





New Living Translation.

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THRIVE: A Journaling Devotional Bible for Women is an edition of the Holy Bible, New Living Translation.

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¾ A NOTE TO READERS ﴾

The *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, was first published in 1996. It quickly became one of the most popular Bible translations in the English-speaking world. While the NLT's influence was rapidly growing, the Bible Translation Committee determined that an additional investment in scholarly review and text refinement could make it even better. So shortly after its initial publication, the committee began an eight-year process with the purpose of increasing the level of the NLT's precision without sacrificing its easy-to-understand quality. This second-generation text was completed in 2004, with minor changes subsequently introduced in 2007, 2013, and 2015.

The goal of any Bible translation is to convey the meaning and content of the ancient Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek texts as accurately as possible to contemporary readers. The challenge for our translators was to create a text that would communicate as clearly and powerfully to today's readers as the original texts did to readers and listeners in the ancient biblical world. The resulting translation is easy to read and understand, while also accurately communicating the meaning and content of the original biblical texts. The NLT is a general-purpose text especially good for study, devotional reading, and reading aloud in worship services.

We believe that the New Living Translation—which combines the latest biblical scholarship with a clear, dynamic writing style—will communicate God's word powerfully to all who read it. We publish it with the prayer that God will use it to speak his timeless truth to the church and the world in a fresh, new way.

The Publishers



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INTRODUCTION TO

* THRIVE *

You were made to THRIVE.

God's plan for you is that you will thrive by having a deep relationship with Him, turning to Him every day and relying on Him for each need. Whether you need comfort, hope, rest, renewed vision, or someone to share your day with, God is always there for you. In good times and in bad, God is constantly with you and working to help you thrive in every moment of your life. As you embark on this journey through God's Word, may you encounter God's life-changing power at work within you.

Prayer

Dear God,

Help Your daughter seek after You with all of her heart. Help her not to stop until she finds You in a very real and personal way. Quiet her anxious heart so she can hear You. Reveal to her Your unique plan for her life, and help her to thrive in every way as she puts her full trust in You. Give her a heart that pours out Your love on others. In Iesus' name, amen.

Benediction

May you go forth in your faith adventure in full trust and dependence on God to supply all your needs as you THRIVE in His great and mighty love and everlasting power.

USER'S GUIDE TO THRIVE

God is a loving heavenly Father, and He wants what is best for His children. He communicates with us in many ways, but He has given us a special book—the Bible—filled with His words to help us know and understand Him intimately. The Scriptures don't reveal everything there is to know about God, but any time spent genuinely engaged with God's Word has the potential to change your life.

The word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest twoedged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

That's because the Bible isn't just a book of human wisdom. It comes from God Himself, and in it He gives us everything we need to live a life of faith.

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Time spent in the Scriptures is time spent with God. There is no better place in this world for us to hear from God than in the pages of the Bible, and that is something we can do almost anywhere. God's Word is a special gift. We miss out on so much of what God has for us if we leave it on the shelf unopened and unread. As we open and read the Bible's pages, we are opening a door to a relationship with the Author. He's waiting there to speak to us, with the help of His ever-present Spirit. He gave us the Scriptures because He wants us to hear from Him and to know Him.

THRIVE: A Journaling Devotional Bible for Women offers additional tools to engage with the Word of God. THRIVE contains 365 devotionals written by Sheri Rose Shepherd that give insight into Scripture and focus on issues women face. They provide encouragement for life's struggles and help uncover how to truly thrive in life through a vibrant relationship with God. Each devotional includes a love letter from God, a reflection by Sheri Rose, and a treasure of truth to take with you on life's journey. Each devotional is also accompanied by a special prayer for the reader from Sheri Rose's heart. There are 365 devotionals in this Bible, but they are not tied to calendar dates; feel free to set your own pace as you read. The devotionals are each placed near the Scripture text they relate to. You may begin in any book you would like. If you'd like to take the canonical approach—reading in the order in which the books in your Bible are arranged—just start at the first devotional and read through to the last one.

Sheri Rose has also written profiles of the lives of thirty-one people in the Bible, both men and women, that show how God was able to use their situations for His glory.

Each book introduction gives background and context to help you better understand how the book fits into God's story. Each of these also gives an application to show how the books of the Bible can impact our lives today.

A personal letter from Sheri Rose appears in the front of the Bible along with a chart that provides encouragement as you journey through life. You will also find helpful tools for navigating your way around—a topical index to the features and an index to the profiles—as well as the 365-Day Key Passages Reading Plan to guide you in expanding your reading of the Scriptures.

As you read the Bible, keep these two goals in mind:

LIVE what you're reading. It's not just important to read and listen to God's Word. We also need to find ways to put it into practice. We are reminded of this in the book of James: "Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves" (James 1:22). As you reflect on God's Word, conclude your time by thinking up ways to live it out. What can you put into action today?

SHARE what you're reading. God's Word is good news, whether it comes in a story or parable, an account of one of Jesus' miracles, a psalm of praise, a promise of hope, or a wise proverb. When you've read something helpful, thought provoking, or inspiring, share it. As you do, you'll find that the message becomes more real to you, too. If it's a story, retell it to someone in your own words. Try to catch all the details. If it's a short promise or proverb, e-mail it to a friend, post it on an announcement board or refrigerator, carve it into a piece of wood to hang on a wall, bring it up for discussion with friends over coffee, or tweet it for anyone who might see it. If you've heard from God and it means something to you, take the time to share it.

TOOLS FOR SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Regular, systematic Scripture reading is one of the best ways to seek God, and reading the devotionals in this Bible along with the corresponding Scripture readings will get you started. But for many it is helpful to slow down in order to engage more fully in the listening process. Below is a list of concrete practices or tools that should help you engage more deeply with any Scripture passage. (Since everyone is different, not all of these practices may work for you. And some of the practices work better for longer passages, as opposed to single verses.) Open this tool kit for guidance as you set out to explore God's Word in a meaningful way.

Tool 1—Read It Aloud: This practice will slow you down and allow you to focus. Reading Scripture aloud takes about twice as long as reading it silently. But don't let this discourage you. It also allows you to encounter God's Word twice—through both your eyes and ears—leading to a more multifaceted interaction with the text. (This is especially useful for approaching a longer passage.) As you read aloud, you could try to read the text interpretively—bring it to life in the same way you would tell a story to a friend—by adding color to your expression to help you more completely take in and express the message. You could even dramatize a scene. And if others are around, don't be afraid to share the experience with them!

Tool 2—Copy It: Take out a writing utensil and copy a verse or passage of particular interest in the margin. If you are a visual learner, this should help you focus on the text more intensely. It will also force you to slow down even more and approach it phrase by phrase, helping you savor the text as you would a meal of many courses. If you have some talent with your writing utensil, express the meaning of the text artistically with different kinds of scripts and ink colors. This will help you focus on the meaning in greater detail. Typing the text into your computer and formatting the text creatively could accomplish this in a similar way. If your rendering turns out really well, frame it or send it to friends to encourage their reflection.

Tool 3—Summarize It: Write a one-sentence summary for each Scripture passage you read using a journal or a computer. This could be a simple content summary or perhaps a summary of what God said to you through the passage. This practice can help you stay focused and also help you create a personal tool for Bible review. As you finish reading a book of the Bible, summarize the entire book's core message in a sentence or paragraph. When you finish reading the whole Bible, try to summarize the overall message. From your perspective, what do you think the Bible's unified message is?

Tool 4—Paraphrase It: Take out your pen and paper or pull out your computer, and write some verses in your own words. Try to capture all the important parts of the passage without leaving anything out. This will help you pay attention to all the details and the rich meanings of the words. Drink in the text, digest its meaning, and write it again from the unique perspective God has given you. Don't worry about the word order; focus on the message. You will likely find that this leaves you with nuggets of wisdom to take away and think about.

Tool 5—Divide It: This practice is somewhat the opposite of summarizing the big themes of a passage. To divide a text, choose a particular sentence that is especially meaningful to you, like "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). Highlight each word

of the sentence successively, and read it over and over again. This will allow you to see the verse from varied angles.

THE LORD is my shepherd.

The Lord is my **SHEPHERD**.

As you do this, you will likely see truths in the text that you didn't notice before.

Tool 6—Personalize It: Embrace or claim Scripture personally by taking a verse or passage that clearly applies to you and replacing the nouns or pronouns with your own name. This will drive home the truth that God is speaking about you and to you. Psalm 23:1, for example, would say, "The Lord is Susan's shepherd; Susan has all that she needs." You might also personalize Scripture this way for your friends, your spouse, or your children.

Tool 7—Pray It: Many passages are helpful for guiding our prayers. They remind us of what is true and what is important to God. We can use these reminders as prayer prompts. Again, take the verse we looked at above. It might inspire a prayer like this:

Lord, You are my Shepherd, and You provide all I need. As one of Your sheep, I confess that I don't always follow You very closely. I sometimes wander and get lost. I've been that sheep You've had to search for and carry home. I know that if I followed You more closely, I'd experience greater peace and not be as tempted to wander. Dear Shepherd, help me to stay close to Your loving care and protection. Forgive my tendency to go my own way. Amen.

Tool 8—Memorize It: Committing Scripture to memory is the likely result of many of these other practices. For many of us, if we copy or read a verse over and over, we will soon know it by heart. To begin memorizing a text, that is the best place to start. Read or copy a text three times a day for an entire month and then begin to recite it aloud for yourself on a regular basis. Then, if the appropriate opportunity arises, recite it for others. (Remember to learn the reference, too, so you can more easily locate it.) One psalm writer reminds us why Scripture memorization is so important: "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). When hidden in our hearts, Scripture provides protection and wisdom for whatever we may face in life.

Putting the Tools to Work

So where do you begin? Start with the devotionals in this Bible and the Scripture portions that accompany them. After reflecting on the content of a devotional, engage with the context of the Scripture reading using the tools in the tool kit. Then expand your horizons using the Key Passages Reading Plan or read at a pace that works for you. The goal is to grow in your relationship with God and to THRIVE in this life as a daughter of the King!

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.
PSALM 119:105

365-DAY KEY PASSAGES

READING PLAN %

This reading plan leads you from Genesis to Revelation in just a year. Though it doesn't include every chapter and verse, it offers a complete view of Scripture and does so without being overwhelming. By skipping material that appears more than once, it gives you a streamlined look at the entire Bible. Take this tour of God's Word to discover its life-changing wisdom and power.

☐ January 1 • Genesis 1:1–2:3	☐ January 28 • Genesis 44:1-34
☐ January 2 • Genesis 2:15–3:24	☐ January 29 • Genesis 45:1-28
☐ January 3 • Genesis 4:1-16	☐ January 30 • Genesis 49:1-33
☐ January 4 • Genesis 6:9-22	☐ January 31 • Exodus 1:8–2:10
☐ January 5 • Genesis 7:1-24	
☐ January 6 • Genesis 8:1-22	☐ February 1 • Exodus 2:11-25
☐ January 7 • Genesis 9:1-17	☐ February 2 • Exodus 3:1-22
☐ January 8 • Genesis 11:1-9	☐ February 3 • Exodus 4:1-17
☐ January 9 • Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-8	☐ February 4 • Exodus 5:1-23
☐ January 10 • Genesis 18:1-15	☐ February 5 • Exodus 6:1-13
☐ January 11 • Genesis 19:15-29	☐ February 6 • Exodus 7:1-14
☐ January 12 • Genesis 21:8-21	□ February 7 • Exodus 7:15–9:7
☐ January 13 • Genesis 22:1-19	☐ February 8 • Exodus 9:8–10:29
☐ January 14 • Genesis 24:1-27	☐ February 9 • Exodus 11:1-10; 12:29-36
☐ January 15 • Genesis 24:28-67	☐ February 10 • Exodus 13:17–14:31
☐ January 16 • Genesis 25:19-34	☐ February 11 • Exodus 15:22-27; 17:1-7
☐ January 17 • Genesis 27:1-40	☐ February 12 • Exodus 16:1-36
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Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD.

PSALM 119:1







GENESIS depicts God's power and majesty as He created and colored our world with goodness. The events in this book were the beginning of everything we know today: the first sunrise and sunset, the first stars placed in the sky, the first breath drawn by man, the first woman, the first sin, the first broken family, and the first promise of God. We see God's first act of grace when He reached down from heaven after His children took a bite of deception. There is much to learn about ourselves and our amazing God in Genesis. Take in every truth you can. Discover the beginning of the world you live in, and meet the God who created you!

■ GENESIS ■

The Account of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." And evening passed and morning came, marking the first day.

⁶Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." ⁷And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. ⁸God called the space "sky." And evening passed and morning came, marking the second day.

9Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear." And that is what happened. ¹0God called the dry ground "land" and the waters "seas." And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came." And that is what happened. ¹²The land produced vegetation—all sorts of seed-bearing plants, and trees with seed-bearing fruit. Their seeds produced plants and trees of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

¹⁴Then God said, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth." And that is what happened. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, ¹⁸to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

²⁰Then God said, "Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." ²¹So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water, and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²Then God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

1:1 Or In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, \dots Or When God began to create the heavens and the earth, \dots

GENESIS 2 ... page 4

²³And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

²⁴Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. ²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good.

Dear God,

Open Your daughter's eyes today and help her to see the beauty that You created for her to enjoy. I pray that Your life-giving breath would fill her and allow her to experience Your beautiful world in a whole new way. In Jesus' name, amen.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make human beings* in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,* and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁷ So God created human beings* in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸Then 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."

²⁹Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your

food. ³⁰And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—everything that has life." And that is what happened.

³¹Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

2 So the creation of the heavens and the earth and everything in them was completed. ²On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested* from all his work. ³And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

⁴This is the account of the creation of the heavens and the earth

The Man and Woman in Eden

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil. ⁶Instead, springs* came up from the ground and watered all the land. ⁷Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. ⁹The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. ¹¹The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. ¹²The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. ¹³The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

1:26a Or man; Hebrew reads adam. 1:26b As in Syriac version; Hebrew reads all the earth. 1:27 Or the man; Hebrew reads ha-adam. 2:2 Or ceased; also in 2:3. 2:6 Or mist.



The Gift of Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ** GENESIS 1:1

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I knew you before you were born. When I created the heavens and the earth, I knew there would be a day when you would walk in My beautiful creation. I created the heavens for you to look up into, and I created the earth for you to enjoy.

Whenever you get lost in your personal world, you lose sight of the beauty of My world. I know it is hard to see what I made for you when sin clouds your vision, but there is beauty because of My gift of redemption.

Take a day and walk close to Me. Allow Me to open your eyes to see My creation as a beautiful gift. Leave your cares behind and let Me carry them for you. Breathe in a morning sunrise with Me and allow My sunset to kiss you good night. Before you fall asleep, look up at the stars and remember that I created you to light someone's darkness each day until I call you home. *Love*.

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

Every day that God gives us is a gift. So often we miss the beautiful gift of His creation around us because we're too busy. Consider this: When God first created the heavens, there was nothing to distract Adam and Eve from enjoying God's beautiful creation.

Treasure of Truth

God's beautiful creation is a gift from heaven for you to enjoy.

Go to page 7 for the next devotional reading.

GENESIS 3 ... page 6

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. ¹⁶But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden—¹⁷except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." ¹⁹So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man* to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one. ²⁰He gave names to all the livestock, all the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. But still there was no helper just right for him.

Dear God.

Please hold on to Your beloved daughter in the dark days when her faith is weak. May she never wander away from You. Help her to trust Your light when she cannot see on her own.

In Jesus' name, amen.

²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the LORD God took out one of the man's ribs* and closed up the opening. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

²³"At last!" the man exclaimed.

"This one is bone from my bone, and flesh from my flesh! She will be called 'woman,' because she was taken from 'man.'"

²⁴This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.

²⁵Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame.

The Man and Woman Sin

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

^{2"}Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. ^{3"}It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.'"

4"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. 5"God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

⁶The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

⁸When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man* and his wife heard the LORD God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the LORD God among the trees. ⁹Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."

11"Who told you that you were naked?" the LORD God asked. "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

"The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."

14Then the LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, you are cursed

more than all animals, domestic and wild.

You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.

2:19 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter. 2:21 Or took a part of the man's side. 3:8 Or Adam, and so throughout the chapter.



His Light

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. SEGENESIS 1:3

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I am the Light of the World, and I want to light your world so that you can see Me in everything. You are a star that can bring My light to others.

I alone can warm your soul. When your world feels cold and dark, you can count on Me to be your comfort. You will never feel lost when I am the One lighting your way. I see all that's hidden, even the darkest spaces, so you never have to fear. I will always be there to light your way, even when you stumble. I will pick you up with My loving arms. Rest assured, My daughter, you will always be able to find your way back to My light.

Love,

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

Light often seems to shine all the brighter in the midst of darkness. It is in the darkness that we can see the beauty of the stars. We can be the star that points others to heaven by the way we live for and follow our God.

Treasure of Truth

God shines His light in your darkness to remove the things that hinder your relationship with Him.

Go to page 9 for the next devotional reading.

Dear God,

Make Your presence known to Your daughter today. As she seeks after You, let her see You as if You were right next to her. Help her take risks and reach out in friendship to those around her.

In Jesus' name, amen.

And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.

He will strike* your head, and you will strike his heel."

¹⁶Then he said to the woman,

"I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth.

And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.*"

¹⁷And to the man he said,

"Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to

scratch a living from it.

18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you,

you, though you will eat of its grains.

19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return."

Paradise Lost: God's Judgment

²⁰Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.* ²¹And the LORD God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife.

²²Then the Lord God said, "Look, the human beings* have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" ²³So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. ²⁴After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the

3:15 Or bruise; also in 3:15b. 3:16 Or And though you will have desire for your husband, / he will rule over you. 3:20 Eve sounds like a Hebrew term that means "to give life." 3:22 Or the man; Hebrew reads ha-adam.

EVE

Eve was the first wife and mother. She tasted the first fruits and vegetables that God created. She was the only woman to see the world before sin polluted it. Eve actually had a season of life when she felt no shame about her body even though she was naked! Eve was in complete communion with God.

Eve then succumbed to the dangers of listening to twisted truth and of doubting God's words. When she took the bite of deception, Eve was separated from God and from her home in paradise. But even in her loss, she received a glimmer of hope: God would one day crush her deceiver and restore her brokenness.

When we listen to and obey God without letting others alter His truth, He can use us in tremendous ways. We were created in the image of God, and He loves us no matter what.



Never Alone

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

GENESIS 2:18

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I love being your heavenly Father and having a close relationship with you. I created you to have relationships—with Me and with other people, too. There will be times when you feel alone. But from the beginning, I knew it wouldn't be good for you to be alone.

I know that there have been times when you have put your heart into relationships and have been hurt. Please know that it was not I who hurt you. I'm asking you not to close your heart to Me but to cry out to Me.

When you seek a relationship with Me more than with anyone else, you will never be alone. I created you in My image, and when you love Me first, My love will spill out into all of your other relationships. Love is a gift for you to give away. Let My love enfold you so your heart will stay pure and protected. Love.

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

We were created to be in relationship with God and others. Fear can sometimes keep us from opening up our hearts because we don't want to get hurt. But closing ourselves off from others doesn't protect us—it imprisons us. The perfection of God's love can free you to open your heart to loving others without fear.

Treasure of Truth

God's love sets you free.

Go to page 11 for the next devotional reading.

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GENESIS 4 ... page 10

Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Cain and Ahel

4 Now Adam* had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the Lord's help, I have produced* a man!" ²Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. ³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best portions of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

Dear God.

Give Your daughter discernment so that she can tell right from wrong, light from dark, and truth from lies in order to live free from deception.

In Jesus' name, amen.

6"Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? ⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

⁸One day Cain suggested to his brother, "Let's go out into the fields."* And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?"

"I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰But the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! ¹¹Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. ¹²No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth."

¹³Cain replied to the LORD, "My punishment* is too great for me to bear! ¹⁴You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!"

¹⁵The LORD replied, "No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him. ¹⁶So Cain left the LORD's presence and settled in the land of Nod.* east of Eden.

The Descendants of Cain

¹⁷Cain had sexual relations with his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain founded a city, which he named Enoch, after his son. ¹⁸Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of Mehujael. Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

¹⁹Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. ²⁰Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. ²¹His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. ²²Lamech's other wife, Zillah, gave birth to a son named Tubal-cain. He became an expert in forging tools of bronze and iron. Tubal-cain had a sister named Naamah. ²³One day Lamech said to his wives,

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; listen to me, you wives of Lamech. I have killed a man who attacked me, a young man who wounded me. ²⁴ If someone who kills Cain is punished seven times, then the one who kills me will be punished seventy-seven times!"

The Birth of Seth

²⁵Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son.

4:1a Or *the man*; also in 4:25. 4:1b Or *I have acquired. Cain* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean "produce" or "acquire." 4:8 As in Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; Masoretic Text lacks "Let's go out into the fields." 4:13 Or My sin. 4:16 Nod means "wandering." 4:18 Or the ancestor of, and so throughout the verse.



Twisted Truth

[The serpent said,] "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

GENESIS 3:5

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I created life to be wonderful and fulfilling for you. Curiosity about taking a walk on the dark side of life can be very dangerous. I want you to experience every good thing life has to offer, but I love you so much that I want you to experience it My way.

Not long after I created the first woman, she allowed an unhealthy level of curiosity to carry her away from My perfect will. The partial truth she believed and her doubt of My word brought death to her, her husband, and all her descendants.

It's the same for us today. It's not the death of the physical body, but a spiritual death that results when we believe twisted truths. I'm asking you to test everything against My Word and to purpose yourself to live by My truth. Then you will experience the freedom that I long for you to know. *Love.*

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

We need to be careful to test the words of other people against the Word of God. There are those who will be used by the enemy to present a twisted version of the truth. Partial truth does not set people free. Only the power and truth of God's Word will help you find your way to the God who loves you when you are lost.

Treasure of Truth

Twisted truth cannot stand against God's Word.

Go to page 13 for the next devotional reading.

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GENESIS 5 ... page 12

She named him Seth,* for she said, "God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed." ²⁶When Seth grew up, he had a son and named him Enosh. At that time people first began to worship the LORD by name.

The Descendants of Adam

5 This is the written account of the descendants of Adam. When God created human beings,* he made them to be like himself. ²He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them "human."

Dear God.

Give Your daughter the courage to uncover whatever she may be hiding from You. Remind her of Your amazing love, grace, and mercy. Whatever it is that she needs to bring into Your light, let her do it now. In Jesus' name, amen.

- ³When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him—in his very image. He named his son Seth. ⁴After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁵Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.
- ⁶When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of* Enosh. ⁷After the birth of* Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.
- ⁹When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

- ¹¹Enosh lived 905 years, and then he
- ¹²When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. ¹³After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.
- 15When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. 16After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived another 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. 17Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.
- ¹⁸When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. ¹⁹After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.
- ²¹When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. ²²After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.
- ²⁵When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.
- ²⁸When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son. ²⁹Lamech named his son Noah, for he said, "May he bring us relief* from our work and the painful labor of farming this ground that the Lord has cursed." ³⁰After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived another 595 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ³¹Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.
- ³²After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

A World Gone Wrona

6 Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. ²The sons of God saw the beautiful women* and took any they wanted as their

4:25 Seth probably means "granted"; the name may also mean "appointed." 5:10 r man; Hebrew reads adam; similarly in 5:2. 5:6 Or the ancestor of; also in 5:9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 25. 5:7 Or the birth of this ancestor of; also in 5:10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 26. 5:29 Noah sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean "relief" or "comfort." 6:2 Hebrew daughters of men; also in 6:4.



Light in Your Darkness

Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

GENESIS 3:9

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I am always here for you. Now is not the time to hide from Me but to run to Me. There is nowhere you can hide that I don't know about. No matter where you go, I will seek you out because I love you. Nothing that you do is hidden from Me. I want you to bring your heart and your hidden sins into My presence. You cannot deliver yourself from self-destructive tendencies. Only I can divinely intervene and give you a new beginning found in My Son, Jesus. *Love*,

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

We often hide our hearts from the only One who can actually heal us from our sin. Your heavenly Father already knows everything about you. He's lovingly saying, "Let Me shine My light in the dark places of your heart so you can see My grace at work."

Treasure of Truth

God's love can light even the darkest places hidden in our hearts.

Go to page 15 for the next devotional reading.

GENESIS 7 ... page 14

wives. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with* humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years."

⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times.

⁵The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the Lord was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the Lord said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them." ⁸But Noah found favor with the Lord.

Dear God.

Encourage Your daughter by bringing to her memory the times You've been faithful in her past. Allow her to breathe in Your promises and breathe out her doubt.

In Jesus' name, amen.

The Story of Noah

⁹This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. ¹⁰Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹²God

observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

¹⁴"Build a large boat* from cypress wood* and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. ¹⁵Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.* ¹⁶Leave an 18-inch opening* below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.

17"Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. ¹⁸But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. ¹⁹Bring a pair of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. ²⁰Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals."

²²So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

The Flood Covers the Earth

When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous. ²Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and for sacrifice,* and take one pair of each of the others. 3Also take seven pairs of every kind of bird. There must be a male and a female in each pair to ensure that all life will survive on the earth after the flood. 4Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created."

⁵So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

⁶Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷He went on board the

6:3 Greek version reads will not remain in. 6:14a Traditionally rendered an ark. 6:14b Or gopher wood. 6:15 Hebrew 300 cubits [138 meters] long, 50 cubits [23 meters] uide, and 30 cubits [13.8 meters] high. 6:16 Hebrew an opening of 1 cubit [46 centimeters]. 7:2 Hebrew of each clean animal; similarly in 7:8.



Your Lifeboat

"But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives."

■ GENESIS 6:18

Love Letter from God

Beloved Daughter,

I am always with you. There will be times when you wonder if I am really there, and you may be tempted to wander away from the work I called you to do. In those days of doubt, I want you to reflect on all the times in the past when you thought I had abandoned you. What you will discover is that I have always remained faithful to you.

I am your heavenly Father, and I am the God of hope. When everything you love is being overwhelmed by a flood and you can't swim any longer, I am your lifeboat. I am the Author of your life who can rewrite any tragedy into triumph. I am the One who will work all things together for your good, even when it appears that all has gone bad. When you don't know what to do, be still and allow Me to calm the storm in your heart. If you wait on Me, you will witness My wonders!

Love.

Your heavenly Father

Reflection

When times get hard and we cannot see God's plan in motion, we might feel that He has forgotten His covenant with us. However, God's greatest work is often done behind the scenes and out of sight. When Noah was building the boat, he did not see a cloud in the sky. He had to trust what God had told him and act on it. Stay faithful to God and build your life on His Word. When the storms hit, He will rescue you.

Treasure of Truth

When we do our work for the Lord, it will never be wasted.

Go to page 19 for the next devotional reading.

GENESIS 8 ... page 16

boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground. ⁹They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

¹³That very day Noah had gone into the boat with his wife and his sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—and their wives. ¹⁴With them in the boat were pairs of every kind of animal—domestic and wild, large and small—along with birds of every kind. ¹⁵Two by two they came into the boat, representing every living thing that breathes. ¹⁶A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD closed the door behind them.

¹⁷For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. ¹⁸As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. ¹⁹Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, ²⁰rising more than

twenty-two feet* above the highest peaks. ²¹All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. ²²Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. ²³God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. ²⁴And the floodwaters covered the earth for 150 days.

The Flood Recedes

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and livestock with him in the boat. He sent a wind to blow across the earth, and the floodwaters began to recede. ²The underground waters stopped flowing, and the torrential rains from the sky were stopped. ³So the floodwaters gradually receded from the earth. After 150 days, ⁴exactly five months from the time the flood began,* the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. ⁵Two and a half months later,* as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible.

⁶After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the boat ⁷and released a raven. The bird flew back and forth until the floodwaters on the earth had dried up. ⁸He also released a dove to see if the water had receded and it could find dry ground. ⁹But the dove could find no place

7:20 Hebrew 15 cubits [6.9 meters]. 8:4 Hebrew on the seventeenth day of the seventh month; see 7:11. 8:5 Hebrew On the first day of the tenth month; see 7:11 and note on 8:4.

NOAH

Noah lived an extraordinary life. He lived by faith, following God's instructions, while the people around him did whatever they pleased. Noah had amazing communication with the Lord, but surely he must have questioned whether what he heard was truly from God. Would his time and talent be a waste?

As we know today, his life exemplifies what it means to live by faith and not by sight. Noah's faithfulness not only saved his family; it also preserved the entire human race. He spent decades building something his family would only live in for about a year, but this event in Noah's life is still remembered as one of the most amazing stories in the Bible. Noah's example teaches us that a life built on obedience to God can make a difference in our own time and for future generations.

to land because the water still covered the ground. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside. ¹⁰After waiting another seven days, Noah released the dove again. ¹¹This time the dove returned to him in the evening with a fresh olive leaf in its beak. Then Noah knew that the floodwaters were almost gone. ¹²He waited another seven days and then released the dove again. This time it did not come back

¹³Noah was now 601 years old. On the first day of the new year, ten and a half months after the flood began,* the floodwaters had almost dried up from the earth. Noah lifted back the covering of the boat and saw that the surface of the ground was drying. ¹⁴Two more months went by,* and at last the earth was dry!

¹⁵Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶"Leave the boat, all of you—you and your wife, and your sons and their wives. ¹⁷Release all the animals—the birds, the livestock, and the small animals that scurry along the ground—so they can be fruitful and multiply throughout the earth."

¹⁸So Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives left the boat. ¹⁹And all of the large and small animals and birds came out of the boat, pair by pair.

²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and there he sacrificed as burnt offerings the animals and birds that had been approved for that purpose.* ²¹And the LORD was pleased with the aroma of the sacrifice and said to himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of the human race, even though everything they think or imagine is bent toward evil from childhood. I will never again destroy all living things. ²²As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."

God Confirms His Covenant

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. ²All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. ³I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables.

⁴But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it

5"And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. 6If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings* in his own image. 7Now be fruitful and multiply, and repopulate the earth."

⁸Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹"I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth."

12Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. 13I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. 14When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. 16When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth." 17Then God said to Noah, "Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth."

Noah's Sons

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the boat with their father were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham is the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹From these three sons of Noah came all the people who now populate the earth.

²⁰ After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. ²¹ One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers. ²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked.