





As you read these devos, you'll see that we've written them for **Y-O-U** if you're a tween girl! But you may need your mom sometimes. Why? Well, the honest answer is

that sometimes when you're first learning to do something, it's good to have help from someone with more experience!

It might be your first or second or third year having devotions on your own. But it's probably your mom's tenth or twentieth year of doing it. So, she's gonna come in handy from time to time. Every now and then, one of the writers will encourage you to ask your mom for help.

(So, Mom, if you're reading this, we hope you are on standby every day. When your girl comes to you for advice or help, try to be available soon, even if you can't be at that very moment.)

If it is helpful, you could decide you want to start by reading these together with your mom, but we sure hope you will grow in your ability to read the Bible and understand it on your own. After all, someday, you may be the mom helping a girl learn to do the very same thing!

I love you, and Jesus loves you.

Dannah Gresh, Founder of True Girl



True (Girl) Beauty

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last. { Proverbs 31:30a}

oes today's Bible verse mean beauty is bad? Nah! God created us to be beautiful. We are His masterpieces (Ephesians 2:10). It is good to be confident about that so we can praise God for making us wonderfully (Psalm 139:14).

Even so, Proverbs 31:30 warns, "charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last." What's that mean?

The original ancient words used in this verse for *charm* and *beauty* refer to all the *extra stuff* we use to make ourselves feel pretty—like hair clips and jewelry. Those things aren't bad, either. But being obsessed with them is not good. This verse warns us not to think too much about fashion, jewelry, and clothes.

Even with all those helpful things, beauty fades as we get older. Your hair will lose its color. Your skin will sag. So, don't rely on that kind of beauty. (But come back tomorrow to find out what you can count on to make you feel lovely!)

ACTION POINT: Write Proverts 31:30 on a sticky note and put it on your bathroom mirror. Try to memorize it when brushing your teeth or fixing your hair. May it remind you not to be too obsessed with fashion and other stuff.

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Fear of the Lord

But a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. { Proverbs 31:30b}



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e usually think of fear as a negative thing. Nobody enjoys being afraid. So, today's focus verse may be confusing at first.

In the Bible, you'll find verses that talk about fearing God or the fear of the Lord. When the Bible talks about fearing God, it's a positive sense of reverence or awe for God. It means you recognize He is the all-powerful King of kings, and you live in respect and wonder for Him.

You may have watched an amazing sunset and thought, "Wow! God did that!" Or you've been uncomfortable and maybe angry when someone speaks disrespectfully about God. Those experiences are the fear of the Lord rising up in you.

Fearing the Lord isn't being terrified of Him. It's acknowledging Him as the ultimate power in the universe. The Bible says a woman who lives that way is worthy of praise. And that is what makes us lovely!

ACTION POINT: Talk to your mom about fearing God. Tell each other stories about when you may have experienced the fear of the Lord in your life.

Today's encouragement is by DANNAH GRESH and is an adapted excerpt from The One Year Mother Daughter Devo by **Dannah Gresh** and **Janet Mylin**. Get a copy at mytruegirl.com.





Treasure Chest

. . . but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. { Luke 2:19 }

hold on to EVERYTHING — from my first baby bracelet to the movie ticket from my first date. While others could call me a potential hoarder, I'm thankful for this trait. It reminds me of

something much bigger: to store up and treasure the works of the Lord.

In this verse, Jesus' mother, Mary, is doing just that. She's watching all that's taking place surrounding Jesus' birth — from hearing God's plan for her life from the angel Gabriel to the moment the shepherds look upon baby Jesus. Mary sees the Lord's work and stores the moments in her heart, so she never forgets His goodness.

A girl following God has a heart like a treasure chest, storing all the amazing things He's done. She knows that when times are tough and good things seem far away, all she has to do is open her heart and look back on God's faithfulness time and time again.

ACTION POINT: Make a keepsake box! You could use a shoe box, an old delivery box, or any box you want. Decorate it and make it special! Store up fun things in it that remind you of God's blessings.

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Spread the Word

The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! { John 4:28–29 }

> he Samaritan woman, or the woman at the well, was the first person Jesus publicly revealed Himself to as the Messiah. Why did He choose her? She lived an imperfect life, was not

Jewish, and was shunned by her community.

Jesus knew what this woman needed: forgiveness and compassion. He was the only one who could give her living water to satisfy her spiritual thirst. Jesus' love broke down every wall in her heart, and she told everyone about the one who changed her life.

Being a woman who loves the Lord doesn't mean being perfect. It means recognizing your weaknesses and seeking God's strength. It means trusting in His plan and believing He has a purpose. It means accepting His forgiveness and compassion and sharing it with others.

Keep growing in your faith, seeking God's will, and loving Him with all your heart. As you spread God's Word, others will see how He shines through you.

ACTION POINT: Think of a "well" where you can tell someone about Jesus. Maybe it's that person you see in the lunchroom or someone in your neighborhood. Share your "God story" with them so they can hear about God's love and forgiveness.

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l Virtuous Woman

"Now don't worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman." { Ruth 3:11 }

ave you ever read the story of Ruth? Ruth was a very godly woman. Just look at what her future husband Boaz said to her in our key verse for today! Ruth was *virtuous*. Just like Proverbs 31:30, she was a woman who feared the Lord. And because of her faith, she was praised by all who knew her!

She was such a good example of what a godly woman should look like that people used to put her book right after Proverbs 3 I in the Hebrew Bible (that's the Old Testament). It was as if they were saying, *If you want* to be a godly woman like Proverbs 3 I describes, follow Ruth's example!

There are many things about Ruth's life that make her a good example of godly womanhood. But the most important thing is this: she feared the Lord. It's so important that we have godly examples like Ruth to follow.

ACTION POINT: Read through Ruth's story. You can read it all at once (there are only four chapters, so it'll take about 15 minutes) or read one chapter each day. As you read, write down the examples of goally qualities you notice.

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The Wise Shunammite

She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God." { 2 Kings 4:9 }

ne of my favorite women of the Bible is one that I don't even know the name of. She's known as the Shunammite. God blessed this true woman with wealth. She shared it with others, including the prophet Elisha.

He used to pass near her house. She invited him in and prepared him something to eat every time he did.

During these lunch times, she realized that Elisha was a holy man of God. So, she prepared him a room in her house where he could stay longer every time he came.

True girls choose wisely who they spend time with. The Shunammite understood who was a good influence on her. She decided to stay close to those who feared the Lord because she knew that would bless her life. And girl, how it blessed her!

ACTION POINT: Read the full story of the Shunammite woman to find out how God blessed her for having the right people over. It's a short story found in 2 Kings 4:8-37.

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Good Sense to the Rescue!

David replied to Abigail, "Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense!" { 1 Samuel 25:32–33 }

bigail was an ordinary woman living around 1000 BC. Yet, because of her "good sense," we can read about her 3,000 years later! Let's look at her story.

One day, the future king, David, asks Abigail's husband, Nabal, to share supplies with him. But Nabal, who Scripture describes as "crude and mean" (1 Samuel 25:3), says no and even insults David! David gets his men ready to fight. But before they can arrive, Abigail discovers what's happening. She quickly gathers bread, wine, sheep, roasted grain, raisins, and fig cakes, gives them to David, and apologizes. David agrees not to kill anyone. And, as today's verse says, he praises Abigail for her "good sense."

The Oxford Learner's Dictionary says good sense is "the ability to make the right decision about something," and Proverbs 4:5 tells us to "develop" it. Today, make it your goal to be like Abigail—an everyday girl with good sense!

ACTION POINT: Abigail couldn't read the book of Proverbs because it wasn't written yet. But you can read it? Read Proverbs 4 and learn why good sense is important?

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<u>, e. s. p. e. c. t.</u>

So obey the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and fearing him. { Deuteronomy 8:6 }

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hat does it mean to fear the Lord?" asked my Bible class teacher, Mrs. Evans. I glanced around the room as it fell silent.

"Kasey, perhaps you know the answer to my question?" I looked at my teacher and replied, "I was afraid you'd ask me that!"

The Bible shows us that fearing the Lord is motivated by our love for Him. It is respecting Him and recognizing that He is all-powerful and we are not. We see this clearly in Deuteronomy 8:6 as it reminds us to obey God by walking in His commands and fearing him.

God loves it when we live our lives in fear of Him. Not the kind of fear that makes you want to crawl into a hole when you're asked a question in class! No, He wants us to experience a fear that calls us to respect Him as the Lord of our lives.

ACTION POINT: Deuteronomy 8:6 reminds us to walk in the Word and fear the Lord. This month, make it a priority to read Scripture at least once daily. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remain faithful to this challenge.

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Be More Moldable

And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We are all formed by your hand. { Isaiah 64:8 }

For the see how wrong I was. Have you ever felt that way?

God formed you exactly the way you are! Everything about you is planned by Him. When He looks at you, He sees His beautiful masterpiece.

When you talk badly about what God has created, it makes Him sad. He formed you as a young woman for a special purpose to bring Him glory and give you abundant joy. As today's verse says, you can trust the work the Potter does in your life.

I wish I had understood this when I was young. But now, as I ask God the Potter to keep molding me, I see such amazing blessings in my life. I rejoice at the work He is doing!

ACTION POINT: Do you struggle with who you are? Are you resisting being who He is calling you to be? Ask Him to help you welcome His molding in your life and to draw you closer to Him.

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'll Trust You . . . I'll Wait

She asked for nothing except what he suggested, and she was admired by everyone who saw her. { Esther 2:15 }

ometimes I have trouble trusting God will do what He promised. If it's not happening fast enough, I try to rush the process. I'll call a friend who can get things done or look for other resources that will help.

It's because I don't want to look foolish. Will people look at me differently if things go wrong? Will they still think well of me?

Queen Esther was a beautiful example of listening to and waiting on God. The king chose her and made her his wife. She could've tried to make everything go her way, but she followed God's plan instead.

She wanted nothing more than to save her people, the Israelites. And she chose to submit to God's way and go through the process . . . obediently and patiently. In the end, she won the king's favor AND the people's favor. All because she trusted God's plan!

ACTION POINT: Write down what you've been asking God to do. Now put a checkmark next to things you have been trying to do on your own. Pray for God's patience to trust His timing on them.

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Tuning Your Ears to Wisdom

Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. { Proverbs 2:5 }

ave you ever played an out-of-tune instrument? You tap a key or pluck a string, and the sound is awful! The same can happen with our ears and hearts.

How? Look at Proverbs 2:1–5. (I'm reading the NLT.) Read the verses and pay careful attention to the action words: *tune, cry*, and *search*.

To be godly women who fear the Lord, we have to *tune* our ears to wisdom. Just like an instrument needs to be tuned to play in the right key, we must tune our ears to hear wise words. One way to do that is to *cry* out to God in prayer, asking Him to change our hearts and give us wisdom. Then, we need to *search* for wisdom as if it were a hidden treasure. How? By reading God's Word and digging up all of its wonderful treasures. Only then will we understand what it means to fear the Lord!

ACTION POINT: Write down the words "lune." "cry." and "search." Then, write a prayer asking God to tune your ears to wisdom. Cry out to Him in prayer, asking for understanding. Finally, search for wisdom by re-reading Proverbs 1:1-5.

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Walking in the Spirit

t was the first day of 6th grade, and I was so nervous. Luckily, I had met one girl during a back-to-school event who said I could sit with her at lunch.

At lunchtime, she had a seat saved right next to her! I walked up, only to realize the seat was not for me.

We all face situations like this. Perhaps it's a broken promise, a disappointment, or we even feel like a failure. We can respond by complaining, whining, and throwing a fit for not getting what we think we deserve, OR we can choose to do what is good and respond in love, joy, peace, and patience.

If it weren't for that girl not saving me a seat, I would have never met my best friend today. She was sitting at another table all by herself!

ACTION POINT: Decide not to respond with complaining, whining, or fit-throwing this week. Instead, choose the Fruit of the Spirit when you are frustrated and disappointed! You won't regret it!

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Clothed in Dignity

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?" {Esther 4:13–14}

ave you ever felt like you were not good enough or popular enough because you didn't have the right friends or wear the right clothes?

In the story of Esther, we meet a beautiful and bold Jewish woman who is selected to be the Queen of Persia. But did you know that Esther grew up as an orphan? She was raised by her cousin Mordecai. Esther didn't have fancy clothes or much money, but God had a great plan for her. He chose Esther to protect the Jewish people from death. When God is in control, His plan always wins.

What an encouraging story, knowing that one person can make a difference. God has a plan for you too! You don't need to be the most beautiful, popular, or have the most things. You just need to trust in Jesus, who will lead you down the path He has for you!

ACTION POINT: God wants to use you right where you are. Ask God to give you strength as Esther had. Make a list of ways to be bold in your faith as you walk clothed in dignity.

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Time for Popcorn and M&M's

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. { Proverbs 31:27 NIV}

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et's be honest. Most of us love to eat popcorn when we watch a movie marathon! But have you ever tried popcorn with M&M's? It's the best!

It is easy to lie on the couch for hours, right!? But being diligent (another word for hard-working) can be difficult! Today's verse says that a True girl is diligent. She watches over "the affairs of her household." You might not have a house to manage, but God has given you other things to manage. For example, your time!

Today's verse also reminds us that a True girl "does not eat the bread of idleness." Idleness means laziness. A True girl manages her tasks with diligence! Watching TV and eating popcorn are not bad things. But if you do them before you do your homework, chores, or while your mom needs help, you're probably not using your time well.

ACTION POINT: Make a list of the tasks God has given you to manage. After you do, prepare a bowl of popcorn (with M&M's), and discuss it with your mom. Ask her to help you manage your tasks with diligence.

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Step Up to the Plate

A gracious woman gains respect . . . { Proverbs 11:16a }

n high school, I became my softball team's captain. I was so excited but also afraid. It was a big responsibility, and I wanted to handle it carefully.

I knew the kind of captain I wanted to be and the kind I wanted to avoid becoming. I wanted to encourage my teammates' efforts, celebrate their successes, and show grace for their mistakes. With God's help and support from my coach, that's exactly the kind of captain I became.

At the end of the season, my teammates shared that grace was the quality that stuck out most about my leadership. It made them feel loved and earned me their respect.

A girl who follows Jesus should overflow with His grace. She knows what it's like to make a mistake and experience the grace and forgiveness of her Father. Her kind and gracious spirit calms others and makes it easy for them to trust and respect her.

ACTION POINT: Are you a girl who overflows with grace and is respected by others? If so, way to go! If not, ask God to help you overflow His grace to others. Write a prayer to Him in your journal.

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/hy Should We Be Godly Women?

For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. {Titus 2:11}

ave you ever done the right thing for the wrong reasons? Imagine if you cleaned the whole house for your mom. You did the dishes, folded the laundry, and scrubbed that yucky toilet. What if you did all of those things only because you hoped she would take you out for ice cream afterward?

Would that be the right reason? Of course not! If we only ever do good things with the hope of getting something in return, then we need to do a serious heart check! The same can be true when it comes to being a woman who fears the Lord. Why should we be godly women? Titus 2:11 tells us!

We should love and obey God because He sent His Son to save us and die in our place! We should be godly women because of how much God already loves us. And nothing we do, whether good or bad, will ever change that.

ACTION POINT: Write "Jesus loves me and died for me!" on a sticky note and put it on your mirror. When you feel pressure to obey God for the wrong reasons, let it remind you that Jesus' love for you is enough.

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Spiritual Muscles

She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. {Proverbs 31:17, ESV}

w, my muscles (or lack thereof) are not impressive in the slightest, but today's verse says that a godly woman "dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong." What does this mean and look like in our lives?

A woman after God's heart is a hard worker. Growing up, I often was the first to complain and chose the lazy way out of work. But when we are known for having a complaining spirit, it does not reflect well on our character or God's! Thankfully, I learned that my complaining spirit was not God-honoring!

If we want to be a woman after God's own heart, then we need to seek Him as our source of strength and work hard. In Colossians 3:23, we are told that we should do everything for the Lord. This includes the work we do! We bring the Lord glory when we work hard for Him.

ACTION POINT: Do you find yourself choosing the lazy way out of situations or work given? Think about how you typically respond when work is required and ask the Lord to help you to work hard to bring Him glory.

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Worthy of It All

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. { Deuteronomy 10:12 }

t was the day of my biology exam, and I should have studied more. The teacher handed out the test packets, and the first question stumped me. But the boy sitting next to me wasn't

confused. Perhaps if I glanced at his paper, I would learn the formulas I needed. I told myself it wasn't cheating. It was just getting a little extra help!

After we turned in our exams, my stomach felt queasy. I knew that I was a cheater. I tried to shake off the feeling, but the guilt stuck to me like glue. I told my teacher the truth and received a zero for my work. I also asked the Lord to forgive me. Immediately, that sticky feeling was gone.

A week later, my teacher told me that I could retake the test! He said, "Even though you did the wrong thing, you still managed to make things right. That takes a lot of heart."

ACTION POINT: Give your best to God this week. Remember Deuteronomy 10:12. If you sin against Him, get out of your comfort zone to make it right. He deserves all of your heart and all of your soul!

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Jesus Loved His Mama

When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home. { John 19:26–27 }

n the book of John, the author John refers to himself as "the disciple he loved" — meaning the disciple Jesus loved. Isn't Isn't that a FANTASTIC way to describe yourself? John was convinced that Jesus loved him! And right before Jesus gave His life on the cross for you and me, He took care of someone else He loved very, very much: Mary, His mama.

We know that Mary was an amazing woman. She had incredible faith! She was obedient to God's plan even though it was pretty scary. God trusted her with one of the most important jobs in history. There is no question that Mary was very strong.

And Jesus saw that even strong women need others to help and care for them. So He told John, the disciple He loved, to care for Mary as if she were his own mom. How precious!

ACTION POINT: While this one a piece of paper with your name in the blank: "________ is the disciple Jesus loves." Say it out loud and thank God for His great love for all women and girls!

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.et. Your Lamp Burn

She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night. { Proverbs 31:18 }

ne weekend, my friend and I made beaded bracelets to sell from a table on my front porch. We sat in the sun for hours with no clients in sight. So, we had the amazing idea to make flyers with our professional design tools: crayons! We headed out to slip them through the doors of our neighbors. Talk about marketing pros!

The next day, we went back again and waited! Our dear neighbor, Mrs. Ingrid, came to our store and bought MANY bracelets. Success!

Just like we waited for neighbors, and no one came at first, circumstances around us might make us believe that the good things we are doing may never pay in return. But a woman who fears the Lord keeps on working hard at what God has called her to do! Her lamp never stops burning!

Men you feel discouraged. Write them in a flyer you create with crayons. Put it someplace you will be reminded to let your lamp burn!

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Unfading Beauty

You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. { 1 Peter 3:4 }

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y friends and I loved to do makeovers! We'd gather our makeup collection and take turns getting all dolled up. It was so much fun!

Did you know that the Bible tells us how to give ourselves a makeover on the *inside*?

In I Peter 3:4, God tells us to clothe ourselves with the inner beauty that comes from a gentle and quiet spirit. Now, this doesn't mean that to have inner beauty, you can't have a loud and crazy personality. Instead, it means that you are confidently trusting God as the one who determines your value.

This trust in God is beautiful because it says that you are secure in your identity as a daughter of the King. It shows that what matters most is not what you look like on the outside but the beauty of your character as you seek to become more like Jesus. That is the kind of beauty that never fades.

ACTION POINT: Do a makeover wilk your mom! As you put on makeup, think of godly characteristics that make you beautiful. Wilk each different kind of makeup you put on, pray and ask God to help you have those beautiful qualities.

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They're Cousins!

"You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said." { Luke 1:45 }

> o you have a cousin? Mary did! Luke tells us her name was Elizabeth. She's the first person Mary visited after the angel told her she would be Jesus' mom.

When Mary arrived at Elizabeth's house, Elizabeth didn't say how much she loved Mary's cute tunic (that's what the everyday dresses women wore in first-century Israel were called), shawl, or sandals. Instead, as today's verse says, Elizabeth praised Mary for believing "that the Lord would do what he said" (Luke 1:45).

It's a good thing to compliment a friend on her fun earrings or cute shoes. After all, "an encouraging word cheers a person up" (Proverbs 12:25). But what if we don't stop with noticing what's on the outside? Let's be more like Elizabeth and praise our friends for how they act like Jesus too. So, the next time you see a friend being kind to her little sister or courageously sharing her faith, praise her for it!

ACTION POINT: Grab your sketchbook or a piece of paper. Read Luke 1:39-45 and Jraw what you think Mary and Elizabeth's meeting looked like.

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You Have a Choice

Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. { Proverbs 1:7 }

> romise we will be best friends forever?" asked Tara. "I promise!" Lindsey replied.

But in 6th grade, things changed. Tara focused more on her appearance and hung out with girls who sat with boys at lunch. Lindsey started a Bible study. One day after school, Lindsey invited Tara to join.

"Sorry, Lindsey," Tara said. "No offense, but I have more important things to do than read a book with some weird girls. Not YOU, of course. I hope you understand!"

Lindsey had a choice at that moment. She could become angry at Tara. Not only did Tara break her promise about their friendship, but she was also making fun of her new friends that loved to read the Word of God! Or, she could choose to forgive Tara.

Proverbs 1:7 reminds us that fearing the Lord (respecting and honoring His Word) is the beginning of true knowledge. Ask yourself today, how do you think Lindsey should respond?

ACTION POINT: How do you respond in moments when you are hurt? Pray about this today and remember, a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised!

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Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord 2

Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced. And Miriam sang this song: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. { Exodus 15:20-21 }

iriam was a brave woman, even from a young age. As a girl, she protected her her baby brother from being murdered. Pharaoh was not happy that the Israelites were thriving in his land. So, he issued an awful decree to kill all the newborn baby boys. You can read about this in Exodus 1:6–22 and Exodus 2:1–8. Have you guessed the name of Miriam's baby brother? It was Moses! In Exodus 15:20–21, we read that Miriam danced, making a joyful noise to the Lord because He used Moses to help deliver His people from slavery. What's exciting is that Miriam saw God fulfill His promise through Moses because of her obedience as a young girl. Even when things didn't make sense, Miriam trusted in a bigger plan. God was able to use her to accomplish His will.

ACTION POINT: Write down some things the Lord has done in your life and celebrate those by having a dance praise partly! Come on! Get Up! Be loud and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

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The One Who Designed Us

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. { Psalm 139:13–14 }

e're told by designers how we're supposed to look and act. Makeup designers say we need foundation, lipstick, and perfect eyelashes. Clothing designers tell us to wear things to the grocery store that shouldn't be worn to our backyard pool.

What these designers are missing is that just because they've designed a product doesn't mean we must accept it and allow it to define us. The Creator of the universe has already designed and defined who we are in Him.

Psalm 139:13–14 reminds us that God did the ultimate design job on each of us long ago. While we were still in our mother's womb, He wove every delicate piece of our being into a wonderful masterpiece He has great plans for. So, the next time someone tries to define you by how you look or what you wear, tell them kindly that the design job has been completed to perfection.

ACTION POINT: Do you believe that you are wonderfully designed? Or is there something about you that you wish were different? Take some time to talk to the master designer-God. Ask Him to help you recognize and appreciate His awesome job in creating you.

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Made to Multiply

"Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."" { Genesis 1:28 }

ave you ever done multiplication? You know like 1x1 = 1 and 2x2 = 4? Did you know that in Genesis 1:28, God commands us to be fruitful and *multiply*? But the kind of multiplying God had in mind wasn't multiplying numbers. He wants us to multiply people!

For the longest time, I thought the only way to "be fruitful and multiply" was to get married and have babies. I wondered, "How can I live out this command when I'm not even married yet?" What I didn't know is that this command is not just about filling the earth with more people. It's about filling the earth with people who will glorify and worship God. You don't have to be married to do that!

Anyone can do this by sharing Jesus with others! We can be fruitful and multiply by helping others see how awesome Jesus is so that they will worship Him.

ACTION POINT: Let's do some multiplication! (Not the math kind!) Share Jesus with a friend by making them a card. Tell them about what Jesus has done for you, and invite them to come to church with you this week!

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Day and Night

She never left the temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. { Luke 2:37b }

nna was a prophetess at the time of Jesus's birth. I love her example of biblical womanhood! Today's verse says she worshipped, fasted, and prayed before God day and night. Now, I don't think this means that to be a woman of God, we need to stay at our church and live in one of the back pews. Instead, this verse shows the attitude of Anna's heart.

Anna was in God's presence day and night. Back then, to go before God, people had to go to the temple. Today, the Lord is with us wherever we go!

Do you consistently spend time with the Lord as Anna did? Here are a few questions to ask yourself: Do I talk to the Lord throughout the day, asking Him for help and praising Him for who He is? Do I worship God throughout the day by spending time with Him and reading His Word?

ACTION POINT: What were your answers to the questions above? If you answered "no." then ask the Lord to show you how you can be more in His presence like Anna was.

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What a Woman!

Barak told her, "I will go, but only if you go with me." "Very well," she replied, "I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the LORD's victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman." { Judges 4:8–9 }

n the Bible, there are many examples of women who were strong and courageous. One of those examples is Deborah. Deborah was a judge and prophetess in ancient Israel. She was known for her wisdom and ability to lead her people with strength and grace. In a time when women were not often seen as leaders, Deborah stood out as an example of what it means to be a godly woman.

As you read about Deborah in the book of Judges, you will see she was not afraid to use her gifts and talents to serve God and her community. She was a woman of faith who trusted in God's plan, and her example can inspire you to do the same.

So, as you learn about what it means to be a woman of God, remember Deborah. Be courageous, be faithful, and use your gifts and talents to serve others and bring glory to God.

ACTION POINT: Read about Deborah in Judges 4. Pick a day to do a presentation to your family about her.

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Beaver Wisdom

She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. { Proverbs 31:20 }

o you know how beavers sleep in the water? They sleep upside down, holding each other's hand so that they won't float away in the swirling sea. They look out for each other! Many girls today don't act like these beavers. It's common for girls to bring each other down with negative comments, only look out for their own needs, and even try to tear friends apart to get more attention for themselves.

God teaches us that a girl who fears the Lord encourages others and cares for other people's needs! A true girl looks for ways to help others in need. She is always ready to extend a hand of love, encouragement, and friendship to those who need it the most.

And one cool thing is that extending your hand also blesses you by keeping you from floating away in a swirling sea of selfishness!

ACTION POINT: Wilk your mom's help, google photos of beavers sleeping in the water? Print one out and paste it into a notebook, so you remember to extend a hand to others in need.

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Girl Power or God Power?

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. { Colossians 3:23–24 }

ne of my favorite sayings is: What you love is what gives you power. How can something you love give you power? Doesn't power come from social status, skill, or something like that? Yes and no.

A phrase I *don't* like is "girl power." It is misleading. We do have power. However, it is important to determine where we are getting our power from. The world tells us it comes from our appearance, actions, or skills. However, these things only give fake, short-lived power.

Real power comes from knowing we are God's children. The other "powers" will never make us happy. But as God's daughters, He will lead us to a future that He has personally designed for us. That sounds like the kind of power I want and the type of God I want to love!

What you love is what gives you power. What and who do you choose to love?

ACTION POINT: What do you look to as your power source? God is so much stronger than anything the world has to offer. What are some ways that God has been your power source in the last week?

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oh, I Need You . . . Oh, I Need Yo

Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD. And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord, his hair will never be cut." {1 Samuel 1:10–11 }

ave you ever cried out this to the Lord: "God, if you do this, then I promise to . . ." Sometimes God chooses to answer yes, no, maybe, or not yet. In Hannah's case, He answered

with a yes.

I'm so excited to tell you that Hannah gave birth to a boy and called him Samuel. Samuel means "heard of God" or "asked of God." And Hannah kept her promise and dedicated Samuel to God. With fervent prayers and an unwavering faith in God, Hannah's strength came from her faithfulness to the Lord.

As we go through difficult situations, no matter how hard or alone we may feel, we can use Hannah's example to take our hard times to the house of the Lord and ask Him to help us. Hannah knew, and I want you to know, that God just wants our hearts and eyes focused on Him as we trust His perfect timing.

ACTION POINT: The Lord is waiting to hear from you. In your journal, start sharing your heart with Him. Doodle or write out your thoughts, a song, or even a poem.

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First Responders

Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. { Psalm 82:4 }

wo dogs were romping in the snow by a swimming pool when one jumped onto the slushy water. It fell through and didn't come up. The other dog howled for help! A woman jumped in and plucked the pup out of the water.

That woman is a *first responder*. That's what we call the first person on a scene where someone needs help. A fireman and an ambulance driver are first responders.

The Bible instructs us to be first responders when *people* need help! *Especially* when they cannot help themselves because they are too young, insecure, or physically unable. Only, our work is to help rescue people from sin and evil.

This includes sticking up for fellow students or neighbors who are the victim of bullies and mean girls. According to God's Word, it's not enough to NOT be the mean girl. We have to get in the way of them. Be a first responder when you see someone being treated badly.

ACTION POINT: Do you know someone who is being bullied? Talk to your mom about how you can be a first responder for that person.

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Be Real, Girl!

Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. { Romans 12:3}

S

ust a couple more tweaks and my piece for the class writing competition would be close to perfect! The first-place prize was \$100, and I wanted to win badly!

I reread my paper until I knew the whole thing by heart. There was NO WAY anyone was going to create something better! Walking into class, I was confident of winning. My friends and I started planning how to spend the money: roller skating, ice cream sundaes, and pedicures!

But when the results were announced, my teacher called another girl's name. I had worked SO hard, and I still lost! I later went back and reread the paper with my mom. I quickly realized I wasn't as good of a speller as I thought.

My mom read Romans 12:3 to me before bed. I thought my paper was better than it was, which led to intense embarrassment. I decided that being honest with myself was wiser than being cocky.

ACTION POINT: Can you remember a time when you thought more highly of yourself than you should have? It's important to be humble in all areas of our lives. Make it your goal to be humble in all you do this week!

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Walk in His Word

No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. { Micah 6:8 }

> hen I was in first grade, I hurt a friend of mine. I saw a prank on TV and pulled it on a friend at school. I tied together her shoelaces and asked her to walk. When she

did, she fell, hurt herself, and cried. I realized it was not funny, and I was the mean girl.

My friend was not the only one having trouble walking. I was too! I was not walking in righteousness, mercy, or humbly with my God. Reading today's verse in Micah, I now understand that I was hearing what was "good" from TV, not from the Bible.

May we remember that to do what is right, to love mercy, and walk humbly, we must first do what this verse says. LISTEN to what the Lord has told us is good and walk WITH Him.

ACTION POINT: Start listening to what the Loral has told us is good by writing down today's verse. Then tape it to your shoes where you can see it. I challenge you to walk a whole day with the verse there.

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Use Your Influence

So Saul listened to Jonathan and vowed, "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed." { 1 Samuel 19:6 }

id you know that King David had a best friend? His name was Jonathan. But David and Jonathan had a BIG problem. Before David was crowned, Jonathan's dad Saul was king, and Saul wanted to kill David. One reason is that Saul was jealous of how much the people loved David.

Jonathan didn't stand by and let his dad hurt David. He used his influence — or the power he had to change his dad's actions and behaviors — to help David. First Samuel 19:4 says, "The next morning Jonathan spoke with his father about David, saying many good things about him." And today's key verse says that Saul listened to Jonathan.

You can be like Jonathan! If you have friends or classmates who say mean things about someone else, you can use your influence to spark kindness instead. How can you do this? When the unkind words start, change the conversation by saying good things about the person!

ACTION POINT: David and Jonathan had a super close friendship. Read 1 Samuel 18:1-4. Then, sketch a picture of the two friends to remind yourself to stand up for others, just like Jonathan stood up for David.

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The Hard Truth

Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. { Proverbs 27:6 }

ave you ever had a friend tell you the truth even though they knew it might hurt you? I have.

Proverbs 27:6 tells us that wounds from a friend are better than kisses from an enemy. That means a friend willing to say hard things out of love is better than someone who compliments you and doesn't mean it.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to encourage each other to grow. Sometimes we must be honest with a friend about what we see in her life. Maybe she is gossiping or disrespecting her parents. Whatever it is, it is more loving to share why those things are wrong than to let her continue sinning against God and others.

It might be hard, but it's the kind of friend we need and should also want to be. After all, a friend who isn't afraid to share the hard truth is a true friend.

ACTION POINT: Ask your mom to help you make friendship bracelets. Give one to a close friend and tell her about today's Bible verse. Ask her to always be honest with you, and commit to doing the same for her.





Just Smile

Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for He is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

{ Luke 6:35 }



hen I was on a competitive swim team, we had several coaches who took turns. There was one coach I always dreaded having. She hardly ever smiled and was just

plain mean.

I remember telling my mom how much I didn't like her. I'll never forget my mom's advice. She told me to pour out love and kindness on her. When I saw that she was the coach, I was to smile and say hello to her. If she yelled and told us to swim faster, I was to be positive, smile, and swim my hardest. My mom wasn't telling me to be fake but to genuinely show her the love of Jesus.

I took her advice and couldn't believe the change I saw in that coach. She became nicer and even smiled at me! Showing others kindness and love may not always be easy, but the Lord calls us to share His love to all.

ACTION POINT: Is there someone who is mean to you? It is hard to want to be kind and show love to them. Ask the Lord to give you the strength to share His love with those that are hard to love.

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Watch Out for That Window!

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. { Ephesians 4:2 }

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ran as fast as I could from my brother, who was chasing me around the attic. I took a quick left and was too busy looking over my shoulder to notice the window in front of me. The next

thing I heard was a loud "bam!" followed by glass hitting the floor. My knee had gone right through the window!

After my sister helped patch me up, we had to talk to our dad. We were scared of how he'd react! But what stood out to me was his patience. He didn't yell or tell us how upset he was. Instead, he asked if I was okay, reminded us of safety rules, and helped us clean up and replace the window. He was gentle in how he handled us and the situation.

Our interactions should be characterized by gentility (being gentle). When someone makes a mistake, let's humbly interact with them and gently hold their heart.

ACTION POINT: Do you act genily when others make mistakes? Ask the three people closes to you to answer this question honestly. If the responses are positive, that's awesome! If not, you've got work to do, and God is happy to help.

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Just a Pair of Jeans

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. { 2 Chronicles 7:14 }



can't believe you told me I looked ugly in your jeans! You're so mean!" my sister said, slamming the door behind her.

It wasn't the truth. She actually looked great in my jeans—better than I did! All the anger and jealousy just boiled over, and nasty words came out. Immediately, I was convicted.

I didn't want to apologize to my sister. A part of me thought she deserved what I said because she'd taken my jeans without asking! But my attitude changed as soon as I prayed and asked God to soften my heart.

Knocking on my sister's door, I walked in slowly. "I'm sorry that I said that about you. The truth is, I was annoyed and jealous. I feel like you always look better than me! And the fact that you look prettier, even in my own clothes, really upset me. Will you please forgive me?"

ACTION POINT: Second Chronicles 7:14 reminds us that God Unings restoration when we turn from our sins.. There is beauty in our humility! When you are met with a situation that makes you angry, seek what the Lord wants you to do.

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Don't Cut Off Anyone's Ear!

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. { Proverbs 31:8–9 NIV }

bet that by reading these devos, you've learned a lot about bullying. But did you know there is also another person besides the bully and the bullied? It is the bystander. Those are

the ones that remain passive and silent in the face of injustice and mistreatment.

Proverbs 31:8–9 encourages us to speak up and defend those in need. But wait! The Bible also teaches us there's a right way to do it.

Peter was a great man of God, but there was a time when he got justice wrong. He let his emotions control him. The Bible tells us he cut off a soldier's ear to defend Jesus. Don't cut off anyone's ear, please!

So, what's the right way? Proverbs 31:9 teaches us to speak up and judge others FAIRLY. We can do this when we do it according to the Word and don't forget to have a heart full of forgiveness, humility, and kindness.

ACTION POINT: Some defender heroes of the Bible are Esther. Nehemiah, and Paul. Choose one of these characters and dig deeper into their story. Be attentive to how they defended others fairly.

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Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? { Romans 2:4 }

Be Kind

remember my pastor telling a story about an argument with his brother. He was confident he had debated his point well and knew he was RIGHT. While he celebrated his "win," he was challenged by the words, "You were right, but were you kind?" The Holy Spirit reminded him that winning wasn't the end goal. God wants us to show His kindness.

It feels good to be right. But being right should never be our motivation to draw people to God. Romans 2:4 says that God's kindness makes people want to change and repent (turn away from sin).

People are more likely to want to be around you if you are nice, which gives you a chance to teach others about Jesus, which makes them want to get to know Jesus for themselves, which . . . well, you get the point! God wants us to speak His Truth in love. He handles the rest!

ACTION POINT: Is there someone in your life that enjoys arguing with you? Is it tempting to engage with them to try to prove your point? Ask God to teach you how to show them kindness instead.

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raying for People Who've Hurt U

"Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you." {Luke 6:28}

ave you ever been hurt by someone? Maybe they made fun of how you look or said something mean about you behind your back? It can be easy to give into anger towards that person. We want to get them back! We want to hurt them so they can feel how badly they hurt us.

While anger and revenge might be our first reactions when someone hurts us, it's not the response Jesus calls us to have. In Luke 6:28, Jesus tells us to bless those who curse us and pray for those who hurt us.

It may not be easy, but by praying for the people that hurt us, we can find healing for the anger in our hearts. Don't let your hurt keep you from coming to God in prayer. Instead of trying to get over your feelings before you pray, go to Him during your pain, and He will meet you there.

ACTION POINT: Write an honest prayer to God. Don't worry about praying the "right" way or asking for the "right" things. Tell Him about the people who have hurt you and ask Him to heal your heart so you can forgive them.



Choosing Humility

Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. {Colossians 3:12}

ne of my sweet students recently came up to me. He reluctantly told me something that I had unintentionally done that offended him. I was so surprised! His assumptions were not true in the slightest. Even though he misunderstood the situation, the Lord encouraged my heart to respond humbly (as Colossians 3:12 says) and to ask him for forgiveness.

Thinking back on that boy's sweet smile as he walked away makes me think of how God sees us. We sometimes blame God for things that are not true. Yet He—God Almighty—knew we'd do this and humbly came to the cross to pay for our sins. We so often see ourselves in the right when we aren't. But God chose the path of humility to lower Himself as a human to make His way to the cross for us (Philippians 2:5–11).

ACTION POINT: The next time someone comes to you saying that you have hurt them, choose the path of humility. Be willing to ask for forgiveness for your part in it. The Lord will honor your effort to follow His example.

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All You Need is Love

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. { John 15:12 }

ave you ever had a hard time loving someone? Yeah, me too! Loving people who are hard to love is . . . well, hard! In today's verse, God does not just give us a command. He also shares how to do it! He says, "as I have loved you." We are to love one another with the same kind of love that Jesus loves us with—and He loved us because God is love. As we grow closer to Jesus, love will flow from us to others and He will help us to love those that are harder to love.

Where is your source of love coming from? Is love flowing from you? A good test is to see how you treat people around you, even those who are hard to love.

ACTION POINT: Who came to mind as you read this devo? Those are the people I want you to intentionally love this week. First, start by praying for them and then do something that makes them feel seen and loved.

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The Lord is Always with You

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. { 1 Peter 5:6–7 }



used to need my mom, dad, or sister to cuddle with so I felt safe enough to fall asleep. Nothing bad had happened to make me feel afraid to sleep alone. I just was.

One day, a friend invited me to a sleepover. I immediately thought: What if the friend wanted to sleep in her bed and I was all alone? What if I needed my mom or my dad? My mom assured me, "If you get scared, I will come to get you. Remember: you are never alone. Even though you can't see Him, the Lord is with you."

At the sleepover, I had so much fun! When it was time to sleep, I repeated, "The Lord is with me," until I fell asleep.

When we trust God is with us, He blesses us with peace. I am so thankful that God cares for us in every circumstance—even a sleepover!

ACTION POINT: Think of one way that you are afraid. Are you willing to give God control in that area? Do you trust Him with your heart? Talk to an adult you trust about this today!

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No, You Eat. The Bagel :-

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

his verse is one I regularly share during devotional time on the True Girl tour. Doing life together on the tour bus and serving side by side for twelve hours a day gives us a chance to put its teaching into action.

We need the reminder to live unselfishly when there's only one bagel, and we want it for a snack even though we had one for breakfast. (Yes, the bagel obsession on the True Girl tour is a real thing). And we need it to live humbly when moms and daughters thank us for what we're doing.

Even if you aren't part of the True Girl team, this verse still applies to you. A selfless, humble attitude should be the mark of every follower of Jesus. As you interact with others at school, home, soccer practice, or anywhere else, remember to live in a way that lets them know who you follow.

ACTION POINT: It's time to grab your journal! You'll be using two pages. On one page, write "Selflessness," and on the other, write "Humility." Underneath each word, list ways you can show those qualities to others.

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Words of Kindness

When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. { Proverbs 31:26 }

> as anyone ever said something nice to you that made your day? I once had a friend say something kind to me that made my day, and I still remember it years later!

It may be small, but a kind word can go a long way! Did you know that kind words are the mark of a godly woman? Take a look at our verse for today. Proverbs 31:26 tells us that when a godly woman speaks, her words are not only wise, but kind!

As Jesus talks about in Luke 6:45, what is in your heart will eventually come out of your mouth. Because a godly woman's heart is so full of wisdom from God's Word, she can speak kindly and encourage others with her words.

When was the last time you spoke with kindness to a friend?

ACTION POINT: Think of someone you can encourage today. Come up with one kind thing to say to them. Tell them in person, or write them a note. Who knows? You might just make their day!



No Charge

If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. I, PAUL, WRITE THIS WITH MY OWN HAND: I WILL REPAY IT. AND I WON'T MENTION THAT YOU OWE ME YOUR VERY SOUL!. {Philemon 1:18–19}

as someone ever wronged you? Chances are it is likely! Philemon, a man in the Bible, was wronged by his slave Onesimus. Onesimus decided to flee. But the plot twist comes when Onesimus meets Paul and receives Jesus as his Savior. Things get even more interesting when it turns out that Paul is a friend of Philemon. When Paul finds out what Onesimus did to Philemon, Paul fights for reconciliation and peace. He asks Philemon to forgive, free, and extend kindness to Onesimus.

Paul expresses a Christ-like response and is an example of how we should respond every time someone wrongs us. If anyone owes us anything, let us charge it to Christ without forgetting that we already owe Him our very soul. Christ sacrifice – wrongs done to us = NO CHARGE. May we respond as Paul taught us to act when someone wrongs us!

ACTION POINT: Grab your journal. Ask God to remind you of any wrongs done to you and write them down. At the end of the list, subtract Christ's sacrifice for you and write NO CHARGE as the answer.

LISA YABRA serves in the Dominican True Girl Ministry: Chica Verdadera. Two of her favorite things are her Bible and chocolate chip cookies. Find out more about her at puralibertad.org.





Genuine Forgiveness

Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. { Ephesians 4:32 }

while ago, the Lord asked me to have a hard conversation with someone who deeply hurt me. I was dreading it! I knew that if this person asked me to forgive them, I needed to because of what God's Word teaches.

Forgiveness can be hard to give, but God's Word clearly says we need to forgive others. Today's verse says that the Lord has forgiven *you* and *me* so much! If we can be completely forgiven for our sins against God, how can we deny forgiveness from those who have hurt us?

Taking care of this situation was not easy, but you know what? With the Lord's help, I was able to forgive this person and see the Lord's blessing for obeying Him. I felt a freedom that I had not experienced for years!

ACTION POINT: Is there anyone you need to forgive but you are having a hard time forgiving? Ask God to give you the strength to forgive, and thank Him for how He's forgiven you!

NIKKI ROBERTS is an elementary teacher who loves to tell others about the goodness of God. She lives in Michigan where she loves to horseback ride and play board games.





Get Lower to Go Higher

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor. { James 4:10 }

ne of the hardest places to humble ourselves is the area of service. It feels great to help others, but it's important that we keep our hearts in the right position.

When others thank us for our help and commend us on a job well done, it's easy to let that become the focus of our service. But the one we should be most concerned with pleasing is God. When we make the mistake of shifting our focus from pleasing Him to making others happy, we can be sure that pride will follow. And like Proverbs 16:18 reminds us, pride comes right before we fall.

True Girl, keep your eyes on Jesus as you serve Him. Be grateful for the thanks others give for your service, but never let that become what you're striving for. Humble yourself before the Lord, seek His approval, and you'll be surprised at how He lifts you up even more for His glory.

ACTION POINT: Have you noticed any pride in your heart as you serve Jesus? Take some time to reflect.

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



Pick Me!

Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! { Romans 12:16 }

ick me!" were Angela's most famous words. She was the top student in her class and always had the answers. But at the beginning of her 5th grade, a brand -new student raised her hand too, and the teacher picked her instead of Angela. This happened throughout the year. Angela wasn't sure what to do? She now took a backseat in almost every class discussion!

One night, Angela opened her Bible and turned to today's verse. The last part of it stuck out to her. Perhaps it was okay that she wasn't the number one student anymore. Angela decided to place her identity in Christ instead of her schoolwork.

The next day in class, when someone was called upon instead of her, Angela took a deep breath and remembered, "Whether or not I am chosen in class doesn't define me. I will give God my best, even if I don't get to share my knowledge with the class!"

ACTION POINT: It is hard to live in harmony with everyone. Ask the Lord to give you a humble spirit today and help you think of ways you can practice humility.

KASEY BROWN is the Director of Ministry for a church in Cincinnati, Ohio. She loves songwriting and is passionate about women finding freedom in Christ. mytruegirl.com



Vou're a Sister. I'm a Sister. We're All Sisters!

The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. { Exodus 2:4 }

ometimes being a sister can be hard. And even if you don't have a brother or sister in your family, God's Word says in Hebrew 13:1 that we should love each other as brothers and sisters. And Romans 8:15–17 says as followers of Jesus, God is our perfect Father, and we're all His adopted kids!

That means we can all learn from Miriam, who watched over her baby brother, Moses, in our focus verse today. She and her mom created a plan to protect Moses from harm. And Miriam waited and watched to make double-sure her brother would be okay.

As Christians, our acts of kindness for our brothers and sisters in Christ help protect them from harm and encourage them to keep following the Truth of God's Word. When we know we have others helping us in life, we are reminded about the power of kindness.

ACTION POINT: Is there a brother or sister either in your home or in the family of Christ you haven't been kind to? Take some time to confess that to God and ask for His help to change.

JANET MYLIN is a True Girl lead teacher and her favorite place to read the Bible is on her front porch looking at the Weeping Willow tree in her front yard.



A Spirit of Power

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. { 2 Timothy 1:7 }

ave you ever watched someone being made fun of and wished you could stop it but were too scared to say something? You're not alone. Many people struggle with being afraid to stand up for others or stand up for what they believe in. But we don't have to be afraid!

Second Timothy 1:7 tells us that "God has not given us a spirit of fear . . . but of power, love, and self-discipline." If you are a follower of Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you. The very same power that raised Jesus from the dead is with you, helping you to stand up for what is right.

The next time you feel afraid to stand up for what is right, remember that the Holy Spirit is with you, giving you the strength to do what is right.

ACTION POINT: White today's verse on an index card and do your best to memorize it. Then, listen to the song "Power Love Sound Mind" by Matthew West. Let it remind you not to give in to a spirit of fear!



Cloudy with a Chance of Forgiveness

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. {Luke 11:4}

ave you seen Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs? It's an animated movie where a young scientist and his monkey assistant save their hometown. How? They built a machine that makes it rain food! The weather reports get crazy every time the sky gets cloudy!

I'd like to suggest that when our lives are clouded by sin, we should forecast forgiveness! We must forgive because it is inextricably linked to receiving forgiveness from God. Jesus said that when He taught His followers to pray. Luke II:4 tells us to ask God to "forgive us, and we're forgiving others!"

The good news is that God *does* forgive us. And we are commanded to pass on what has been given to us. So when you forgive your brother or classmate, that's like what Jesus does for us. We're passing on His love.

So, next time your friendships or family are clouded over with sin and bad emotions, forecast forgiveness!

ACTION POINT: Do you have someone you need to forgive? Don't expect to feel like it. Forgiveness is not an emotion but a choice. You can begin by praying. "Lord. I chose to forgive ______ for _____. Help me feel it eventually!"

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Be Remembered for Your Kindness

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. { Psalm 139:23-24}

shared a school bus seat with Stacy and Stephanie in third grade. I wish I could say it was a good experience, but it wasn't. They weren't nice to me—and that's why I still remember their names over thirty years later!

It's easy for me to recognize mean girls. What's harder is to admit when I've been a mean girl. What about you? If there's someone you're being unkind to, leaving out, or talking badly about (and that includes your little brother or sister), you may be the mean girl in someone else's story.

In Psalm 139:23–24, David asked God to "search me" and "point out anything in me that offends you." If you're unsure whether you've been a mean girl to anyone, pray as David did. Ask God to show you how to be a girl others remember thirty years later because of your kindness and humility!

ACTION POINT: Is there anyone you've been unkind to this week? Admit it to God and ask Him to forgive you. Then, come up with a plan on how and when you will apologize to that person.

ASHLEIGH SLATER is a wife, mom, author, and editor. She loves to take adventures and collect "Been There" Starbucks mugs from the places she travels. AshleighSlater.com





| Didn't Mean to Laugh!"

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. { Colossians 3:13 }

ou wanna know a secret? I get embarrassed pretty easily. If I trip, stutter when speaking, or do anything else, I have to rely on God to help me get past it.

I remember being embarrassed when I mispronounced a word while reading aloud in class. Everyone was laughing. And to make things even worse, when I glanced at my friend, she was laughing too. I was crushed.

Although she immediately apologized after class, I still gave her the cold shoulder for two days. Finally, she said, "Come on, Staci! I said I was sorry. I shouldn't have made fun of you, but it was a mistake!" She was right.

Forgiveness is one of the most important parts of a Christian's life because God has forgiven us of so much. The forgiveness we've experienced from Him propels us to forgive others in an incredible way that's shocking to the unbelieving world.

ACTION POINT: Talk to your mom or a trusted adult about forgiveness. **Pass this to mom/adult to read this next part. ** Mom/Adult, help your girl understand healthy relationships. Sometimes forgiveness means not holding ill feelings while also stopping an unhealthy relationship.

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





The First Shall be Last

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. { Philippians 2:3–4 }

walked to lunch with my best friend Milena. We started talking, laughing, and trading sandwiches. Suddenly, I felt a tap on my shoulder. "Can I sit with you?" It was Bailey from our 4th-grade class. She was nice. but I felt like she followed me everywhere.

"Actually, I just wanna eat with Milena today," I replied. Bailey ran away fast. I thought I saw a tear falling down her cheek.

I apologized to Bailey later that day, and she forgave me. But our friendship wasn't the same. I learned a valuable lesson that day: Never consider myself more important than others. Today's verse tells us to consider others better than ourselves. I was being very prideful in turning Bailey away. She just wanted a friend. My selfishness led her to sadness, and that was not Christlike.

ACTION POINT: Can you think of a time when you might have hurt someone due to your selfishness? Know that God forgives you when you ask. And it is never too late to ask people for their forgiveness!

KASEY BROWN is the Director of Ministry for a church in Cincinnati, Ohio. She loves songwriting and is passionate about women finding freedom in Christ. mytruegirl.com





larger Than Life

.. for your love and kindness are better to me than life itself. How I praise you! { Psalm 63:3 TLB }

avid often found himself wanting a closeness with the Lord. As he started seeking the Lord, that's when God started to show David the many wonders, the grace, the glory, and the power that God used throughout his life.

When we grow closer to the Lord, He often reveals His character to us. David knew that God was a promise keeper and that being close to God was better than life itself. Such truth flows from this Psalm, and I want to encourage you to seek after the Lord and allow Him to reveal Himself to you in a way that meets you where you are, just as He did for David.

ACTION POINT: Find a cup and some collon balls. Add a collon ball to your cup each time you do something to grow closer to God. Try to make it overflow! Compare from start to finish the closeness you feel with the Lord.

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Pride Goes Before a Fal

Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor. { Proverbs 18:12 }

ave you heard the saying, "Pride goes before a fall?" Let me share an embarrassing time when pride literally did go before a fall!

One day, my younger brother showed me how high he could kick his foot into the air. I said pridefully, "I can do better than that!" With one mighty kick, I flung my foot up. But before I knew it, I was flat on my back! My socks had slipped on the hardwood floor, and I came tumbling down. To this day, my brother still teases me about it!

Although this story is silly, it brings up an important point. Today's verse says that haughtiness (thinking you're better than others) goes before destruction, while humility comes before honor. If we think of ourselves as better than others, our words and actions will always lead to hurt. But if we choose to be humble and serve others, we will bring honor to God.

ACTION POINT: Think through your life over the past week. Are you living in pride, or are you living in humility? Then, write a prayer asking God to help you to serve others well.



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Marrakech Plates

A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. { Proverbs 16:28 }

his week, I was in a store with my sister. We were deciding on which plates to use for a party. I grabbed one that looked pretty and asked her what she thought. She quickly said, "No, that looks like Marrakech.It won't match the decorations." (*Marrakech* is a city in the country of Morocco.) Suddenly, I started to see the plate completely differently. I could only see the lines and the flower in the center as a Marrakech design.

God taught me a lesson at that moment. That is what happens with gossip and labels. We suddenly start to see others differently—even things we appreciated about them.

That is why gossip destroys others and our relationships. You might not have anything against a friend, but if you keep listening or do not stop others from saying bad words about them, your view will get polluted, and you will start to see them differently.

ACTION POINT: Head outside with your mom, siding, or friend. Watch the clouds and start naming what they look like to you. You'll understand how hard it is to go back to seeing it as a normal cloud after it's been labeled.

LISA YABRA serves in the Dominican True Girl Ministry: Chica Verdadera. Two of her favorite things are her Bible and chocolate chip cookies. Find out more about her at puralibertad.org.

















Uniquely You!

These True Girl Devos were written to remind you that God made you unique, and your personality is something God uses for His glory! Each day you'll read one verse and some fun thoughts about it. At the end of each, you'll find an action point you can use to live out what you discover!

These devos are written by Dannah Gresh and other writers we want to introduce you to, including: Kasey Brown, Elaiyna Hope, Shani McKenzie, Janet Mylin, Nikki Roberts, Staci Rudolph, Ashleigh Slater, Kindra Stanton, Samantha Toledo, and Lisa Yabra.

> Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." JOHN 8:31,32



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