

## SERIES SAMPLER





#### DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL





Belle City Gifts™ Racine, WI 53403 Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME

© 2014 by BroadStreet Publishing Belle City Gifts is an imprint of Broadstreet Publishing

ISBN: 978-1-4245-4923-8

Produced by Livingstone, the Publishing Services Division of Barton-Veerman Company. Project staff includes Dave Veerman, Afton Rorvik, Linda Taylor, and Tom Shumaker.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked The Message are taken from THE MESSAGE. Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Design by Chris Garborg | www.garborgdesign.com

Printed in China

# INTRODUCTION

Nothing is better than spending time with a loved one—chatting, laughing, listening, crying, sharing, praying . . . together—simply enjoying each other.

The One who loves you dearly is near, waiting just to be with you. He created you, knows you, and wants the very best for you.

So use this resource to connect with the Father.

You'll find that each entry begins with a thoughtful paragraph or two to focus your attention on your relationship with God. Next is a personal message from his Word, followed by a writing prompt and a space for journaling your thoughts, feelings, and prayers.

Carve out a little God time.

Hear his voice. And share your praise and petitions, ideas, emotions, struggles, desires, dreams—yourself—with him.

## GOD PURSUES

God never stops searching for his sinful creatures. Over and over the Scriptures portray God as pursuing and attempting to reconcile fallen men and women to himself. The story of Zacchaeus as told in Luke 19 illustrates this so well. Of course, the ultimate expression of this divine search-andrescue mission was the coming of Christ into the world for the purpose of seeking and saving what was lost.

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:9–10, NIV).

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8–9, NIV).

Take some time now to write about how God pursued you.



#### MY THOUGHTS

	 - 0
••••••	 <b>À</b>
	 0

\*

# RIGHTEOUS DEEDS

No matter how much good we do, we are, fundamentally, sinners. In the bright light of God's purity, all of our "righteous deeds" are no better than filthy rags.

We can't "do" our way out of sin; the only cure for sin is coming to God, confessing our sin, and allowing him to remake us.

You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways.
But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly.
We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved?
We are all infected and impure with sin.
When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.
Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind. . . . Please don't remember our sins forever.
Look at us, we pray, and see that we are all your people (Isaiah 64:5–6, 9, NLT).

What righteous deeds do you cling to that keep you from admitting and confessing your sin to God?



### MY THOUGHTS

• • • • • • • • •	 	
•••••	 	
••••	 	
•••••	 	
••••	 	
• • • • • • • • •	 	
••••	 	
•••••	 	
•••••	 	
••••	 	
• • • • • • • • •	 	
••••	 	
••••	 	
		00
• • • • • • • • •	 	
	7	

Perhaps a friend you trusted broke your trust or said some hurtful words to you that you just can't get out of your head. Don't be like the ungrateful servant described below. Let God's gift of forgiveness to you inspire you to keep working at forgiveness.

GIVE AGAIN

) AGAIN?

The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, "Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back." Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, "Pay up. Now!" (Matthew 18:23–28, The Message)

Write (and pray) about a person you struggle to forgive.

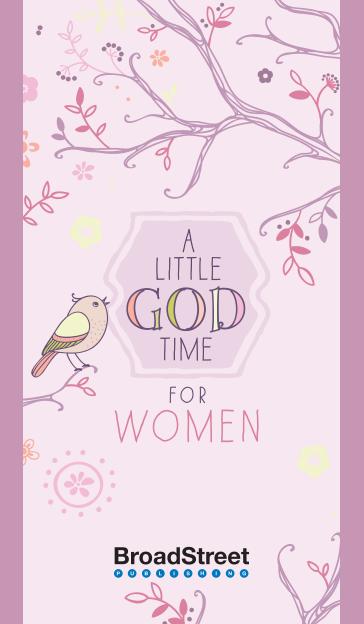
e to



#### MY THOUGHTS

••••	 	 	
••••	 	 	
• • • • • •	 	 	· · · · · · ·
••••	 	 	<b>R</b>
• • • • • •	 	 	•

:(\*



BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

A Little God Time for Women © 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5047-0 (hard cover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5050-0 (e-book)

Devotional entries composed by Janelle Anthony Breckell, Claire Flores, Cate Mezyk, Stephanie Sample, Jacquelyn Senske, and Michelle Winger.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture guotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture guotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www. Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg I www.garborgdesign.com Edited and compiled by Michelle Winger I www.literallyprecise.com Cover and interior image © Bigstock/lozas

Printed in China.

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



THE LORD IS GOOD TO THOSE WHOSE HOPE IS IN HIM, TO THE ONE WHO SEEKS HIM; IT IS GOOD TO WAIT QUIETLY FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.

LAMENTATIONS 3:25-26, NIV





#### INTRODUCTION

When everything else in life demands your attention, rest in the Lord to find the hope, joy, and peace you need each day.

This one-year devotional provides you with godly wisdom and insight to strengthen your faith and encourage your spirit.

The Father is captivated by you! He delights in every moment you choose to spend with him. Let your heart be filled with his presence and find the peace that is abundant there.

Be refreshed and inspired as you make A Little God Time part of your day.



You are so intimately aware of me, Lord. You read my heart like an open book and you know all the words I'm about to speak before I even start a sentence! You know every step I will take before my journey even begins!

PSALM 139:3-4 TPT

## SOMETHING NEW

Whether you have generated a color-coded list of goals, dreams, and an execution plan for the next 365 days or you've banned resolutions and vowed to make this just another day on the calendar, the clean slate represented by the first day of a new year is filled with an undeniable air of expectation. The excitement of a new bauble or gadget pales in comparison to the promise of a new beginning. Deep down inside, there is a part of us which thinks, "This could be my year!"

Guess what? It *is* your year. This day, and every one that follows, is yours. It is yours to choose who and how to love, to serve, and even to be. And the choice you made in reading this page represents the choice to take this journey in the company of your heavenly Father. That is a beautiful place to start.

"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, NLT).

What new thing would you like to do this year? What pathways do you need God to clear?

#### WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT YOU

In a memorable scene from a movie about teenage girls, a teacher asks a gymnasium full of young women to close their eyes and raise their hands if they've ever said anything bad about another girl. Virtually every hand is raised. The reason this scene rings true is that it *is* true. And sadly, we are often even harder on ourselves.

In addition to the amazing news that Mary would bear God's son, the angel who visits her in Luke 1 also tells Mary of her goodness, of her favor in God's eyes. Mary was a teenage girl. Chances are, she'd heard—and thought—something less than kind about herself on more than one occasion. Consider her brave, beautiful response:

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her" (Luke 1:38, NLT).

Are you self-critical? If asked to describe yourself, what would you say? Now think of someone who loves you. What do they say about you? Decide today to let their words—and God's words—be the truth. Join Mary in saying to God, "May everything you have said about me come true."

## WHEN YOU FEEL STUCK

"Local authorities are reporting blizzard conditions on the Interstate..." Did your pulse just quicken, your muscles tense? No one likes to feel stuck, and blinding snow and unmoving vehicles on every side can cause even the most rational, laidback woman to imagine leaping from her car and running over rooftops and across hoods, action hero style. What a fun way to test out the traction on your new winter boots. Or not. Anyway, stuck is stuck, right?

Maybe we feel stuck in our everyday lives. A job that doesn't utilize our gifts, a relationship that's more take than give, a habit that's edging toward addiction. Unlike that snowcovered freeway-turned-parking-lot, there is a direction to turn when circumstances have you feeling boxed in. Turn your face toward the Lord; let him fill you with the strength to move.

The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights (Habakkuk 3:19, NLT).

Where are you stuck right now? Professionally, personally, or perhaps in your prayer life, is there an area where you've simply stopped moving? Ask God for surefooted strength, and then go where he leads you.

## THE FATHER'S LOVE

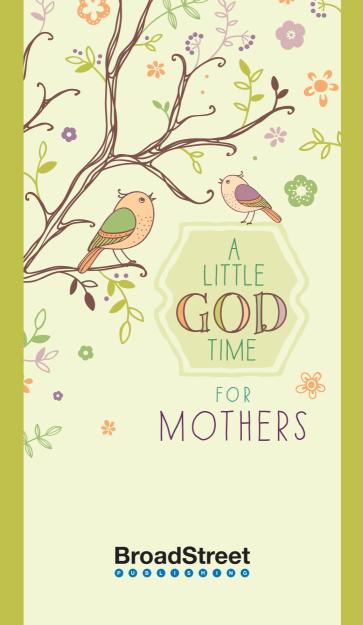
**JANUARY** 4

Regardless of how beautifully or how imperfectly your earthly father showed his love, your heavenly Father's love is utterly boundless. Rest in that thought a moment. There is nothing you can do to change how he feels about you. Nothing.

We spend so much time trying to make ourselves more lovable, from beauty regimens to gourmet baking, to being there for pretty much everyone. It's easy to forget we are already perfectly loved. Our Father loves us more than we can imagine. And he would do anything for us. *Anything*.

"If a man has a hundred sheep but one of the sheep gets lost, he will leave the other ninety-nine on the hill and go to look for the lost sheep. I tell you the truth, if he finds it he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninetynine that were never lost" (Matthew 18:12-13, NCV).

Who do you love most fiercely, most protectively, most desperately here on earth? What would you do for them? Know that it's a mere fraction, nearly immeasurable, of what God would do for you. Spend some time thanking him for his great love.



BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

A Little God Time for Mothers © 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-4985-6 (hard cover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5014-2 (e-book)

Devotional entries composed by Cari Dugan, Laura Krause, Stephanie Sample, Jacquelyn Senske, and Michelle Winger.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture guotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan, All rights reserved worldwide, www. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture guotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission, www. Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg | www.garborgdesign.com Edited and compiled by Michelle Winger | www.literallyprecise.com

Printed in China.

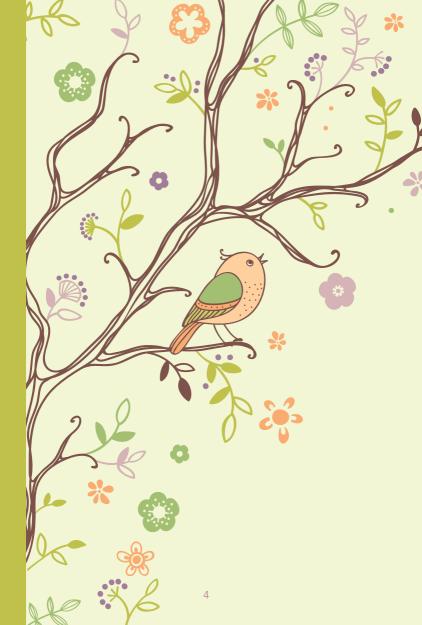
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



SHE SPEAKS WITH WISDOM, AND FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION IS ON HER TONGUE. SHE WATCHES OVER THE AFFAIRS OF HER HOUSEHOLD AND DOES NOT EAT THE BREAD OF IDLENESS. HER CHILDREN ARISE AND CALL HER BLESSED.

PROVERBS 31:26-28, NIV





## INTRODUCTION

A little God time is what all mothers need but can rarely find in the craziness of everyday life. This one-year devotional brings you the assurance that God truly desires to be with you.

Be encouraged as you reflect on the blessing of motherhood in the midst of all the hard work. You can be confident that every act of service and sacrifice will be rewarded.

As you take a moment with God, you will find the grace and strength needed to get through all your day holds. May his joy and peace be yours as you endeavor to love your children as the heavenly Father loves you.



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10, NIV

#### BREAK EVERY CHAIN

There is a chance to start over—every day if we need to. From the inside out, we can be transformed and our hearts renewed. We can essentially remake ourselves with the help, healing, and transformative nature of Christ! Jesus died on the cross to promise us a life free from the bondage of sin, free from hopelessness, free from any chains that try to trap us. In Christ, we are set free.

We need to hear the truth of Christ's promise for us and stop the cycle of hopelessness, defeat, and bondage to sin. All we need to do is get on our knees and pray.

His purpose in all of this is that they should seek after God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him though he is not far from any one of us (Acts 17:27, TLB).

Is there an area of your life that you need to repent of and receive freedom from? Wait for God's voice to permeate the deepest, saddest parts of you. He wants you to live a life where he takes care of you. He desires a relationship with you. He is pursuing your heart. He is pursuing all of you.

## LETTING GO OF WORRY

Of all the things God asks us to let go of, for a mother, worry just might be the most difficult. From little things like running out of milk or forgetting to do that load of laundry, to genuine concerns such as the first time our kids go away for a weekend, put on a football helmet, or get behind the wheel, we are tempted to give in to worry. God desires our trust! He wants us to surrender—ourselves and our precious children to him and his perfect plan. He wants us to rest in his love, and he promises to care for us.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" (Matthew 6:25-27, NIV)

What worry or fear are you holding on to? What would it take for you to open your hand and give it over to God?



## MISPLACED SECURITY

It is normal for moms to manage a million things all at the same time. A part of us likes to have control because it gives us a sense of security. But is that security false? What happens when circumstances are out of our control? When relationships are broken, our children are sick, or there just isn't enough money in the bank to cover mounting bills? We allow worry to seep into our hearts. We become anxious and insecure. More often than not, we allow our concerns to debilitate us—to rob us from our sleep and kill our joy.

We don't have to become weary if we remember that we serve a God who loves us so much that he wants us to shrug off the burdens that make us ache and trust him instead. Regardless of the situation and circumstance, God is in control. Our security rests in him and not in our own abilities.

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me" (John 14:1, NLT).

The next time life sends you a curve ball, instead of succumbing to fear and scrambling to maintain control, bring your concerns to the one who listens and cares deeply. What are you worried about today? Talk to God and leave it all in his hands.

## THE FORGIVENESS CIRCLE

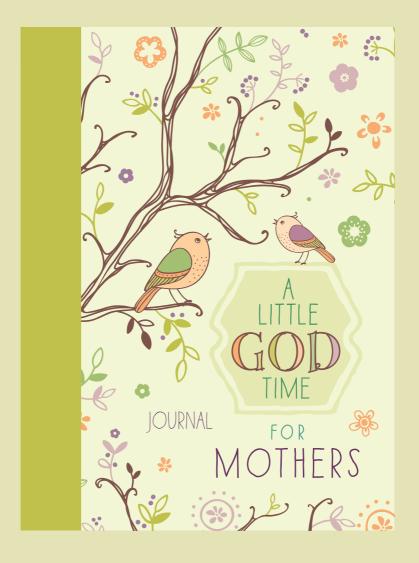
Many of us long-ago memorized a version of the prayer Jesus gave us in Matthew 6 and have repeated it hundreds or thousands of times. Many have taught it to their children as well. We ask for God to be glorified, for just enough food for today, to be forgiven the way we forgive, and to be protected from temptation. "That's all you need to say," Jesus tells us.

Wait. Back up. To be forgiven how? Since we are all sinners, God's grace is what we count on. Our lives depend on his forgiveness. Just to make sure we got the point, after sharing the prayer in verses 9-13, he follows up with this:

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins" (Matthew 6:14-15, NLT).

How are you teaching your children the importance of forgiveness? According to Jesus, there's only one way to get it, and that is to give it. How is this principle working in your own life?







Belle City Gifts Racine, Wisconsin, USA

Belle City Gifts is an imprint of BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC. Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME O MOTHERS Journal

© 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5148-4

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Quotations taken from A Little God Time for Mothers one-year devotional. Copyright © 2015 BroadStreet Publishing. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.<sup>TM</sup> Scripture quotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®, Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Used by permission, All rights reserved. Scripture auotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TPT) are taken from The Passion Translation® of the Holy Bible. Copyright © 2014, 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing. All rights reserved.

Cover and interior image © Bigstock/lozas

Cover and interior design by Garborg Design Works I www.garborgdesign.com Compiled and edited by Michelle Winger I www.literallyprecise.com

Printed in China.

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

## INTRODUCTION

A little God time is what all mothers need but can rarely find in the craziness of everyday life.

If you take just a few moments to sit and write, while pondering the inspirational quotes and Scripture found on each page of this journal, you can find the grace and strength you need to get through your day.

Be encouraged as you reflect on the blessing of motherhood in the midst of all the hard work. Know that every sacrifice you make does not go unnoticed.

May joy and peace be yours as you endeavor to love your children as the heavenly Father loves you.



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life.... Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" MATTHEW 6:25, 27 NIV

Of all the things God asks us to let go of, for a mother, worry just might be the most difficult.

2

A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones. PROVERBS 14:30 NLT



There will always be someone else that has more than we do. Choosing to be content with where we are in life will bring us peace.

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. JAMES 1:5 NIV



A child is blessed to have a mother who habitually goes to the feet of God to petition for wisdom.

Ŷ

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. JAMES 1:19–20 NIV





FOR

.

BroadStreet

BroadStreet Publishing Group, LLC. Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR COUPLES

© 2017 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5368-6 (hardcover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5369-3 (ebook)

Devotional entries composed by Janelle Anthony Breckell, Michelle Cox, Diane Dahlen, Nedra Dugan, Shawn Dugan, Linda Gilden, Mike & Sharon Harris, Carol Hatcher, and Brenda Scott.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture guotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide, zondervan.com, The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg I garborgdesign.com Compiled and edited by Michelle Winger , Diane Dahlen, Sarah Rickertsen, and Janelle Breckell.

Printed in China.

MANY WATERS CANNOT QUENCH LOVE; RIVERS CANNOT SWEEP IT AWAY.

Song of Songs 8:7 NIV



#### INTRODUCTION

One of the best ways to strengthen your relationship and fill your day with hope and joy is to spend time together with God.

Engage with God and each other as you ponder the words and Scripture in each devotion. Use the questions for healthy reflection and encouragement toward positive change. Closing prayers will help you submit your hearts and day to God.

May your marriage be blessed as you spend a little God time together each day!



"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 NLT

#### RESOLUTIONS

I will give heed to the blameless way. When will you come to me? I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart. I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me. PSALM 101:2-3 NASB

Many of us make annual New Year's resolutions, only to abandon them while the year is still young. The resolutions are usually great goals, but we lack the willpower to keep them. In Psalm 101, King David speaks boldly about his resolve to govern his kingdom and his home with integrity and righteousness.

Have you considered making the same declarations for your home and your marriage? Would your behavior, attitudes, words, and choice of movies and entertainment change? Would you be more mindful of keeping your word and be less influenced by the world? We know that determination alone cannot carry us, but David knew that too. He could make these bold statements because he knew that God was loving, kind, fair, and dependable. God is the real power behind resolutions.

Are the two of you willing to make David's resolutions your own? How can you walk with integrity in every area of your life?

Lord, we know that all the good intentions in the world are not enough. We want our lives and our home to be free of sin and filled with your righteousness.

#### TRUE WEALTH

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! PSALM 37:7 ESV

Have you and your spouse ever been in a situation where it seems like everyone else is prospering more than you? You've watched your friends wear their stilettos or power suits as they climbed the corporate ladder. You've seen photos from their exotic trips. And you've visited their gorgeous homes complete with fancy cars and gleaming boats in the garage. Meanwhile at your house, you're stretching the budget by eating beans and rice. Your cheap car is falling apart, and your home needs repairs.

Sometimes it's hard not to be envious. It's often difficult to understand when you're trying to serve God and your friends aren't. That's when we're wise to be still before God and to share our hearts with him. When we stop to think about it, we realize that we're the ones who are truly blessed. Our homes might be humble, but they're happy. Our trips might not be expensive, but they're filled with laughter and love. Our riches aren't in our possessions—they're in each other.

What makes you truly wealthy? When's the last time you thought about how rich you are to have each other?

Lord, help us to realize our true wealth lies in each other. Thank you for blessing us.

#### BEING QUIET

Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

PSALM 4:4 ESV

It's easy to get mad at our spouses. They hurt us and make us more mad than anyone else—because they're the closest to our hearts. It's a gift of love when we bite back the angry words and stay quiet instead. And it's an even bigger gift when we take the time to look inside the hearts of our spouses and think about ways we can love them more.

We come to marriage with suitcases packed with all the baggage of our pasts. Scars of our past carry into our marriage and affect us in many ways. A wise husband or wife will ponder those things, looking for ways to help heal old hurts and gaining a better understanding of why their spouses react as they do.

What scars did you bring to your marriage? Have you discussed them with your spouse?

Lord, help us to be kind and loving. Keep anger from our relationship, and help us work to understand each other better.

#### JUST FOR ME

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

REVELATION 4:11 NIV

When you wake up and look at your spouse do you see bed head or smell morning breath and think, *What have I done?* Or do you thank God for making your spouse just for you. God created each individual, and even though we are different and flawed, the greatest thing about our mates is they are uniquely ours by God's design.

Respecting God's creation for you is essential. You may have a few choice things to say about bed head, fingernailbiting, snoring, stinky feet, and more, but because you love and respect your spouse, you never say those things outside of the home. In public, you should respect and praise your mate openly. When you do, you are honoring God as well. Keep the jokes and jibes about flaws between the two of you.

### When was the last time you told your spouse you loved him or her despite any flaws or shortcomings?

Lord, teach us to love each other as you love us. Help us to cover each other's flaws by keeping them to ourselves.



# GRADUATES

BroadStreet

BroadStreet Publishing Group, LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA BroadStreetPublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR GRADUATES

© 2017 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN: 978-1-4245-5458-4

Devotional entries composed by Diane Dahlen, Cari Dugan, Jacklyn Eastman, Gail Goolsby, Dinah Overlien, Rachel Flores, and Carole Smith.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible. New Living Translation. copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www. zondervan.com, The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica. Inc.™ Scripture guotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman. org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188, All rights reserved, Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TPT) are taken from The Passion Translation® of the Holy Bible. Copyright © 2014, 2015, 2016 by BroadStreet Publishing, All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg | garborgdesign.com Compiled by Michelle Winger

Printed in China 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 FOR THE LORD GOD IS OUR SUN AND OUR SHIELD. HE GIVES US GRACE AND GLORY. THE LORD WILL WITHHOLD NO GOOD THING FROM THOSE WHO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

PSALM 84:11 NLT



### INTRODUCTION

This devotional is written just for graduates—like you! It will engage you in topics specific to what you face each day. Read about themes like purpose, courage, identity, faithfulness, and hope, and be encouraged to find everything you need in Christ.

Gain confidence as you learn that the God who created you has a plan for your life. As you embrace his words of truth, be filled with joy, strength, wisdom, and renewed purpose for the day ahead.

Before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered with his love.

Ephesians 1:4 tlb

#### STARTING NEW

It was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

PSALM 139:13-14 NRSV

Whenever you embark on something new, it is important to have an open mind. Starting new isn't easy. You have to decide what you are willing to give up or put up with. Resetting your life might mean leaving behind an old habit, an unhealthy relationship, your friends, or your past.

Remember that God knows you. He knows your capabilities; he knows your present and future challenges; and he knows how he will cultivate your character. When you lose heart, God knows you can succeed. When you feel out of place, he knows you are there for a reason. When you feel alone, he knows the people you will meet. When you feel like giving up, he knows what you can accomplish.

God created you for this very moment in your life. You are on your way to something new.

Lord, as I begin this new chapter of my life, I am filled with great anticipation. Help me to maintain a positive attitude. Give me courage when I am weak and tenacity when life is tough. Thank you for the confidence that you know me and will help me succeed.

### MILLENNIALS AND THE BIBLE

"People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

1 PETER 1:24-25 NLT

A recent study from the Barna Group discovered a uniqueness about millennials and their religious beliefs. Millennials want the real deal. They want a faith that changes people for the better, or they don't want it at all. Ninety-six percent of Christian millennials said that reading the Bible is more important to them than going to church, worship, or even prayer.

What's the big deal about the Bible? The Bible is the living Word of God. Scripture itself has power. It can directly impact your life and circumstance. God speaks to you through its pages, offering encouragement, counsel, and wisdom. When you take in his words, you are changed.

Don't believe it? Maybe you should give it a try. If you have never read the Bible, consider beginning with Proverbs. There is one chapter for every day of the month. Savor the Word, and let it seep deep into your heart. Act on what you read. Your life will be transformed as you make this bestselling book part of your daily life.

Father God, sometimes I read the Bible and come up dry. Help me to try again with fresh eyes. Help me to taste your power and experience you through your Word.

#### BUILT ON PURPOSE

It was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

PSALM 139:13-14 NRSV

Even before you were born, the Lord was busy working on you. God knew what color your eyes were going to be, and how thick or thin or curly or straight your hair would turn out. And even better, he knew all the character traits that add up to exactly what makes you, you!

Here's the best thing: God doesn't make mistakes. What does that mean for you? It means that he knew what he was doing with every trait he gave you. He thinks you are wonderful! You may be questioning why you were born with such and such, or why you have this or that personality trait. But he built you that way on purpose, to use it for his glory, because he saw the beauty in it!

Lord, help me to see how wonderfully you've made me, each and every day.

#### SUBMISSIONS

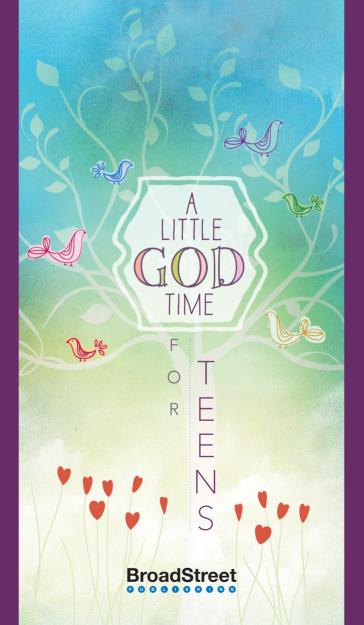
Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

JAMES 4:7 NASB

One of the hardest things to do in life is to submit to someone else's authority. Giving up control sounds like a terrible idea! We want complete jurisdiction over the decisions we make, right? And yet, we're asked to give that up. As believers in Christ, we are told that we need to give our lives over to him.

Submission means to yield to another person. In Christ's case, he is superior to us in every way, shape, and form. Although he is superior, and though he could have forced us all into submission, he has given us the choice. We can choose to live a better life through him, full of wisdom and joy, or we can choose otherwise. He loves us enough to let us decide.

Lord, I pray I'd choose daily to submit myself to you. Give me wisdom in my decisions and the joy that comes from knowing you in a deep and real way. Thank you for giving me the choice, and for loving me so well.



BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

### A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR TEENS

© 2016 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5207-8 (hard cover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5208-5 (e-book)

Devotional entries composed by Cari Dugan, Claire Flores, Laura Krause, Cate Mezyk, and Stephanie Sample.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan, All rights reserved worldwide, www. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www. Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission, All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TPT) are taken from The Passion Translation® of the Holy Bible. Copyright © 2014, 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing. All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg | garborgdesign.com Edited and compiled by Michelle Winger | literallyprecise.com

Printed in China.

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

FOR THE LORD GOD IS OUR SUN AND OUR SHIFID HE GIVES US GRACE AND GLORY THE LORD WILL WITHHOLD NO GOOD THING FROM THOSE WHO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

PSALM 84:11 NLT

1 . . .

....

.



# INTRODUCTION

This devotional is written specifically for teenage girls like you! It will engage you in topics specific to the issues you face each day. Read about themes like beauty, courage, dignity, identity, integrity, and value, and be encouraged to find everything you need in Christ!

Gain confidence as you learn that the God who created you delights in spending time with you. As you embrace his words of truth, be filled with joy, strength, and renewed purpose for the day ahead.



Before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered with his love.

EPHESIANS 1:4 TLB

# BUILT ON PURPOSE

It was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. PSALM 139:13-14 NRSV

Even before you were born, the Lord was busy working on you. God knew what color your eyes were going to be, and how thick or thin or curly or straight your hair would turn out. And even better, he knew all the character traits that add up to exactly what makes you, you!

Here's the best thing: God doesn't make mistakes. What does that mean for you? It means that he knew what he was doing with every trait he gave you. He thinks you are wonderful! You may be questioning why you were born with such and such, or why you have this or that personality trait. But he built you that way on purpose, to use it for his glory, because he saw the beauty in it!

Lord, help me to see how wonderfully you've made me, each and every day.



# TEST OF TIME

**JANUARY 2** 

"People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. 1 PETER 1:24-25 NLT

When you are in the middle of troubling times, it can feel like it's going to last forever. The teenage years can feel like one big competition. Who is the most popular? When will the school record for such and such be broken? Who is wearing what, and who is going out with whom? There's intense pressure to keep up with it all.

Take heart, and be encouraged. There is nothing wrong with being popular or succeeding, but it isn't enduring. The Bible tells us earthly things are like the flowers of the field. They're beautiful while they last, but they fade away. What's left to stand the test of time is the Word of the Lord. Stand on that truth when the pressure begins to build in your life.

Lord, I pray that I would see past the glories of the here and now and instead see what's enduring. Help me to stand on your truth when pressure threatens to get to me.

### he has my back

JANUARY 3

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ROMANS 8:31 NLT

Sometimes it feels like the whole world is out to get you. Even your friends can't identify with you at times. But there is one who always understands you. One who grasps exactly who you are, right down to the depths of your soul. When it seems like the rest of the world is pitted against you, God is always for you, rooting for you, and on your side.

Doesn't it feel good to know that you are never alone? You've always got someone to turn to, no matter how big your problems may seem. It's amazing how just knowing that someone has your back can turn things around.

Lord, thank you for being there for me. I praise you for being the one I can turn to in my every moment of need, regardless of the circumstance. Since you are for me, who can be against me? I pray I'd look to you when I'm feeling alone, and that I'd remember that someone always has my back.

### SUBMISSION?

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. JAMES 4:7 NASB

One of the hardest things to do in life is to submit to someone else's authority. Giving up control sounds like a terrible idea! We want complete jurisdiction over the decisions we make, right? And yet, we're asked to give that up. As believers in Christ, we are told that we need to give our lives over to him.

Submission means to yield to another person. In Christ's case, he is superior to us in every way, shape, and form. Although he is superior, and though he could have forced us all into submission, he has given us the choice. We can choose to live a better life through him, full of wisdom and joy, or we can choose otherwise. He loves us enough to let us decide.

Lord, I pray I'd choose daily to submit myself to you. Give me wisdom in my decisions and the joy that comes from knowing you in a deep and real way. Thank you for giving me the choice, and for loving me so well.

CAROL GARBORG

A

TIME

FOR

GIRLS

ti f



BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR GIRLS

© 2017 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5391-4 (hardcover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5392-1 (ebook)

Devotional entries written by Carol Garborg.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188, All rights reserved, Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version<sup>\*</sup>. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NIrV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIrV<sup>®</sup> Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.<sup>™</sup> Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIrV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations marked HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible<sup>\*</sup>, Used by Permission HCSB ©1999.2000.2002.2003.2009 Holman Bible Publishers. Holman Christian Standard Bible®, Holman CSB®, and HCSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Design by Chris Garborg | garborgdesign.com Editorial services by Michelle Winger. Printed in China.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE. LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD TODAY!

PSALM 118:24 NCV



### INTRODUCTION

If you are looking for a great way to start off your day, you've come to the right place!

Be encouraged with truth and flooded with joy as you spend time with God, reflecting on these devotions, scriptures, and prayers. Let him show you that you are beautiful, you are loved, and you were created with a purpose. There is no one quite like you, and he is delighted to call you his daughter.

Let God's everlasting promises strengthen your heart, mind, and spirit as you spend a little time with him.

God chose us to belong to Christ before the world was created. He chose us to be holy and without blame in his eyes. He loved us.

Ephesians 1:4 NIRV

#### A NEW YEAR AND A NEW BABY SISTER

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NLT

Sophia looked down in her arms at her new baby sister. She was so beautiful! Soft, perfect skin. Tiny toes and little fingers that wrapped around her own finger. And look at her little mouth when she yawns! Sophia thought. Pretty soon she'd be cooing and belly laughing, crawling and blowing bubbles. Babies were just so much fun.

Babies are a reminder of new birth. New birth means a new beginning. Jesus said that if you believe in him, he promises to take away everything you've ever done wrong and give you new life. With that new life comes a new beginning. You can start over fresh and new.

There's nothing that would make Jesus happier than to have you believe in him and start this New Year with a new beginning.

Dear Jesus, I believe in you. Please forgive my sin and give me new life. Thank you that you don't hold anything against me or keep track of how I've messed up in the past. With you I have a new beginning. Amen.

7

#### STRESSING OUT AND BEING STILL

Be still and know that I am God. I will be praised in all the nations; I will be praised throughout the earth. PSALM 46:10 NCV

Jessica could never sit still. She couldn't watch TV without wiggling her foot. She couldn't sit in class without bouncing her leg up and down. Her hands were always fidgeting or texting or twirling her hair. Being still was out of the question. She loved to be moving and doing.

Sometimes that's how we are on the inside. We can't "sit still" inside because we're busy thinking and stressing out... about a stupid comment we made yesterday about how to fix a broken friendship about falling apart at dance tryouts

Maybe you're stressing out about all the bad news on TV and the violence and problems in the world. *It's so awful*, you think. *I'm starting to freak out.* God says in this verse, "Be quiet inside. Be still. I've got things covered and I'm in control."

So instead of stressing out, talk to God. Then just chill and be still, knowing that he is God.

God, sometimes I get worked up on the inside and get really stressed out. Remind me to quiet my heart and remember that you are a big, powerful God. Amen.



## do and don't

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

#### PHILIPPIANS 4:6 NLT

Problems are like magnets. They attract all your attention. You think about them, talk about them, text about them, and journal about them. Most people worry about problems. All. The. Time.

God says, "Don't worry about anything." Which is good advice (we are, after all, talking about God's Word here), but he knew you needed a little more than a list of don'ts.

Don'ts can be discouraging because they tell you what you *can't* do.

- Don't forget to wash your hands.
- Don't go outside until you finish your homework.
- Don't worry.

Do's are empowering because they tell you how you *can* change the situation. In this verse, you find out what you can do to change the situation you're in.

- Pray about everything.
- Tell God what you need.
- Thank him, even though you haven't seen an answer yet. It's coming!

What would help you remember to pray and tell God about everything instead of worrying so much?

Lord, my mind gets stuck on problems like bees buzz around honey. Help me to focus on you instead of on my problems. When I'm tempted to worry, would you remind me to thank you that you've got things covered? Amen.

9

#### IANUARY 4

### MESSING UP

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.

JUDE 24 NIV

Zoe and her dad were hiking down a steep road, carefully placing one foot in front of the other. Zoe's left foot hit loose gravel on the rocky road and she stumbled, tripped, and fell onto her back. Zoe's dad held out his hand and helped pull her up. She came away embarrassed and with a few bruises.

When the Bible talks about stumbling, it's talking about making mistakes and messing up. A thoughtless word. An angry look. The results can be a lot more serious than bruises and embarrassment. A quick, unkind word can ruin a friendship. An angry look can hurt feelings. When it's past, we feel terrible. We really do. But the damage sometimes has already been done.

The Lord is your helper. He can keep you from slipping, stumbling, and messing up. He can keep you from making mistakes you really don't mean, or want, to make and keep you standing. His specialty is taking failure and turning it into success.

Dear God, thanks for your patience with me. Thanks for continuing to work in my life even when I mess up. I want to let you have your way in me. Amen.



# TEACHERS

A LITTLE

GOD TIME

BroadStreet

BroadStreet Publishing Group LLC Racine, Wisconsin, USA Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A LITTLE GOD TIME FOR TEACHERS

© 2016 by BroadStreet Publishing

ISBN 978-1-4245-5281-8 (hard cover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5282-5 (e-book)

Devotional entries composed by Janelle Anthony Breckell, Diane Dahlen, Claire Flores, Rachel Flores, Deb Perreault, Brenda Scott, Jacquelyn Senske, Christina Sluka, and Carole Smith.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture guotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible. New Living Translation. copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007, Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan. com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture quotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version®. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission, All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NASB) are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org. Scripture quotations marked (NRSV) are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, Used by permission, All rights reserved, Scripture guotations marked (ESV) are from the Esv® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Used by permission, All rights reserved, Scripture quotations marked (TPT) are taken from The Passion Translation® of the Holy Bible. Copyright © 2014, 2015 by BroadStreet Publishing. All rights reserved.

Design by Chris Garborg | garborgdesign.com Edited and compiled by Michelle Winger | literallyprecise.com

Printed in China.

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

LET'S NOT GET TIRED OF DOING WHAT IS GOOD. AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST OF BLESSING IF WE DON'T GIVE UP.

GALATIANS 6:9



## INTRODUCTION

Whether your classroom is in a traditional school building or right next to your kitchen, you face your own set of teaching challenges each day. These daily devotions are written specifically with you in mind. Encouraging words, uplifting Scriptures, and personalized prayers will help spur you on as you continue to deposit wisdom in lives of your students.

Rest assured that your hard work does not go unnoticed. The effort you put into equipping these children now will reap a harvest in years to come.



His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:3 NASB

## RUNNING AHEAD

Humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

You have a vision for the future and a goal you want to achieve, but you just aren't sure how or when. Once a promise is given, and the goal set, you might find yourself getting anxious. When you have set your hope on the goal being instant, the reality that it isn't hits you hard.

It's easier to run ahead of God than to wait. We become goal oriented, pushing for the vision no matter what. But God's timing is perfect. When you do things on God's timetable, you can step back at the end of it and recognize that he truly did know best. In retrospect, you recognize that all those little setbacks were actually your victories. God perfectly orchestrates his plan. When you humble yourself and trust him to do it, you will be lifted up in a way that is greater than what you first imagined.

Father, help me to trust your plans for my future and to learn your timetable. I don't want to run ahead of you, I want to be led by you. I want to walk with you because I want to be where you are. Give me the patience and the trust required to live according to your plan.

## KINGDOM LIVING

He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.

41/N

ROMANS 2:7 NLT

Every day you are given two ways in which to walk. God offers you his way and the world offers another. As we grow in our faith, we become more aware of the contrast between the principles of the kingdom of God and the systems of the world. Scripture says that it is better to give than receive and that we should turn the other cheek when we are wronged. It takes a careful examination of our actions to see if we are allowing these kingdom principles to shape our lives.

The world offers us glory through feeding our pride, and honor in the shallow ringing of man's applause. Modern societies strive toward immortality through glorifying youth and fixating on leaving a mark on the world. The glory and honor that the world offers, ironically, will be destroyed. God's Word is the only truth that can promise an eternal reward. Jesus Christ conquered death and promises us that same power as we follow him into eternity. Praise God that his gifts are trustworthy and solid!

Jesus, give me the wisdom to recognize when I am seeking the glory and honor of this world, rather than seeking your kingdom. Thank you that your way is the way of eternal life.

## A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE

May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord. 2 PETER 1:2 NIT

The fear of failure is one of life's biggest struggles. Failure is not a great feeling, and yet most successful people will tell you that failure has been a part of their experience as well. There is something to be said for the knowledge that comes from experience. As your experience of God grows, your understanding of simple concepts like peace and grace will develop into deep truths.

The knowledge of God is not a test that you can fail. Every new thing you learn about Christ will add to your faith. Climb the mountains of life with him, test him at his Word, and find his promises to be true. As you explore the truth, your preconceived notions of peace and grace may challenge you. Treasure this deeper understanding in your heart. He will show you the purest forms of the most wonderful things. Invite God to reveal himself to you daily, and experience the joy of discovering a life of fullness in him.

Jesus, I want to know you in a deeper way. I ask you to reveal something of yourself to me today so I can be encouraged with a fresh understanding of your grace and peace.

## STAY TRUE

Make every effort to give yourself to God as the kind of person he will approve. Be a worker who is not ashamed and who uses the true teaching in the right way.

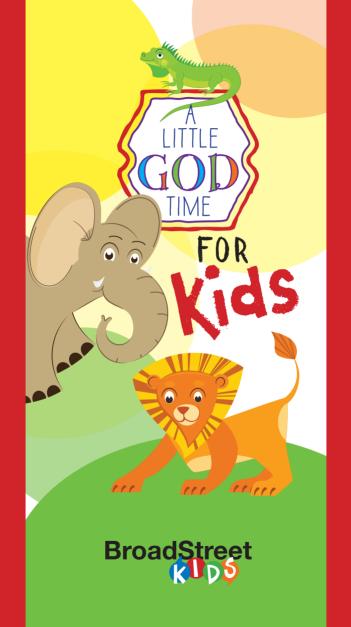
MILI

2 Тімотну 2:15 NCV

Teachers, lecturers, and tutors are trained to know the requirements of writing an academic paper. Sources must be cited appropriately and careful attention needs to be taken to avoid plagiarism. This can be a time consuming process, but it is the expected standard of excellence in academia.

We are warned in the Bible that there will be many false teachers in the last days. Treat the Bible and teachings on God's Word with the same care that you expect from your students' papers. Look for fake gospels by knowing the true source. Consider what you hear and compare it with the Scriptures. Do those you follow have character qualities that are Christ-like, showing the fruit of the Spirit and living a lifestyle that points you to Christ? We can easily be led astray if we are not familiar with the gospel ourselves. Ask God to give you discernment and insight so that you can stay true to his Word and succeed.

Your Word is true and excellent, Lord. Help me not to be led astray by false teachers but discern the truth and walk in it.



BroadStreet Kids Savage, Minnesota, USA BroadStreet Kids is an imprint of BroadStreet Publishing Group, LLC. Broadstreetpublishing.com

#### A Little God Time for Kids

© 2017 by BroadStreet Publishing®

ISBN 978-1-4245-5516-1 (hard cover) ISBN 978-1-4245-5517-8 (e-book)

Devotional entries composed by Janelle Breckell.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture guotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible. New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, niv®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan, All rights reserved worldwide, www.zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ Scripture guotations marked (NCV) are taken from the New Century Version<sup>®</sup>. Copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (ESV) are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission, All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (ICB) are taken from the International Children's Bible®, Copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999 by Thomas Nelson, Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture guotations marked (NIRV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version®, NIrV® Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998, 2014 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www. zondervan.com. The "NIrV" and "New International Reader's Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Design by Chris Garborg I garborgdesign.com Edited and compiled by Michelle Winger I literallyprecise.com

Printed in China.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

The LORD is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

PSALM 145:8-9 NLT





## Introduction

God created you for a reason. There is no one quite like you, and he is delighted to call you his very own. Let joy and peace come into your heart as you spend a little time with God each day.



Blessed are those you choose and bring near to worship you. You bring us into the courtyards of your holy temple. There in your house we are filled with all kinds of good things.

PSALM 65:4 NIRV

6

## Shiny and New

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NLT

Have you ever seen a very dirty car go through a car wash and come out sparkling clean? When we accept Jesus into our hearts, he forgets all the bad, ugly things we have done, and he makes us shiny and new—like that nice clean car.

We all have bad things we would like to forget, like mean words we've said and people we've hurt. Every day, we can tell Jesus we are sorry for our sin and he washes that yucky dirt away.

God, I'm so happy that you can take my sin away. Thank you for forgiving me and making me clean.



#### Just Pray

Then that person can pray to God and be blessed by him. They will see God's face and shout for joy. God will make them well and happy again. Job 33:26 NIRV

What do we have to do to be accepted by God? Do we need to be perfect? No, we just need to pray. When we pray to God, it's like he puts his arms around us and gives us a big hug.

It doesn't matter how you feel about yourself, God loves you very much. He sees you, he hears you, and he loves spending time with you.

God, thank you for loving me and accepting me just the way I am.





## Beautiful Things

The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him. PSALM 24:1 ICB

Picture this. The sky is gray. Rain is falling, and you trip in a mud puddle. You had friends at your house last night and your mom is mad that they left your room messy. You can't see anything beautiful around you.

Now close your eyes. Say this name: Jesus. Now open them, and look again. Do you see that little spot of blue sky, that single ray of light sneaking through the clouds? Do you notice the beautiful water drops resting on the bushes? Remember all the fun you had with the friends who made the mess? We can always find something beautiful if we look for it.

Jesus, when I say your name, I see beautiful things all around me. Thank you for making such awesome things.

#### Good Gifts

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes.

Count your blessings. That might be something you hear a lot, but do you know what it means? Every good thing in our lives is a blessing from God. Think of every good thing you possibly can.

Maybe today is hard. Maybe you feel like there are more bad things than good. It's okay. Just start counting your blessings anyway. You might be surprised by how many there are!

Heavenly Father, you give everyone wonderful gifts. Thank you that you never change. You send down blessings like rays of light.

3

## Ask Anything

Here is what we can be sure of when we come to God in prayer. If we ask anything in keeping with what he wants, he hears us. If we know that God hears what we ask for, we know that we have it.

1 JOHN 5:14-15 NIRV

Can you think of a time when you really wanted something but you were afraid to ask? Why were you afraid? Did you think you hadn't been good enough to get it? It can be hard to ask for what you want.

When you make God the most important person in your life, you can ask him for anything. You don't need to be afraid. He likes it when you ask him things. He loves to hear your voice.

God, I want you more than anything in the world. I feel so safe when I ask you for things. You always give me what I need.

## Cry Like a Baby

As a mother comforts her child, I will comfort you. Isaiah 66:13-14 Nirv

It's okay to cry like a baby sometimes. There are days when lots of things don't go your way: someone is unkind to you, or you fall off your bicycle, or you feel afraid.

It's okay to close your eyes and snuggle deep into God's arms. He wants you there! Listen to him tell you how much he loves you. Let him gently rock you, and fill you with peace.

God, I need you to hold me and love me and tell me everything's going to be okay today. Thank you for loving me even when I cry like a baby.



## A Safe Place

My God is my rock. I can run to him for safety. The Lord saves me from those who want to harm me. 2 SAMUEL 22:3 NCV

Sometimes we feel like we are in the middle of a battle. Just as we find shelter from the arrows, spears start to fly at us. When the Old Testament was written, these battles were real wars: the arrows and spears were real.

Today, the arrows might be more like bullies, hard homework, or fighting parents. But your hiding spot should always be the same. God is your safe place. Whenever you run to him, he is ready to protect you.

God, you are my protector. Thank you for your promise to rescue me. I can find peace in your love.

Lots of Questions

You will teach me God's way to live. Being with you will fill me with joy. At your right hand I will find pleasure forever. PSALM 16:11 ICB

There are some days when we have a lot of questions. There are many things that we don't understand. Asking parents for help is pretty easy. They usually have good answers.

Did you know that God gave you someone who can answer all of your questions? The Holy Spirit is here to help us. He shows us what to do, and he fills us with joy.

Holy Spirit, thank you that you can answer all my questions. I trust you to show me what I need to know. I want to be filled with your joy.





#### Lifetim<mark>e Guarantee</mark>

I truly believe I will live to see the LORD's goodness. Wait for the LORD's help. Be strong and brave and wait for the LORD's help. PSALM 27:13-14 ICB

What do you do when you get really sick? Usually you go to the doctor because you trust that they will help you to get better. We know that good doctors will give us the advice or medicine that we need to help, but sometimes it takes a while to work!

God is like a good doctor that we can trust to help us. We go to him and ask him to help make us strong because we believe that he cares so much for us.

God, thank you that I can trust you to help me any time that I come to you and ask. Help me to have courage because I know that you care for me.

15

## Twirling with Joy

You changed my sorrow into dancing. You took away my clothes of sadness, and clothed me in happiness. I will sing to you and not be silent. LORD, my God, I will praise you forever. PSALM 30:11-12 NCV

Was there ever a time when you lost something and were really sad, and then you found it and became really happy? The Bible says that God can help us to turn our sadness into happiness!

Sometimes we like to sing or shout when we are happy, sometimes we like to dance. When God turns your sadness into happiness, you won't be able to be quiet, you will want to praise him!

Lord, thank you that you can fill my heart with joy. I will sing, dance, and praise you because you are good to me.

