didn't have to make a decision alone. All three were in agreement, even if it meant facing the fiery furnace. It's so hard to stand alone but when you stand with a girlfriend on your right and one to your left, it's not such a hard thing after all. Do your friends help you stand for what's right?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** In your prayer diary, write a letter to God asking Him to make people notice that you refuse to be like everyone else. Tell Him how you plan to stand (with friends) for all that's right!

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*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from Talking to Your Daughter About Best Friends & Mean Girls by DANNAH GRESH with help from SUZY WEIBEL. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



MARCH 14







# Wearing Gratitude Glasses

*"And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."*

{ Colossians 3:17 }



It was a day like any other. I was working from home, when suddenly I received a phone message from my mom. "I'm late, boil some plantains for lunch."

I'm ashamed to say that my mind was flooded with selfish thoughts. "Couldn't she organize her time better? I have to stop working on my things to help her." My nieces were at my house so I asked them to help. But those bad thoughts continued until I finished making lunch.

When my nieces went to bed, I read the Bible to them. The part we read was where Jesus tells his disciples, "If anyone wants to be the first, let him be last of all and the servant of all." I knew then that God was confronting my selfish thoughts. I was reminded that it's important to serve, and to have a good attitude when doing it.

With tears in my eyes, I asked the Lord to forgive me for the attitude I had early that day and I decided to put on the glasses of gratitude. I began to thank Him, "Thank You for providing food to cook. Thank You for giving me the opportunity and ability to serve my parents."

Did you do anything today that could have been done with a better attitude?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Identify which tasks tempt you to complain (like making your bed or doing the dishes). Write a prayer in your diary asking Jesus to help you put on gratitude glasses and give you a new vision.

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# \* Time Out for Sibling Rivalry

*"So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'O God, I beg you, please heal her.'"*

{ Numbers 12:13 }



I remember "time out." When I was bad, my mom would put me in the corner with my face to the wall. She would say, "Dannah, you need time to think about what you just did, so go to the corner where you won't be distracted by other things to think about."

Then there was "double time out." This was mom's course of action when my brother and I got into a fight. She'd call for each of us to hit a separate corner. This common experience bonded us to each other. I remember sneaking peeks at my brother and he at me. We had an unspoken code-language that we'd developed and used from corner to corner. It didn't matter how hard we'd just been fighting, we ended up with a serious case of sibling sillies. The giggles were held in as quietly as possible until my mom would announce our sentence was over and we'd fall to the floor in hysterical laughter. Being punished brought us together.

In Numbers 12, we see what you might call a holy time out for sibling rivalry. Aaron and Miriam are grumbling because Moses is hearing God's voice but they aren't. They start to say bad things about him. God punishes Miriam by letting her get sick enough that she has to go out of the village because of her sickness. Moses can't stand it. He loves her. He cries out to God to "please heal her."

Isn't it funny how we fight with our siblings? And isn't it amazing that when we get in trouble for it, we decide that we actually love them?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Declare a "holy time out" with your brother or sister today. Find a way to remember that you love each other.

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Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.



MARCH 16





* The Real Enemy Is...

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

{ Ephesians 6:12 }



Do you ever get mad when someone disagrees with you? I do. I can get really frustrated at people who think differently than me. I am sometimes frustrated, irritated, and really angry. I even occasionally talk as if the person who thought differently was my enemy. Doing this causes me to lose friends and hurt people.

But here's what God started teaching me: the person who thinks differently isn't my enemy. The person who disagrees with me isn't being mean. They just think differently and someone (who is my enemy) wants to use that difference to hurt us both.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us the real enemy is Satan. The true battle is taking place behind the scenes where I can't see it. It's part of the same war that's always being fought—God versus Satan. I'll give you some encouraging information—God wins.

To fight this battle we don't even need to argue with anyone. The best thing you can do is pray for your friends, for those who think differently, and those who are hurting and scared.



ACTION POINT: Take some time to pray for a friend or family member who's angry or hurting. Maybe make a decision to pray for that person every day this week.

ERIKA VANHAITSMA is a wife and homeschool mom of 5 kids who loves to bring the Bible to life through understanding its culture. She has a podcast called The Context and Color of the Bible. ErikaVanHaitsma.com



MARCH 17




* Turtle Shell Friendship

"In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil."

{ Ephesians 6:16 }



 In ancient Rome every warrior was given a huge shield for battle. Each shield was the size of a door. The cool thing about them is that they were like puzzle pieces and could lock into each other. When the battle got intense, the soldiers could create a gigantic wall to hide behind. In the worst of battles, they made a circle with the shields on the outside and put a few above them. This created a sort of "turtle shell" to hide in when the enemy sent flaming arrows.

This is a picture of what true friendship can be. You and I are in a constant battle with the enemy of God, Satan. He's going to throw a lot of flaming arrows at us, like sadness, jealousy, broken friendships, sickness, and even big family problems. While you can't stop those arrows from coming your way, you can keep them from penetrating into the core of who you are. How? By having friends who will war with you in prayer.

Consider every time you pray with friends that God is building a "turtle shell" around you with your "shields of faith." You can't see it with your eyes but it's ginormous and solid! Wow! Why not begin, while you're young, to pray with your friends?

 **ACTION POINT:** Pray with one of your friends today.

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*DANNAH GRESH is the founder of True Girl and loves to see girls learn to love their Bibles. She lives on a hobby farm with twenty animals. [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com)*



MARCH 18





# Lay Your Friends Before Jesus

*"Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat.  
They tried to take him inside to Jesus."*

{ Luke 5:18 }



**O**ne day, Jesus was at a house teaching. People had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem to hear him. Can you imagine how crowded that house must've been?

Four men carrying a paralyzed man on a mat tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. But they couldn't find a way. There were too many people. No one would have judged them for giving up, but their friend needed Jesus! He could not walk.

So, they got creative. It was not easy, but they took their friend to the roof and removed a tile in the ceiling so they could lower him on a mat until he was right in front of Jesus. What loyalty! They did every possible thing to take their friend to Jesus.

This is a great example of how we should act as friends. When we see the needs of our friends, do we do our best to bring them to Jesus? We can pray for them, invite them to church, start a Bible study together, and share Truth with them. But never give up on someone you love who needs Jesus!



**ACTION POINT:** Call some friends and ask them how you can pray for them. Then lay them right in front of Jesus today in prayer!

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MARCH 19




* Loyal Love

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

{ Proverbs 27:17 }




 You're so not in the mood for excuses and lame apologies. It's the fifth time your little brother has barged in on you and your best friend. This time, he stepped on your school project and wrinkled the poster board when he jumped through the door wearing nothing but his Elmo boxers, a swim mask, and a Superman cape! "Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!" you holler. "I...you...I can't believe...If you...!"

Suddenly, your BFF swoops in to save the day. "Little Dude," she says, stepping between the two of you. "What she's trying to say is that she loves you a lot and likes to be near you but right now we have to get this poster finished. In fact, we could get it done faster if you would cut out these pictures for us! Take them into your room and use your special scissors."

Little brother pushes his swim mask back on his head, grabs the pictures with wide eyes, and marches off with his important assignment. Your BFF has just poured cool water on your steaming hot temper and rescued you from saying something you'd regret. That's what best friends do.

Proverbs 27:17 describes a friend as someone who helps us be our best selves. Sometimes we think best friends are the people we have a lot in common with, but the truest sense of friendship is that they help us through big bad hard things and little annoying sibling drama.

 **ACTION POINT:** Are you the kind of friend described in Proverbs 27:17? Do you have one like that? If not, what does God need you to do about it? Write about it in a journal.

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*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from A Girls Guide to Best Friends And Mean Girls by DANNAH GRESH and SUZY WEIBEL and published by Harvest House. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



MARCH 20





# One Tiny Spark

*"In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.  
But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire."*

{ James 3:5 }



In September of 2020, the state of California faced a great forest fire! Over 22,744 acres of land BURNED and many families had to leave their homes. Wondering how this fire started? It was from one "tiny" spark.

The book of James tells us our tongues are like that spark—they have the power to set a great forest on fire. Our tongues might be small but they sure are a pretty powerful part of our bodies!

How's that possible? Have you ever whispered a rumor to a friend as soon as you got to school, only to find out it's the buzz of the cafeteria by lunchtime? Forest fire! Or have you gotten really angry at your siblings and yelled an insult, sparking a fight worthy of a wrestling ring? Forest fire!

What we say matters. One careless word can hurt for years, even if we don't mean it. The fireworks in California were for a small celebration, but they started a fire that did great damage. (It took several months to put it out!) In the same way, our words can leave a lasting impact on our friends, family, and even those we speak to harshly in passing.

Be careful what "tiny" sparks you speak.



**ACTION POINT:** Have you ever started a great forest fire with your words? Have you ever felt the sting of someone else's forest fire? Write in your diary about what happened, then commit to spending more time thinking before you speak!



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MARCH 21





# You are Gifted

*"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."*

{ 1 Peter 4:10 }




I'm a midwestern girl and I love, love, love chicken and noodles! People from other places sometimes find it weird but we eat our chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes.

Can I just tell you that no one, and I mean no one, can make chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes quite like my husband's grandma. Grandma Cleta makes her noodles from scratch and holidays wouldn't be the same without them. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, no imposter noodle will do. I want the perfection of noodles that only Grandma Cleta can make. They bring a smile to my face every single time!

Do you know that each of us has been given a special gift from God? The verse above tells us so. This gift is in the way He has uniquely created each one of us. Just like Grandma Cleta has a gift of making amazing meals and a sweet spirit of hospitality, you and I have something unique that we can use to serve God and others.

God has specific jobs for us each day as we interact with our family and friends. Our spiritual gifts and unique abilities are there so we can serve and bring glory to God. God has placed people and situations in your life right now because you have the gift to bless others and bring Him glory.

 **ACTION POINT:** Think about it. What is a gifting or ability in your life that God's given you? How can you use it to bless a friend today?

*BETH FRANK loves Jesus, her hubs, three girls, and thinking creatively. Beth is a co-founder of KidzMatter and, along with her husband Ryan, publishes KidzMatter Magazine. [kidzmatter.com](http://kidzmatter.com)*



MARCH 22







## Be Selfless

*"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others  
Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves."  
{ Philippians 2:3 }*



**W**hen I was in elementary school, I loved it so much that I "played school" whenever I got the chance. That included summers! At the end of each school year, I was so excited to take all of my workbooks and leftover school supplies home to add to my "classroom". Being the youngest in my family led me to rely on my neighborhood friends and stuffed animals to play with. (My panda was the best student!)

One summer morning, no one wanted to play school except me. I was one of the older kids at that time and also pretty selfish so I got my way.

While I was teaching, I gave them tons of multiplication to do and had them write a story, too. My friends told me they didn't want to do homework and I said, "If you don't do it then you'll get detention." One of the younger girls started crying and ran home. The others said I was a mean teacher and they didn't want to play with me anymore.

I learned an important lesson that day—don't be selfish. Period. I started to realize how important it is to be humble in friendships and listen to what others want and feel.

What about you? Do you struggle to be selfless? How can you pay more attention to what others want?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Ask yourself these two questions: Am I selfish? Do I think of others more highly than myself? Write about it in your diary, confessing your sin to God if you think of any.

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MARCH 23




# \*“I will always be your God”

*“This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.”*

{ Genesis 17:7 }



 God had promised Abraham a child but he was 99 years old! And he and his wife, Sarai, still didn't have any children. Whoa! Had God forgotten him? No way. In fact, God came to remind Abraham of that promise just when he was starting to wonder. Not only would he have a son, but he would be the father of many!

God also promised He'd take care of all of those children! Genesis 17:7 records something we call a “covenant.” This covenant was a super big promise that God would always be the God of Abraham's family. His whole family. Not just Abraham's wife and children. Not just his grandchildren. But even all the great-great-great- and more great grandchildren forever.

Do you know that you're included in that covenant, too? That's right. Everyone who follows Christ is a descendant (child) of Abraham. So, when God made that promise, He was saying He'd be your God, too. Long before you were born, He'd already planned to love, care, and guide you all your life. And God doesn't break His promises.

Now that's a kind of loyalty you won't find anywhere else!

 **ACTION POINT:** In your diary, write *Genesis 17:7* at the top of the page. Below it, write: *This is God's promise to me!*

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MARCH 24





The Feathery Tongue

"People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison."

{ James 3:7-8 }



There was a little girl who went to see a wise man, because she had a problem with gossip. He said to her, "I have two things for you to do to help destroy that terrible habit. Buy a bird at the town market, pluck every feather out of the bird and drop them on the road as you walk until they are gone."

She did exactly as he said. She returned and said, "Sir, I have done as you said with the bird. What else must I do?" He said, "You must go back the way you came and pick up every feather you dropped."

"But, sir, that's impossible! Feathers are so light and easily tossed by the breeze! None of them will be where I dropped them! I might be able to find some of them, but there's no way I could gather them all!"

He smiled warmly at her. "Dear child, you are right. The feathers are like your hurtful words. When you gossip behind someone's back, those words travel all over the village until they're too widespread for you to take them back?"

"Yes, sir. I see what you mean. Now what do I do?" she said with a quiet voice.

The wise man got down on his knee and looked into her eyes. "The next time you are tempted to speak mean things about someone else, keep your mouth closed. Don't scatter the feathers. Just keep them on the bird."

➔ **ACTION POINT:** Can you think of a time when you were hurt by someone else's words or a time that you hurt others with your word? Spend some time asking forgiveness from God for your hurtful words and forgiving those who have hurt you.

Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.



MARCH 25




* God's Love is Our Mixer

*"Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds us all together in perfect harmony."*

{ Colossians 3:14 }



 **W**hen I was touring with True Girl, there were 10 of us living inside one tour bus. We had to share one bathroom, one TV, and one fridge. We lived together for six months in a "moving house" 46 feet long. The only thing we didn't have to share were our bunk beds.

You might guess that we had some disagreements and trouble having to share almost everything!

FRIENDSHIPS can be HARD! There are personality clashes, drama, and many other things that can hurt our friendships. Sometimes like oil in vinegar, we don't blend! When you want oil and vinegar to blend, you add honey to it. When you want two people who don't get along to blend, you add God.

The more you spend time with God and have an open heart for Him, the more His love will flow out of you. The only way we were able to live on a tour bus together was God's love. It got us through many long waits for the bathroom and taking turns to watch what someone else wanted to watch on the television screen!

 **ACTION POINT:** Ask God to fill you up with His love and to help you pour it on others as well. Write your prayer in your diary.

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MARCH 26





## \* Good Practice

*"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."*

{ Mark 7:6 }



Greta, Molly, and Kelli are sitting together at lunch. Molly and Kelli are talking about their plans for a sleepover. Kelli leaves to get a snack and as soon as she does, Molly leans over to Greta and says, "I can't stand her! I can't believe I have to spend the night at her house this weekend!" When Kelli comes back, Molly smiles big and starts talking about the sleepover again.

Molly is honoring Kelli with her lips when she is right there in front of her, but her heart is far from her.

In today's verse, Jesus describes that very thing. Some of the church leaders were speaking things that honored and glorified God, but their hearts didn't follow what their mouths were saying. They were being fake, and Jesus didn't like it—at all. Those leaders didn't realize that God doesn't focus on the outside of someone. He looks at the heart (see 1 Samuel 16:7).

When I was a tween, "mean girl" moments were all around. Some girls said terrible things right to my face, and others said them in a loud whisper. Have you experienced some of this?

How you treat other people really matters. If you find it really easy to be dishonest and two-faced with girls in your school, then it could be just as easy to be that way in your relationship with God. It's important that our actions match up with our words. It shows God and others that we really love them.



**ACTION POINT:** Write in your journal about a time you were tempted to be two-faced with a friend, or with God. Ask God to connect your heart with the words you speak.

*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



MARCH 27





## Show Your Love

*"If you love Me, obey My commandments"*

{ John 14:15 }



Saturday mornings were a time for the two Cs: Cereal and Cartoons. I'd wake up, pour my bowl of Cap'n Crunch, and settle in to watch an episode or two of *Tom and Jerry*.

One particular morning as I poured my cereal, I noticed something interesting on the back of the box. There was a contest to win a fast and beautiful scooter. It was purple and perfect! I just had to have it. All I had to do was check the tops of my cereal boxes until I found the winning one and that gorgeous thing could be all mine.

So, I committed. I checked every cereal box we had in our house; every box in my grandma's house, friend's houses, and anyone else who would let me raid their pantry. This went on for months. I was following the rules with all my heart! I never won that scooter but it was clear that I loved it and believed I could win it by the way I followed the company's instructions.

This memory reminds me a bit of our relationship with Jesus. Our relationship with Him is much more important than winning a scooter! We should obey Him if we truly believe and love Him and we need to do it with our whole heart!

God wants us to live obediently to everything we read in God's Word. He wants us to be truthful with our words and show kindness to others. When we do this, we prove that we love Him and are committed to living our lives for Him each and every day.



**ACTION POINT:** Use your diary to write a few examples of how we can show our obedience to Jesus and His Word.

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MARCH 28





The Power of One

"For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all"

{ Ephesians 4:4-6 }



Think about your most important relationships: parents, siblings, teachers, and friends. If you had to assign a number to those relationships, what number would you choose?

- TWO? All relationships are ultimately a connection between two people, right?
- FOUR, OR THREE, OR 10? Some numbers represent the number of people in your family or circle of friends.
- ZERO? Maybe it feels like no one is "your person."

God's Word gives us an entirely different number to remember when we interact with each other. *ONE*. In the book of Ephesians, Paul was writing to followers of Jesus who all went to church together. They were friends and family members who weren't getting along. Paul wrote to them with this reminder: remember the One.

There are many things that make us different and many times we hurt each other's feelings but what counts the most is that we're all made by the one and only God. Keeping that in mind changes our relationships—every single one of them.



ACTION POINT: Place a sticky note on your mirror with the number one and ask Jesus to help you to focus on the one thing that matters most (Him!) in all of your relationships.

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MARCH 29




# \* Our Faithful God

*"...just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true."*

{ Romans 3:3-4 }




 Sam-I-Am (Sammie) is my youngest Mini Silkie Fainting Goat. When he was born, he'd sit on my lap, nibble on my fingers, and jump up to "kiss" my nose. I loved that. But then he got a skin condition that required me to rub nasty green stuff on his nose every day. Worse yet—I had to give him a lot of shots. It saved his life and made him healthy but to this day...he doesn't really trust me. He won't come near me and runs when he hears my voice. He's given up on our relationship!

I haven't given up on him. I still love him. I feed him, give him fresh water, and watch him every day to make sure he's safe.

God loves us like I love Sammie. He's loyal—that is, He keeps His commitment to us no matter how we behave. Romans 3:3-4 is one of my favorite Bible verses because I need to be reminded that God's faithful even when I'm not.

You know what would make me so happy? If I walked out to the barn today and Sammie crawled up into my lap like he used to. My heart would be so rewarded.

Why not give God a gift like that today. Just get close to Him!

 **ACTION POINT:** "Crawl up in God's lap" today by just being with Him. No matter what bad things you've done (or if you've missed a whole bunch of devos) just get close to God.

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*DANNAH GRESH is the founder of True Girl and loves to see girls learn to love their Bibles. She lives on a hobby farm with twenty animals. [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com)*



MARCH 30







## \* A Word from the Wise

*"A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted."*

{Proverbs 12:16}



**T**hink of a character in a movie or book who is wise. What about that character tells you he or she has wisdom?

Wise people are amazing at giving advice. It's as if they have a flashlight they shine into a situation that makes everything clear. Wisdom is different from knowledge because it's an ability to use knowledge, experience, and the Holy Spirit to figure things out. Knowledge is simply knowing stuff, which is also good but not as good as wisdom.

According to the Bible, wise people are also good at silence. They stop and take time to think, pray and watch their words.

It's easy to get angry when someone hurts your feelings, isn't it? You want to defend yourself right away or say something back to make them feel bad too. But if you do that, you're just grabbing onto that person's sin and passing it on. Instead, try to respond with silence. Think about the wise thing to say in that moment.

A verse I like to remember when I'm in a difficult situation is "Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent" (Proverbs 17:28). When I'm tempted to speak harsh words out of anger or frustration, I try to remember this verse and keep my words to myself.

➔ **ACTION POINT:** Plan an evening for your family to have one hour of silence—when you can't talk at all (that includes texting!). See who has the hardest time with it, and talk about how it made you feel afterward. Ask God for wisdom in your words today.

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Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.



MARCH 31




* The Sacrifice

"He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open His mouth."


{ Isaiah 53:7 }



 A person living in the time of the Old Testament was required to offer what was called a "sin offering" every time they did something bad (Leviticus 4:2). This meant an animal would have to die. It was usually a lamb. Can you even imagine? Your whole life you'd understand exactly what it means when a lamb takes away your sin. That sweet little creature would have to die for you. As if that weren't sad enough, lambs often died quietly without even crying out for help.

Now think of this. One day a guy named John the Baptist sees Jesus in the distance and shouts, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) You would know that it meant Jesus was going to die and He wouldn't put up a fight about it! Why? Because He loves us and wants nothing to separate us from His presence!

As we experience this Resurrection season, it's not very fun to think about the horrible death that Jesus died for us but it's the most important part of our faith. Take some time to think about it today.

 **ACTION POINT:** Grab your prayer diary and write! What's God saying to you about Jesus' death? First pray, then sit quietly while you wait for God to speak to you with a picture, story, thought or idea. Draw a picture or write in your journal.

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APRIL 1





The Rooster

"Again, Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed."

{ John 18:27 }



If you live near someone who has a rooster, cock-a-doodle-doo may be the first sound you hear in the morning. In the Bible, we read that Jesus told Peter he would deny he knew Christ three times before the rooster crowed the next morning. Peter probably didn't believe Him. He really did want to stick by Jesus no matter what happened. But in fact, he did deny knowing Jesus—not just once. Three times!

And then...Cock-a-doodle-doo!

Have you ever pretended you don't know Jesus? Have you been embarrassed that you go to church? Or tried to hide that you are a Christian? I'm sad to say that I've done that a time or two. It always makes me sad when I look back on it. So, let me help you if you've felt that way!

I think the sound of the crowing must've sent chills down Peter's back. "Jesus was right! I did deny Him three times!" Could it be the rooster reminded him that it was the start of a brand new day? Peter needed a fresh start. Thankfully, our God loves to give them! Psalm 30:5 says, "His anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning."

Every morning is like a second chance. Remember that the next time you hear a rooster crow.



ACTION POINT: Call a family cock-a-doodle-doo contest! Bonus points for anyone who acts like a rooster, too. After you award a winner, be honest about how you sometimes pretend you don't know Jesus. Pray together asking for God's forgiveness.

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APRIL 2




* The Skull

"When they came to a place called The Skull [Calvary], they nailed Him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on His right and one on His left."

{ Luke 23:33 }




 **T**he word Calvary makes an appearance in many of the songs we sing in church, but have you ever wondered what it means? Well, it refers to the name of the mountain or hill on which Jesus was hung on the cross to die. Another name for the location is Golgotha. Both words mean "The Skull."

Some believe it was called that because it was a place of execution and where many skulls and bones littered the ground. Others believe the hill was named for its rocks that were bleached by the sun, causing them to resemble skulls. Some even say there's a possibility that from a distance something about the shape of the hill actually looked like a giant, human skull. (A little bit creepy, huh?)

One thing is definitely true about Calvary: it wasn't pretty. But what happened there produces beautiful things in our lives today.

- Because of Calvary, I know my sins are forgiven.
- Because of Calvary, I'm pure and clean.
- Because of Calvary, I have access to God's power to live in victory.
- Because of Calvary, hope can't be taken away from me or you.

 **ACTION POINT:** Ask your family to read Luke 23:26-46 out loud with you. Pray together, thanking God for going to "The Skull" for you.

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APRIL 3





# The Lord's Supper

*"He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, 'This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'"*

{ Luke 22:19 }



**W**hen the Israelites were being held as slaves in Egypt, God sent different plagues on the Egyptian people to convince Pharaoh to let His people go. The final plague was that every firstborn son in Egypt would die on one particular night. But...if the Israelites spread the blood of a lamb or goat on their doorposts, their firstborn sons would be supernaturally protected. The angel of death "passed over" that house.

Every year after that, the Jewish people celebrated the Passover with a feast. They ate the same foods—including lamb, Matzoh balls, and bitter herbs—to remember God's protection. Jesus was eating this meal the night before He died for us. During the feast, He gave the 12 disciples the bread and wine and told them to eat those things "in remembrance of Me." This was the first Communion or the Lord's Supper.

We still practice this "remembering" today. Different churches do it in different ways but the meaning is the same. It helps us remember that Jesus shed His blood for us. The Bible says sins can't be forgiven without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). This helps us remember that His body was pierced to save us. It's good to remember what Jesus did for us.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Talk about the Lord's Supper with your mom. How does your church share Communion? Have you stopped to really think what the bread and the juice (wine) symbolize? Consider taking Communion together as a family this week.

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APRIL 4





# The Famous Last Words

*"When Jesus had tasted it, He said, 'It is finished!' Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."*

{ John 19:30 }



**A**lbert Einstein was perhaps the "smartest person ever." But nobody knows what his last words were. When he died, he said something in German. But the nurse who was with him didn't understand German.

The last words someone speaks are usually important, especially to those closest to the one who speaks them. Jesus' last words were certainly no exception. One of the most well-known sentences He spoke on the cross was, "It is finished."

What Jesus had come to do was done. He died so you and I could have eternal life. But Jesus' last words didn't mean "the end." In fact, it meant that, for you and me and everyone else who believes in Him, it was just the beginning.

- The beginning of having a friendship with Him.
- The beginning of overcoming death to experience eternal life one day.
- The beginning of waiting for Him to return to earth a second time.

Jesus' last words declare both "it is finished" and "this is the new beginning!"



**ACTION POINT:** Read John 19:28-37. Write the other last words Jesus said on the cross in your prayer diary and think about what they mean to you.

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APRIL 5





## The Lamb

*"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."*

{ Romans 5:8 }



Imagine you're a little Hebrew girl growing up when Jesus was on earth. One of the things you love is Lulu, the family lamb. Lulu wanders around the house bleating for your mom to feed her, curls up at your dad's feet in the evening while he tells everyone about his day, and sleeps beside you at night. She's the sweetest lamb. Your dad reminds you that you won't have Lulu forever and you believe him because you remember the other lambs. One day, Lulu will have to go to the Temple and be given to God as a sacrifice offering. It'll be a really sad day because Lulu's like a pet.

Why on earth would your dad let you grow so close to this little lamb if it was going to die? Well, for a lamb to be acceptable to God it couldn't have blemishes—it had to be a pure, spotless lamb. (See Leviticus 4:32-35.) In order for that to be possible, Hebrew families often brought a lamb out of the flock to protect it and keep it blemish-free.

When God sent his Son to die for us, Jesus became the final sacrifice for all sins. He became the pure, spotless Lamb who was killed because of our sin. If you think it was hard for that little Hebrew girl to say goodbye to Lulu the lamb, just imagine how hard it was for God to sacrifice his one and only Son.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** If you know the end of the story, you know Jesus came back to life and lives in heaven. Write a thank you note to Jesus in your prayer diary.

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APRIL 6




* Noah's Ark and Listening Ears

"This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God."


{ Genesis 6:9 }



 While back, I visited the Ark Encounter. It's a museum with an amazing replica of Noah's Ark in real size! Seeing the massive size of the ark Noah built gave me a new perspective, especially on OBEDIENCE. I couldn't shake the truth that Noah obeyed. He was convinced he heard God speak and he took action. Even when it didn't make sense. Even when everyone else questioned him and made fun of him—no doubt they did, 'cause that boat was huge! But Noah moved forward in faith and obedience.

Just like Noah heard from God, you can, too. You just have to listen. As you live out your day, are you aware of God in it? Do you make space for God to be present and at work in your actions and conversations? Many don't hear God speaking because they are too busy to listen for His voice. Have you been guilty of that? I have at times.

My trip to the Ark Encounter helped me see that when God speaks it's important to listen. We must also do what God tells us to do. How different things would've been if Noah hadn't obeyed and built the ark. There are things God wants you to do in the weeks, months and years to come. He needs you to listen. He needs your willing heart to say, "Yes, God, I'll do what You want. I'll go where You want me to go."

 **ACTION POINT:** Grow your relationship with God. Start by taking five minutes to listen for what God wants you to pay attention to in this devo. He may give you an idea or you may just feel confident He's nudging you to do something. Make listening to God a daily habit.

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*YANCY is a songwriter, worship leader and producer that makes music for families and worship videos for both church and home. She and her family live in Nashville, TN. YancyNotNancy.com*



APRIL 7







## Ready, Set, Go!

*"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize."*

{ 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 }



I learned a lesson about Noah's obedience when I visited a life-sized version of the ark. Like Noah, you have to start someday. And here's the thing: lots of people were impacted by Noah's obedience. In fact, we're alive today because he saved the human race!

I'm a songwriter and I had a song idea for a long time but I just sat on it. I hadn't begun a new album project for a few years because I'd been making excuses and procrastinating but, like Noah, I knew God was asking me to start. I was inspired to say "yes." God was faithful every single step of the way and as I wrote songs, my faith grew stronger. I never could've written *Ready Set Go* without learning how important our obedience to God is. I cannot wait to be in heaven and see how many people were impacted by the songs on that album.

Whatever God's asking YOU to do, DO IT. The ripple effect of our obedience is greater than we could ever understand. There are people in your life that need YOU. They need your acts of obedience because their life will be affected by it.



**ACTION POINT:** Every time you see a black and white checkered racing flag think about OBEDIENCE. Your obedience matters to God. **READY, SET, GO!**

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APRIL 8




## \* It Takes Time

*"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people."*


{ Luke 2:52 }



 The average lifespan of a butterfly is 30 days. That means it has just two weeks to hatch as a caterpillar, eat as much as possible, form a cocoon, and emerge as a butterfly! Then, it gets two weeks to enjoy being a butterfly. Half of its life cycle is spent becoming what it was created to be!

We really don't give enough credit to the little caterpillar. Without its dedication and preparation, we'd never see the beautiful butterfly emerge! We can learn a lesson from their life cycle. It can be easy to feel the pressure to be something great or accomplish something important. The media loves to share success stories of the youngest college graduate or the youngest sports star. That can make us feel inadequate if we don't measure up. But the truth is that it takes time to become who we're meant to be!

This isn't always a glamorous process and there might be some detours along the way. Even Jesus spent time doing ordinary things while He prepared for His ultimate purpose here on earth. The Bible says He worked as a carpenter with Joseph (His dad) before beginning His ministry at 30-years-old! During that time, the book of Luke says Jesus "grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people." Focus right now on equipping yourself with the things you may need later. Your future self will thank you!

 **ACTION POINT:** Use your diary to make a list of all the things you want to do or be when you grow up. What are the "ordinary" tasks you can work on today to prepare?

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AUBREY BRUSH is the Brand Manager at True Girl and loves reading the freedom stories from girls who participate in our online Bible studies!
mytruegirl.com/onlinebiblestudies



APRIL 9





Colander Hands

*"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God,
and at the right time He will lift you up in honor."*

{ 1 Peter 5:6 }



God's hands are like colanders. That's a special bowl with holes in it that's used to rinse food with water. You probably have one. Long ago, I read this quote by Robin Jones Gunn which made me think of God's hands as colanders:

"Every detail of my life goes through the fingers of a loving God who first used those same fingers to form us from the dust of the earth. Lord, I surrender to your deliberate touch."

Every big or little thing that happens to us passes through the filter of God's hands. He decides what can touch us and what can't. That's comforting when we think of the good things that have happened in our lives. But we can also trust Him with the difficult things that touch our lives.

No matter what tomorrow holds, you can trust God. All He requires is that you position yourself under His colander hands.



ACTION POINT: Imagine what God's "colander" hand looks like and draw a picture in your diary.

LISA YABRA is a teacher on our Spanish True Girl team which is called Chica Verdadera. Two of her favorite things are her Bible and chocolate chip cookies. puralibertad.org



APRIL 10




* God Doesn't Own a Wetsuit

*"Once again You will have compassion on us.
You will trample our sins under Your feet and throw
them into the depths of the ocean!"*


{ Micah 7:19 }



 Do you ever worry that God won't forgive you? Ever feel crushed by your mistakes and frustrated that you keep making them? Me, too. I want to please the Lord. I don't want to sin but the fact that I keep sinning can send me spiraling into a state of frustration, guilt, and sadness. I picture God giving me the silent treatment or zapping me with a lightning bolt because He's fed up with me. Then I remember—God doesn't have a wetsuit.

This verse in Micah 7 shines the light on the Truth that when I confess my sin to the Lord, He forgives me fully. Because of Jesus our sins are erased, not kept on a "bad girl" tally sheet in heaven. Our sins are so fully forgiven that Jesus has cast them into the depths of the sea and He doesn't own a wetsuit. He'll never dive down to the depths to drag our sins up to the surface. They're gone, washed clean by the gift of salvation.

Since Jesus has forgiven and forgotten our sins, He can help us let them go, too. When you worry that God's angry or disappointed, even after you've turned from your sin, (picture your mistakes on the bottom of the ocean, so far down in the depths you could never retrieve them) He's not. Thanks to God's mercy, that's where they are. Thanks to God's mercy, that's where they'll stay.

 **ACTION POINT:** Ask your mom to help you write down some prayers to help you repent and ask the Lord to throw your sin into the ocean.

ERIN DAVIS is a Bible teacher who wants to help you fall in love with your whole Bible. You can usually find her chasing chickens and children on her small farm in the Midwest. ErinDavis.org



APRIL 11





Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

*"They weep as they go to plant their seed,
but they sing as they return with the harvest."*

{ Psalm 126:6 }



One of the sweetest memories from my childhood is my mother's garden. As much as I loved the garden, I also really hated seeding and weeding. Major yuck. I don't think I know anyone who is crazy about pulling weeds out of a garden.

Planting seeds was always really boring for me. As the seed starts to sprout it gets interesting, but until then—yawn.

You may be wondering why the people in Psalm 126 were weeping while they went to plant their seeds. Sure, maybe some of them cried because they were bored like I was as a child gardener, but there was another, more meaningful reason.

They cried when they put the seed in the ground because they were so hungry. They could have just eaten the seeds and been satisfied for the moment. But they knew if they hid the seed in the soil, watered it, and waited until the plants grew, the harvest would be great, and many would have nourishment for a much longer time than if they would have just eaten the seed.

It's the same with God's Word. Psalm 119:11 says, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." When you read the Bible, you have a choice. You can just read it and say, "Wow. That's cool," and go on with life or you can read it and hide it deep in your heart, allowing it to change your life. In this way, you are preparing yourself to "reuse" the truth time and time again.



ACTION POINT: Ask your mom to share one of her favorite Bible verses. Hide that verse in your heart, and apply it to your life!

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*Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN. Get a copy at [mytruegirl.com](http://mytruegirl.com).*



APRIL 12





# Fearless Love

*"Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love"*

{ 1 John 4:18 }




I used to be a fearless tree climber. The higher the tree, the better. I climbed every tree in my backyard but one. My dad told me not to climb that tree since it was very tall and I could get hurt.

One day, I decided to go for it! I put on my sneakers, headed straight for that tower of a tree, and began climbing. Halfway up the tree I heard my name being shouted from below. I froze and peeked through the branches to see my dad looking up at me. I was scared for how he would punish me as I climbed down.

When I reached the bottom, my dad did something unexpected. He scooped me into a big hug! His happiness and relief at my safety outweighed his anger at my sin. In my fear of punishment, I'd forgotten how much my dad loved me.

Sometimes we mistakenly see God through eyes of fear instead of love. We view Him as a father who's more focused on punishing us than loving us. But God loves us more than we could ever know. When you do something God doesn't approve of, don't run from Him in fear, run to Him in love.

 **ACTION POINT:** Use your diary to confess an action or behavior you've feared bringing to God. Write a letter to Him asking for His forgiveness and to feel His love fully.

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STACI RUDOLPH is a Lead Teacher for True Girl and loves to see girls grow in their personal relationship with Christ. She likes spicy food and writes beautiful songs. mytruegirl.com



APRIL 13





Changing Geysers

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
{ 2 Corinthians 5:17 }



I went to school with a boy that everyone called "Geyser." A geyser is a hot spring where water boils and then suddenly gushes or bursts out with great force. It sends a huge tall column of water and steam into the air in no time at all. Now, you may be wondering why everyone called my friend "Geyser." It's because he had a temper that would go from 0 to 100 in about one second.

Many years after he and I went to school together, I met "Geyser" again. Only he was full of peace. He was truly a different person. Can you guess why? He'd met Jesus and now had a relationship with Him. He was reading the Bible, praying often, attending church, and serving others.

What a perfect picture of 2 Corinthians 5:17. It promises that when we find a relationship with Jesus that "the old life is gone, a new life has begun." God changes people for the better; He helps us be the best version of ourselves. Even if you are a geyser!

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Is there anything you struggle with that you need God's help with? Write those things down in your dairy. Ask God to help you to be a new creation.

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APRIL 14




* Uncomfortable Beginnings

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."

{ Isaiah 43:19 }




 I'll never forget the first time my dad came home and told us we were moving. I felt sad to be leaving the church my dad had pastored just when I was finally getting comfortable in it. I felt the pain of leaving the place I'd called home for several years. Mostly, I felt the grief of leaving behind friends.

I remember the day we left. My best friend had gone home after a day of play, knowing it would be our last. She cried as she walked to her mom's car and I gazed out the upstairs window thinking that this move was destroying my life.

In the midst of my sixth grade despair, I didn't realize God was behind the scenes making a new beginning that would later set the stage for the amazing plans He had for my life. Not only did I meet new people that became life-long friends in the new town, I also met the love of my life who I would later marry! He and I built a really cool ministry together, too!

When life throws us uncomfortable blows, there's one thing that's for sure: God, in His great love, is always working behind the scenes springing up a new beautiful beginning. That's a promise you can count on.

 **ACTION POINT:** Can you think of a time when you were uncomfortable with a change that happened in your life but later discovered it was a blessing? Pray and thank God for each blessing, even if you haven't seen it yet!

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*ESTHER MORENO is the founder of Child's Heart dedicated to equipping children's ministry leaders to reach children and families effectively. [childsheart83.com](http://childsheart83.com)*



APRIL 15







# As Far As the East is From the West

*"He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west."*

{ Psalm 103:12 }



**H**ave you ever done something wrong that affected a friendship? You admit what you did was wrong, apologized, and took steps to make the situation right but...it's just not the same? Even though they accepted your apology, your friend brings up the situation over and over again. It feels like this one mistake you made will be hanging over your head forever!

I have good news. Our relationship with God doesn't work like that. God's so full of forgiveness and grace for us that He sent Jesus to die for us. Because of this sacrifice, when we confess our sins God removes them. This means our sins are completely erased!

Sometimes I feel like each bad thing I do puts more and more distance between me and God. That's when I remember this important truth found in Psalm 103:12. Does this mean you can just do whatever you want because God will always forgive you? The book of Romans 6:1-2 helps answer that question: "Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?"

Live in this: you have a God who loves you and removes your sin!

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Is something in the way of your relationship with God? Take some time to write a prayer asking for His forgiveness and thank Him for the new beginning!

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APRIL 16




# \* A Bird Song

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.  
"They are plans for good and not for disaster,  
to give you a future and a hope."*

{ Jeremiah 29:11 }




 I live in the woods with many animals. Deer, wild turkey, frogs, turtles. We even occasionally hear the cry of a coyote. In the springtime, I love to sit on my porch in the early morning with a cup of coffee and listen to the birds sing.

One morning, I was treated to the most beautiful bird symphony I've ever heard. There were so many different types of birds all making their unique sounds and singing in harmony. They were hooting and tweeting, chirping and cheeping. There had to be at least 10 different types of birds singing their songs that morning, with no two sounding alike.

God designed each type of bird to sound exactly the way they do. He designed them to look the way they look, with unique features to help them do what He designed them to do.

Did you know that a woodpecker has an extra-long tongue to help it get bugs better? Or that chickens have over 200 distinct sounds for communicating?

If God designed birds with such detail and purpose, wouldn't He design you with a purpose as well? He made you exactly as you are, to do exactly as He's planned. God even tells us in His Word that He has a plan for us. His plans are good. You can trust them.

 **ACTION POINT:** Spend time talking with God today. Ask Him to show you what His plans are for you today, this year, or as you grow and walk with Him.

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*AMBER PIKE is the editor of KidzMatter Magazine, an author, a children's minister, and a momma, whose passion is to see kids loving the Word of God and walking with Him! [AmberPike.org](http://AmberPike.org)*



APRIL 17





# Shaking Can Be Good

*"For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven."*

{ Ecclesiastes 3:1 }



**P**icture a very large snow globe in your mind. Let me describe what is in the one in my imagination. My house, my church that I started going to when I was four years old, the school I teach at where all four of my kids attend, and my family. Oh, I almost forgot this: my best friends live there and are waving at me!

Do you see all the blessings in my snow globe? Now, picture it being all shaken up and everything disappearing. That's kind of what it felt like when my family decided to move. I felt rattled but we eventually settled in and filled the snow globe with new and wonderful things. Change is difficult, but God always takes care of us. I believe change is meant to shake us up, and teach us new things. Then, we look around and see that what our feet are planted on is good. Every season in our life is for a reason. Every activity has a time in our life and then the time comes for something new.

Big life changes are hard, and it's okay to grieve the loss of things you miss. But remember that change happens for a reason. Look around and see. What is God teaching you? What new blessings do you see?

➡ **ACTION POINT:** If there are big changes that have happened in your life, and you are still sad about them, tell your mom and ask her to pray with you.

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She loves to organize drawers and take long naps. [graceprep.com](http://graceprep.com)*



APRIL 18




# \* The Embroidery of Your Life

*"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."*


{ Philippians 1:6 }



 **H**ave you ever seen the backside of an embroidery? When you look at it from that perspective it hardly makes sense. There are dots in different parts of it and it's hard to see how some of them connect. In fact, you can't understand the whole picture until you flip it and look at the front side. Ah, the beauty of an artwork!

The same thing happens with our lives. There are situations we go through that hardly make sense. They seem confusing and we struggle to put the dots together. But God's promised us that He'll work everything for the good of those who love and obey Him. He also promises that He won't stop half way through. If something seems incomplete, don't worry. He's still crafting the embroidery of your life!

What incomplete artwork has God started in your life that doesn't make sense at the moment? Every dot in the embroidery of your life is there to help complete a beautiful work. He won't leave any work He began unfinished. You can trust that your life will be a masterpiece when He's done.

 **ACTION POINT:** Look for embroidery at home or on the internet. Contemplate the beautiful work of art and remind yourself that God will carry on the good work He began in the embroidery of your life.

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APRIL 19





## The Small Things

*"He picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them into his shepherd's bag. Then, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, he started across the valley to fight the Philistine."*

{ 1 Samuel 17:40 }



**C**lose your eyes for a minute and imagine young David walking to face a giant. This giant, named Goliath, was a little over 9 ½ feet tall! He definitely wouldn't need to jump to slam dunk a basketball.

Goliath was a trained warrior and armed for battle. David wasn't old enough yet to join the army and he had only five smooth stones and a sling. This didn't seem good for David.

Has God ever asked something big of you? Has He given you a dream that seems too big to even consider? Sometimes when we're working on a project, pushing toward a goal, or starting down a new path God's placed us on it can seem overwhelming. That's when we need to remember David and his five stones.

1 Samuel tells us that David defeated the giant. How was David the victor? God made the difference. He took David's willingness and five stones and multiplied his efforts. God will do the same for you. Walk like David into what God is asking you to do. Stay faithful in what may seem like small things—reading your Bible, praying, obeying your parents, and going to church. God will multiply your efforts and help you conquer the new task, dream or goal as you faithfully obey doing the small things.



**ACTION POINT:** Collect five small stones and place them where you'll see them every day. Let them remind you that God uses the small things and will multiply your efforts in obedience.

BETH FRANK loves Jesus, her hubs, three girls, and thinking creatively. Beth is a co-founder of KidzMatter and, along with her husband Ryan, publishes KidzMatter Magazine. [kidzmatter.com](http://kidzmatter.com)



APRIL 20




# \* open the Door

*"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."*

{ Revelation 3:20 }




 It's a quiet, rainy night. You're kneeling on your bed and watching the raindrops roll down the window. Suddenly, you hear something outside. Knock knock knock. It comes softly from the front door. Hopping off your bed, you walk to the front door and peek through the window. You gasp as your eyes settle on the man at your door. It's Jesus. You reach for the doorknob and hesitate. Will you let Him in?

Jesus wants to be in our lives so He can love and guide us. But we have to make the decision whether we're going to open up to Him or not. It's the most important choice we'll ever make. If you open your door for Jesus and start a relationship with Him, it'll be the newest of new beginnings. Why? When you accept Jesus as your Savior, you aren't just starting a relationship with Him—you're being reborn. The moment you ask Him to come into your heart, your new life as a Christian has begun.

If you want Jesus to be part of your life, you have to open the door and let Him in. For those who choose to accept Jesus as their Savior, He guides you down a path of forgiveness, joy, and love.

Will you open the door?

 **ACTION POINT:** In your diary, draw a picture of Jesus on one side of the paper (stick figures are totally acceptable!), a picture of yourself on the other side and a door in the middle. Then take some to pray and talk to a trusted adult to see if you're ready to open the door.

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APRIL 21





## A New Name

*"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it."*

{ Revelation 2:17 }



**D**o you have nicknames for your friends? When I was your age some of my friends called me Cornarella. I'm not sure how they came up with that name but it always made me smile. I felt loved because I knew it was a special name they'd given me.

Did you know God has a nickname just for you? And here's the super cool part...only God knows what that name is. No one else knows—not your friends, not your teachers, not even your family. Isn't that amazing?

That's how well God knows you. He knows you better than you know yourself. He knows what you're going to say even before it comes out of your mouth. He knows what gets you excited, what makes you happy, what makes you sad, and what fears you have. He knows how many strands of hair are on your head and what's in your heart. I love knowing that God has a nickname picked out just for me. I can't wait to receive that white stone with my new name engraved on it!

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Find a white stone or any rock outside. Think about what name you'd like God to give you. (I would love my nickname to be Faithful.) Take a sharpie or marker and write that name on the rock.

COURTNEY BELLE BULLARD is the founder of The Pearl House. She wants all girls, no matter where they live, to know how much God loves them!

Courtney loves puppies and watching the show Kids Baking Championship with her daughters. [thepearlhouse.org](http://thepearlhouse.org)



APRIL 22




# \* Free from the Past

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."*

{ Isaiah 43:18 }




 It was the first day of seventh grade and my class was sitting on the bleachers. It was almost my turn to walk down and get my locker information. I was sweating bullets. I'm pretty sure there was a puddle beneath my seat!

You see, last year, I'd caught a loose shoelace and rolled down each of the bleacher steps until I hit the bottom. It was awful. I wasn't hurt physically from the fall but I was hurt emotionally. I was so embarrassed. I can still remember exactly how I felt that day.

That's why I was super nervous this time. Would I fall? Would things go well? I worried so much that I missed my name being called the first time. When I finally did hear it, I stood up, walked down the bleachers without a single stumble, and grabbed my things. Everything went well that day and even that year. It was a new year free of mistakes from the past.

We tend to fall into the trap of focusing on what happened in the past. This allows the past to control our lives and limits how God can use us now. God desires for us to start each day fresh and ready to see what new thing He's going to do in and through our lives. Trust God as you move forward. Let go of any fear, regret, or hurt from the past and trust Him to be in control of your future.

 **ACTION POINT:** Use your diary to write down any mistakes or fears you'd like to leave in the past. Then, write a prayer to God asking Him to help you move forward in confidence, ready to do whatever He calls you.

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APRIL 23







# The Message in the Sunrise

*"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning."*

{ Lamentations 3:22-23 }



**W**hen was the last time you saw the sunrise? Set your alarm for zero dark thirty tomorrow morning. (That's way earlier than you want to!) Find an eastern facing window, and watch as the Lord shows the world one of the most wonderful things about His character—His faithfulness. Every morning when the sun rises, the Lord is teaching us a parable (a parable is a story with a point). The point of the sunrise is this: God is faithful.

Even when the world is in chaos, the sun rises. Even when we're too sick or too sad to get out of bed, the sun rises. It's a declaration that, no matter what, He's faithful.

Because God's faithful, every sunrise is also teaching a second parable—the newness of God's rich mercies. That means that the mistakes you made yesterday are forgotten in heaven this morning. The sins you committed last year are gone. There are new mercies proclaimed in the bright morning sky.

Every morning since creation dawned, God has painted the sky with these Truths: I am faithful and I will have mercy on you. These are beautiful life changing messages. Messages that can reshape our days, our weeks, our lives. We can count on God's faithfulness and mercy as much as we can count on the sun coming up tomorrow. What good news!

➡ **ACTION POINT:** Watch the sunrise. As you do, read Lamentations 3:22-23 out loud. Thank the Lord for offering you a new beginning every day.

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ERIN DAVIS is a Bible teacher who wants to help you fall in love with your whole Bible. You can usually find her chasing chickens and children on her small farm in the Midwest. ErinDavis.org




APRIL 24



* Snow Days = Grow Days

"The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My Word. I send it out and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."

{ Isaiah 55:10-11 }

 Is there anything better than a snow day? We get a lot of snow in Pennsylvania. From Thanksgiving Day until nearly Easter, we're braced for it with snow shovels and buckets of salt to melt the ice on our walkway. We also have our sleds ready! I like to "pony sled." That's what we call it when we tie a sled to the back of my horse, Trigg, and he pulls us around! I ride him while my friends hold on and giggle.

I've seen a lot of beautiful snow days but let me tell you what I've not seen. In all my years, I've never seen a spring tulip immediately poke up from the ground the day we get a snowfall. But that's exactly what's happening. God sends the snow and rain to feed the sleeping roots and flower bulbs nestled underground. Snow days are growing days.

The process is gradual. Isaiah 55:10-11 teaches us that the Word of God works a lot like snow and rain. God's words are "watering" important things that He's planted in your mind and soul. Seeds of goodness and mighty works of God are getting the nutrients they need every time you open the Bible and read it—His Word "always produces fruit."

I can't see it yet. You probably can't either. But something good is growing!

 **ACTION POINT:** Open your Bible and read more of Isaiah 55. Soak a little bit in the "snow fall" of Truth in that chapter.

DANNAH GRESH is the founder of True Girl and loves to see girls learn to love their Bibles. She lives on a hobby farm with 20 animals. mytruegirl.com



APRIL 25





* New Mercy

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

{ Hebrews 4:16 }



Throughout my teaching career I've had many students who had a hard time using self-control. The biggest problem is talking before being called upon! I once had a sixth grade student who talked to everyone he sat next to and it was becoming a huge distraction in the classroom. One day he got two warning slips for talking. The next day in class I made sure he knew it was a fresh start and that I loved him.

Needless to say, I got to know him and his parents very well because I was speaking with them frequently. I wanted to make sure he and his parents knew that I loved him. Even though I had to keep track of his warning slips that turned into detentions, it wasn't changing my love for him. I often reminded my student of this: just like he was starting fresh in my class, we start fresh every day with Jesus.

One of the coolest things about Jesus is that He gives us new mercies every morning when we wake up. He, unlike teachers, isn't keeping track of all our sins and writing warning slips that turn into detentions. No, we get a clean slate from the moment we confess and repent of our sins. That's how much God loves us.



ACTION POINT: What do you do when you get into trouble?

Do you think your parents love you less? Ask your mom if there was a time in her life when she thought God loved her less because of something she had done.

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APRIL 26





Big City, Big Changes

"I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from Your presence! If I go up to heaven, You are there; if I go down to the grave, You are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there Your hand will guide me, and Your strength will support me."




{ Psalm 139:7-10 }



When I was 11, my family and I moved. I'll never forget the morning I went to my new school. Fear and uncertainty knotted my stomach, and it took every ounce of bravery to get out of the car. I walked in and sat alone with my backpack and new clothes and watched as friends reunited, smiled, and laughed together in excitement for a new school year. I felt alone, unknown, and unnoticed.

New beginnings and transitions can be difficult. The Bible teaches that we'll never be alone, no matter how far we flee from God. Psalm 139 says we can't escape God's presence. God's always there and His hand will guide us, give us strength, and support us. When we move to a new city, enter a new school, or join a new team...God is with us!

Though I felt alone, I wasn't. God was with me. Though I felt unseen and unnoticed, God never took His eyes off me. God provided the strength, bravery, and support I needed to endure a new season of making new friends and settling into a new school in a new city.

 **ACTION POINT:** Are you currently experiencing a big transition or beginning a new chapter? Read Psalm 139. God reminds us that He's always with us no matter where we go or what we experience.

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APRIL 27





# Has Jesus Given Up On You?

*"Though they stumble, they will never fall,  
for the Lord holds them by the hand."*

{ Psalm 37:24 }



It was a beautiful afternoon and one of my girls was playing and running around. Suddenly, she fell very hard on her knee and it started bleeding. I took care of her and in a couple of minutes, she was running again. Do you know what happened next? She fell again. Crying, she came back to me. I cleaned her wound and she sat down for a few minutes before getting back up to play. She hurt that same knee more than three times that week!

Seeing my daughter hurt and coming to me for help after each fall taught me a lesson. You see, though she fell many times, I continued helping her. God does the same for us when we fall down or fail at something. Even if it happens several times, God's always there to heal, love, and instruct us.

Have you ever thought, in the midst of your failures, that God got tired or gave up on you? I certainly have. Through my daughter's injuries, God reminded me that He'll neither grow tired of me nor give up on me. No matter how many times we fail, we can run into His arms. He recognizes our need and His faithful love will be there to embrace us and set us back on our feet.

His love never fails.



**ACTION POINT:** Are you struggling with the same sin over and over again? Prayerfully confess that sin to God and ask Him to help you overcome it. Then, talk to your mom about the sin and come up with ways that she can help you overcome it. Ask her to pray over you for your sin to stop.

MARLENE LUNA is the Director of Chica Verdadera, the Spanish True Girl team located in the Dominican Republic. She and her husband Irving have two daughters. Marlene likes art, including hand lettering. [puralibertad.org](http://puralibertad.org)



APRIL 28




# \* The Strength To Soar

*"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

{ Isaiah 40:31 }



 **E**agles are amazing! With incredibly strong eyes that are about eight times stronger than ours, swift movement that allows them to catch fish as they swim, and tons of other cool abilities, it's safe to say that they're truly fascinating creatures.

An eagle's flight is a magnificent sight. Their powerful wings allow them to fly up to 10,000 feet above the ground! The way they soar through the clouds with such strength would make you think they're using lots of energy but, in reality, they're actually asserting very little. They've learned to rest and glide allowing their wings to catch the wind perfectly.

By watching eagles, we can learn how to soar. Isaiah 40:31 shows us that our strength is refilled by Jesus alone. It's by His strength that we soar on wings like eagles. We need only rest and glide in Him.

Life can be tough. It's normal to feel tired at times but we must remember that our strength and renewal comes from Jesus. Running to His word and bringing all of our cares and worries to Him in prayer is what renews His strength within us. Rest in His wings and soar.

 **ACTION POINT:** Quick! Grab your prayer journal and favorite colored pencils! Draw a picture of an eagle and write a prayer beneath it asking God to help you rest in His strength.

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STACI RUDOLPH is a Lead Teacher for True Girl and loves to see girls grow in their personal relationship with Christ. She likes spicy food and writes beautiful songs. mytruegirl.com



APRIL 29





Good Dirt

*"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—
a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

{ Matthew 13:8 } (NIV)



Farming is tricky business. It's like telling people about Jesus. You can talk about Jesus' plan for salvation, but it's up to the people who hear the words to decide if it makes any difference in their lives.

In this parable, "seeds" are a symbol of God's truth and the "soil" is a symbol of people who hear the truth.

Some seeds fell along the packed down, hard path and they rested on top of it. The birds grabbed them all for dinner. *Have you ever met someone who had a really hard heart?* She may hear the truth but doesn't accept it. It gets snatched away because she doesn't hold onto it.

Seeds that fell in that shallow, rocky soil grew up quickly and got burned by the sun because their roots weren't deep. I know people who gave their hearts to Jesus but they never got in the Word and let their "roots" get deep in their relationship with Him.

Other seeds fell where the plants were choked by thorns. Some plants can't live beside other plants because one will overpower the other.

But seeds that fall into soft soil, like God's Word, falls onto a tender, willing heart, bears much fruit.

➡ **ACTION POINT:** What kind of soil do you feel describes your heart right now? Take time to ask God to transform your heart into a soft, nourishing place for His Word to grow.

Today's encouragement is an excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo
by DANNAH GRESH with help from JANET MYLIN.

Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.



APRIL 30

