





DAYSPRING  
HOPE & ENCOURAGEMENT  
BIBLE



Tyndale House Publishers  
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*One Minute with God*

A LETTER FROM  
*James Barnett*

Dear Reader,

You are special, you are loved, you are not alone, and you have a purpose. Has anyone told you lately? It's true, based on God's Word. But so many times we struggle to believe God actually loves us as individuals and wants a relationship with us that's real and personal! And He wants us to share that love with others!

Most of us are not theologians or Bible scholars, yet we desire to know God intimately and share His love with others effectively. We just don't always know how. I am so excited about this Bible because our team has sought to illuminate the Word of God in such a way that helps you engage in Scripture in a personal and unthreatening way—and in a way that encourages you to share.

At DaySpring, we believe our assignment through the years has been to help you know and share God's love in fresh, true, and inspiring ways. We like to say that we are a company, really just a group of normal people, that seeks to help you—not just on Sunday, but Monday through Saturday as well—to live out your faith. Our goal has always been to help people engage in inspiring words and scriptural truth that provide “living water” a cupful at a time! Our vision comes to life when we are able to help every person experience and express the life-changing message of God's love.

One phrase I have used for many years around DaySpring is that “we are about people and their relationship with God and each other.” I believe it describes the essence of Jesus' response to the greatest commandment: “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37-39). My prayer for you is that the twelve truths and additional thoughts of hope and encouragement in this Bible draw attention to the truth of God's heart for you in a very personal way and strengthen your relationship with God. Then as you are filled up, may you be refreshed and inspired to share God's life-giving love with those around you. His love for you never fails!

God's heart for you is good. Lean in!

*Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us,  
to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.*

EPHESIANS 3:20



JAMES BARNETT  
*DaySpring President*



## A LETTER FROM

### *Roy Lessin*

Dear Reader,

In the spring of 1971, DaySpring was birthed with a vision to make Christ known through the printed page. It was a time in Southern California when God's love flowed through the hearts of thousands of young people—a new generation of believers known as the Jesus People.

The four founders of DaySpring—Don Leetch, Dean Kerns, Russ Flint, and I—sought new, fresh ways to share the love of Jesus and to help the young, enthusiastic Jesus People share their newfound faith with others. We began with a few pamphlets, some stickers, a poster, and a button or two. Nothing we did was traditional. And none of us had any idea that within a year we would be sharing God's heart through the publication of greeting cards. God took us all by surprise.

When I first began writing cards, I quickly ran out of things to say. As I prayed about it, God impressed these words upon my heart: "Listen to Me. Hear what I am saying through My Word. Write down what you hear, and put it on your cards. What I am saying to you I am saying to all My children, and they will respond." I knew that without the Scriptures I had nothing to say, yet because of them, I could dip my pen into an endless river of comfort.

As DaySpring grew, we discovered that greeting cards were welcomed carriers for messages of hope and encouragement. A simple thought spoken one day by my older brother, Don Lessin, helped define our work and ministry: "From God's heart, to our hearts, to the hearts of others."

You were made to know the love that is in God's heart for you. Jesus has manifested it to you. The Holy Spirit whispers it to you. The book you hold in your hands reveals it to you. What an awesome privilege you have been given to know His love and make it known to others in your generation.



*Just think,  
you're here not by chance,  
but by God's choosing.  
His hand formed you  
and made you the person you are.  
He compares you to no one else—  
you are one of a kind.  
You lack nothing that  
His grace can't give you.  
He has allowed you to be here  
at this time in history  
to fulfill His special purpose  
for this generation.*

As you read the *DaySpring Hope & Encouragement Bible*, may your arms of faith fully embrace the love God has given you through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, abounding in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May your heart be encouraged every day through the life-giving promises of God.

May you look ahead with great expectation to the day of love's greatest reward, the marriage supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:5-9).

*The Scriptures give us hope and encouragement  
as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.*

ROMANS 15:4

ROY LESSIN  
Co-founder of DaySpring

## 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

*A full introduction can be found at [tyndale.com/nlt/process](http://tyndale.com/nlt/process).*

*A complete list of the translators can be found at [tyndale.com/nlt/scholars](http://tyndale.com/nlt/scholars).*

## 12 INDISPUTABLE TRUTHS

Welcome to the *DaySpring Hope & Encouragement Bible*. Have you ever thought about it? The God who created everything you see—who set the first planet into orbit, who gives breath to every single living creature, who directs all nature and life—loves you. Just think about that. He not only loves you, he cares deeply about every detail of your life. He delights in your uniqueness. In fact, when God created you, he set you apart with your very own assortment of special abilities and gifts that compare to no one else's. Isn't that amazing? The One who set this whole thing into motion gave his only Son so that he could have a relationship with you, so that he could set you free from all sin and shame, so that he could walk with you throughout this life and into eternity.

We all have times in our lives when we feel like we can't find or hold on to hope. And it's easy to get caught up in the distractions and troubles in this world. But what would happen if we took our focus off of the trials we are facing and instead set our minds on things above? If we instead focused on God's heart for us, we could rest in his peace, fully knowing that we are loved by an almighty Father who is the King of all kings.

Throughout the pages in this Bible, you will find twelve life-changing truths that highlight different dimensions of our identity as children of God through Christ's saving work.

*Discover these twelve truths on the following page.*

## 12 INDISPUTABLE TRUTHS



### You are loved

---

*God deeply loves you. He chose you before you chose him. You are his cherished child.*



### You are not alone

---

*God is always near. Whatever you are going through today, he is there. His presence is constant and caring.*



### You are known

---

*God understands and enjoys every little detail about you. He delights in you as you are.*



### You are important

---

*God has placed you at this time for this very moment to have a great and profound impact.*



### You are forgiven

---

*God gave his very life for you. You are free from your past and equipped for the future.*



### You are special

---

*You are God's very own creation from his imagination. He made only one of you and delights in your uniqueness.*





## You have a purpose

---

*God has prepared an exciting path ahead of you to accomplish his plans.*



## You are held

---

*God knows your needs and is reaching toward you to meet them. He is providing you with all you need to get through this.*



## You are equipped and able

---

*God gives you everything you need to accomplish his purposes. You lack nothing.*



## You are blessed

---

*Every good thing in your life comes from him.*



## You are guided

---

*God is with you and showing you the way. You have his Spirit in you, directing you and guiding you.*



## You have a reason for hope

---

*God is a miracle worker. He always has something better ahead of you and is working on your behalf. He is planning your tomorrow in this life and in eternity.*

*You can follow the truths throughout your study in a few different ways:*

**Read through the Bible in its regular order.** Start in the beginning and work your way through the Bible, finding the truth icons and watching the beauty of God's promises unfold throughout his Word.

**Select a truth and follow it throughout the Bible.** The end of each reflective inspiration in the margin will point you to the page with the next reflection on that truth, and the truth icons can help you trace each truth through the Bible.

**Choose a passage of Scripture that you would like to study**—there are sixty-six books to choose from! See which truths appear in that text and how they relate to your everyday life.

**Enjoy fifty-two full-page hope and encouragement devotionals** (one for each week of the year) written by authors in partnership with DaySpring. If a specific devotional resonates with you, find the author on the contributors page and explore the books from which their works have been excerpted here.

**Flip through the Bible** to find more than two hundred short reflections in the margins.

Of course, the most important feature of this Bible is the main text—the living, breathing Word of God. You are holding in your hands the most powerful book of all time. It is God's way of sharing his heart with us. Its message is everlasting, personal, and profoundly powerful. It is here that you will find the answers to life's questions and comfort for life's problems.

Welcome to the ultimate life-changing experience. *Welcome to the Bible.*

*The*  
OLD TESTAMENT

# Genesis

## The Account of Creation

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

<sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

<sup>5</sup>God called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”

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

<sup>6</sup>Then God said, “Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth.” <sup>7</sup>And that is what happened. God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. <sup>8</sup>God called the space “sky.”

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

<sup>9</sup>Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then 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. <sup>12</sup>The 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.

<sup>13</sup>And evening passed and morning came, marking the third day.

<sup>14</sup>Then 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. <sup>15</sup>Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars.

<sup>17</sup>God set these lights in the sky to light the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup>And evening passed and morning came, marking the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” <sup>21</sup>So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that scurries and swarms in the water,

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



and every sort of bird—each producing offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>Then God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply. Let the fish fill the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth.”

<sup>23</sup>And evening passed and morning came, marking the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>Then 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. <sup>25</sup>God 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.

<sup>26</sup>Then 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.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings\* in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

<sup>29</sup>Then God said, “Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. <sup>30</sup>And 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.

<sup>31</sup>Then 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. <sup>2</sup>On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested\* from all his work. <sup>3</sup>And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

<sup>4</sup>This 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, <sup>5</sup>neither 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. <sup>6</sup>Instead, springs\* came up from the ground and watered all the land. <sup>7</sup>Then 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.

<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he

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*.





# You are guided

COME AGAIN ANOTHER DAY

*The LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth.*

GENESIS 2:5

Can you imagine living in a world without rain? Yet there were no weather forecasters or rained-out picnics in Noah's day. The Bible says that Noah had never seen rain, much less torrential rain or destructive floods of water. Before the Great Flood, streams and rivers watered the plants, and springs of water that flowed upward from under the earth misted and hydrated the plants. So Noah had to take God's word in faith for this thing called "rain" and follow God's instructions to prepare for a dystopian event he could never even imagine (Genesis 6:14-17). "It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith" (Hebrews 11:7). And God saved Noah and his family along with a menagerie of animals inside that huge ark constructed of wood.

Then God made a covenant promise to us that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood. He sealed this promise with a bow of colors in the sky that could only appear with the presence of instability in the atmosphere known as rain—a rainbow. "*I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth*" (Genesis 9:13). When there is instability in the atmosphere of your life, remember that we are living arks for God to dwell in, holding the promise of eternal life with him that those who believe will not perish.

LINDA KOZAR, *Sunshine for the Soul*

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*God, give me the faith to know without a doubt that you are guiding my steps and leading me toward your beautiful plan for my life. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.*

placed the man he had made.<sup>9</sup>The 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.

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

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

<sup>18</sup>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.”<sup>19</sup>So 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. <sup>20</sup>He 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.

<sup>21</sup>So 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. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>“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.’”

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

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

### *The Man and Woman Sin*

**3** 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?”

<sup>2</sup>“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied. <sup>3</sup>“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.’”

<sup>4</sup>“You won’t die!” the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“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.”

<sup>6</sup>The 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

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

took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup>At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

<sup>8</sup>When 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. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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

<sup>11</sup>"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?"

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

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?"

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

<sup>14</sup>Then 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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."

<sup>16</sup>Then 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.\*"

<sup>17</sup>And 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.

<sup>18</sup> It will grow thorns and thistles for you,  
though you will eat of its grains.

<sup>19</sup> 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."

3:8 Or *Adam*, and so throughout the chapter. 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.*

# You are special

GENESIS 1:26-31

What does God think of you?

- Unique.
- Gifted.
- Accepted.
- Enjoyed.
- Embraced.
- Loved.

His special recipe included all of the good stuff . . . and out came *you!* He's eternally glad he made you too!

*It can be hard, God, to believe that you see so much in me. Especially when I see all the ways I fall short of your glory. Thank you for believing in me and continuing to refine my life for your sake.*

Read more about this topic on page 240.

### Paradise Lost: God's Judgment

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

<sup>22</sup>Then 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!" <sup>23</sup>So 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. <sup>24</sup>After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the 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 Abel

**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!" <sup>2</sup>Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

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

<sup>6</sup>"Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected? <sup>7</sup>You 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."

<sup>8</sup>One 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.

<sup>9</sup>Afterward the LORD asked Cain, "Where is your brother? Where is Abel?" "I don't know," Cain responded. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! <sup>11</sup>Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother's blood. <sup>12</sup>No 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."

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

<sup>15</sup>The 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. <sup>16</sup>So Cain left the LORD's presence and settled in the land of Nod,\* east of Eden.

### The Descendants of Cain

<sup>17</sup>Cain 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. <sup>18</sup>Enoch had a son named Irad. Irad became the father of\* Mehujael.

3:20 Eve sounds like a Hebrew term that means "to give life." 3:22 Or the man; Hebrew reads ha-adam. 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.

Mehujael became the father of Methushael. Methushael became the father of Lamech.

<sup>19</sup>Lamech married two women. The first was named Adah, and the second was Zillah. <sup>20</sup>Adah gave birth to Jabal, who was the first of those who raise livestock and live in tents. <sup>21</sup>His brother's name was Jubal, the first of all who play the harp and flute. <sup>22</sup>Lamech'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. <sup>23</sup>One 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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*

<sup>25</sup>Adam had sexual relations with his wife again, and she gave birth to another son. She named him Seth,\* for she said, “God has granted me another son in place of Abel, whom Cain killed.” <sup>26</sup>When 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. <sup>2</sup>He created them male and female, and he blessed them and called them “human.”

<sup>3</sup>When 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. <sup>4</sup>After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup>Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

<sup>6</sup>When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of\* Enosh. <sup>7</sup>After the birth of\* Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup>Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.

<sup>9</sup>When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. <sup>10</sup>After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup>Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

<sup>12</sup>When Kenan was 70 years old, he became the father of Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup>After the birth of Mahalalel, Kenan lived another 840 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup>Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.

<sup>15</sup>When Mahalalel was 65 years old, he became the father of Jared. <sup>16</sup>After the birth of Jared, Mahalalel lived another 830 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup>Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

<sup>18</sup>When Jared was 162 years old, he became the father of Enoch. <sup>19</sup>After the birth of Enoch, Jared lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup>Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.

<sup>21</sup>When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah.

4:25 *Seth* probably means “granted”; the name may also mean “appointed.” 5:1 *Or 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.



<sup>22</sup>After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters.

<sup>23</sup>Enoch lived 365 years, <sup>24</sup>walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

<sup>25</sup>When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech.

<sup>26</sup>After the birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup>Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

<sup>28</sup>When Lamech was 182 years old, he became the father of a son. <sup>29</sup>Lamech 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.”

<sup>30</sup>After the birth of Noah, Lamech lived another 595 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup>Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.

<sup>32</sup>After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

### *A World Gone Wrong*

**6** Then the people began to multiply on the earth, and daughters were born to them. <sup>2</sup>The sons of God saw the beautiful women\* and took any they wanted as their wives. <sup>3</sup>Then 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.”

<sup>4</sup>In 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.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. <sup>6</sup>So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. <sup>7</sup>And 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.” <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor with the LORD.

### *The Story of Noah*

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

<sup>11</sup>Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. <sup>13</sup>So 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!

<sup>14</sup>“Build a large boat\* from cypress wood\* and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. <sup>15</sup>Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.\* <sup>16</sup>Leave an 18-inch

5:29 *Noah* sounds like a Hebrew term that can mean “relief” or “comfort.” 6:2 Hebrew *daughters of men*; also in 6:4. 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] *wide, and 30 cubits* [13.8 meters] *high*.

opening<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>22</sup>So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

### *The Flood Covers the Earth*

**7** 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. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs—male and female—of each animal I have approved for eating and for sacrifice,<sup>\*</sup> and take one pair of each of the others. <sup>3</sup>Also 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. <sup>4</sup>Seven 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.”

<sup>5</sup>So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him.

<sup>6</sup>Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. <sup>7</sup>He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. <sup>8</sup>With 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. <sup>9</sup>They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. <sup>10</sup>After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

<sup>11</sup>When 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. <sup>12</sup>The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

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

<sup>17</sup>For forty days the floodwaters grew deeper, covering the ground and lifting the boat high above the earth. <sup>18</sup>As the waters rose higher and higher above the ground, the boat floated safely on the surface. <sup>19</sup>Finally, the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth,<sup>20</sup> rising more than twenty-two feet<sup>\*</sup> above the highest peaks. <sup>21</sup>All the living things on earth died—birds, domestic animals, wild animals, small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people. <sup>22</sup>Everything that breathed and lived on dry land died. <sup>23</sup>God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock,

**6:16** Hebrew *an opening of 1 cubit* [46 centimeters]. **7:2** Hebrew *of each clean animal*; similarly in 7:8. **7:20** Hebrew *15 cubits* [6.9 meters].



# John

## Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

- 1**<sup>1</sup> In the beginning the Word already existed.  
The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.
- <sup>2</sup> He existed in the beginning with God.
- <sup>3</sup> God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.
- <sup>4</sup> The Word gave life to everything that was created,\*  
and his life brought light to everyone.
- <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.\*

<sup>6</sup>God sent a man, John the Baptist,\*<sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup>John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup>The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<sup>14</sup>So the Word became human\* and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.\* And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

<sup>15</sup>John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'"

<sup>16</sup>From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.\* <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God,\* is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

## The Testimony of John the Baptist

<sup>19</sup>This was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders sent priests and Temple assistants\* from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He came right out and said, "I am not the Messiah."

<sup>21</sup>"Well then, who are you?" they asked. "Are you Elijah?"  
"No," he replied.

1:3-4 Or and nothing that was created was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything. 1:5 Or and the darkness has not understood it. 1:6 Greek a man named John. 1:14a Greek became flesh. 1:14b Or grace and truth; also in 1:17. 1:16 Or received the grace of Christ rather than the grace of the law; Greek reads received grace upon grace. 1:18 Some manuscripts read But the one and only Son. 1:19 Greek and Levites.

# You are loved

JOHN 1:10-12

“Are you the Prophet we are expecting?”\*

“No.”

<sup>22</sup>“Then who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of the prophet Isaiah:

“I am a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
‘Clear the way for the LORD’s coming!’”\*

<sup>24</sup>Then the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup>asked him, “If you aren’t the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, what right do you have to baptize?”

<sup>26</sup>John told them, “I baptize with\* water, but right here in the crowd is someone you do not recognize. <sup>27</sup>Though his ministry follows mine, I’m not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandal.”

<sup>28</sup>This encounter took place in Bethany, an area east of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

### Jesus, the Lamb of God

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>He is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘A man is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I did not recognize him as the Messiah, but I have been baptizing with water so that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup>Then John testified, “I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. <sup>33</sup>I didn’t know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.”\*

### The First Disciples

<sup>35</sup>The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, “Look! There is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup>When John’s two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup>Jesus looked around and saw them following. “What do you want?” he asked them.

They replied, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup>“Come and see,” he said. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

<sup>40</sup>Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup>Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”\*).

<sup>42</sup>Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”\*)).

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to

You were made to shine from the inside out. You were made to walk with the pure and perfect purpose of knowing who you are and whose you are. Nothing can stand in the way of the one who holds your future in the palm of his hand. Because you are loved. Wildly loved. And you wear his love so well.

Read more about this topic on page 1507.

1:21 Greek *Are you the Prophet?* See Deut 18:15, 18; Mal 4:5-6. 1:23 Isa 40:3. 1:26 Or *in*; also in 1:31, 33. 1:34 Some manuscripts read *the Son of God*. 1:41 *Messiah* (a Hebrew term) and *Christ* (a Greek term) both mean “anointed one.” 1:42 The names *Cephas* (from Aramaic) and *Peter* (from Greek) both mean “rock.”



# You are special

## YOU'VE BEEN RENAMED

*Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").*

JOHN 1:42

Jesus didn't just give Simon a new name, he gave him a new identity. "Cephas" ("Peter") means "rock." I wonder if Peter ever thought of himself as a rock. Over the next few chapters in Scripture, he shows himself to be volatile, unsteady, impulsive. But Jesus calls out something in Peter, and Peter grows into it, becomes it. Jesus does the same in us.

How would you define yourself today: parent, spouse, friend, sibling, coworker, introvert, extrovert, Southerner, Northerner, Australian? Or maybe the words are not so kind: failure, addict, broken, insecure, unworthy. Whatever the description might be, Jesus has more to add: beloved, chosen, accepted, forgiven, free, more than a conqueror.

Like Peter, it's okay if we can't feel, see, or even fully understand what God says is true of us yet. What matters is that we don't trust our human identity to be our ultimate destiny. So when the world around us tries to tell us who we are, let's pause and listen for the only voice that gets the final say.

HOLLEY GERTH, *Cheering You On*

*God, you know us even better than we know ourselves. You see our potential when we see our problems. You see our strengths when we only see our struggles. You see beyond our humanity to who you've made us for eternity. Align our perspective with yours today. Amen.*



him, “Come, follow me.”<sup>44</sup> Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown.

<sup>45</sup>Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses\* and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

<sup>46</sup>“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

“Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied.

<sup>47</sup>As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.”

<sup>48</sup>“How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.”

<sup>49</sup>Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.”<sup>51</sup> Then he said, “I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth.\*”

### *The Wedding at Cana*

**2** The next day\* there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.<sup>3</sup> The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.”

<sup>4</sup>“Dear woman, that’s not our problem,” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

<sup>5</sup>But his mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

<sup>6</sup>Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.\*<sup>7</sup> Jesus told the servants, “Fill the jars with water.” When the jars had been filled,<sup>8</sup> he said, “Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies.” So the servants followed his instructions.

<sup>9</sup>When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over.<sup>10</sup> “A host always serves the best wine first,” he said. “Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!”

<sup>11</sup>This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

<sup>12</sup>After the wedding he went to Capernaum for a few days with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples.

### *Jesus Clears the Temple*

<sup>13</sup>It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.<sup>14</sup> In the Temple area he saw merchants selling cattle, sheep, and doves for sacrifices; he also saw dealers at tables exchanging foreign money.

<sup>15</sup>Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple.

<sup>1:45</sup> Greek *Moses in the law*. <sup>1:51</sup> Greek *going up and down on the Son of Man*; see Gen 28:10-17. “Son of Man” is a title Jesus used for himself. <sup>2:1</sup> Greek *On the third day*; see 1:35, 43. <sup>2:6</sup> Greek *2 or 3 measures* [75 to 113 liters].

# You are forgiven

JOHN 3:16-17

When things are unknown,  
there is a light that points us  
to a safe harbor.

When things are uncertain,  
there is an anchor  
that holds us secure.

None of us can be certain  
of what tomorrow will bring,  
but we can be certain of the things  
that matter most . . .

God showed his great love  
by giving his only Son to die for us.  
Jesus Christ shed his blood  
upon the cross so that our sins  
could be forgiven.

Eternal life is found in the person  
of Jesus Christ. That life  
becomes ours when we receive him  
into our hearts by faith.

And we have the hope of heaven.  
Not because we have been sincere  
or good people, but because  
we have put our faith  
in Jesus Christ  
as our Savior and Lord.

Read more about this topic on page 1473.

He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables.<sup>16</sup> Then, going over to the people who sold doves, he told them, **"Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"**

<sup>17</sup> Then his disciples remembered this prophecy from the Scriptures: "Passion for God's house will consume me."<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>18</sup> But the Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

<sup>19</sup> **"All right,"** Jesus replied. **"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."**

<sup>20</sup> "What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?"<sup>21</sup> But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said.

## Jesus and Nicodemus

<sup>23</sup> Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. <sup>25</sup> No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

**3** There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. <sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, **"I tell you the truth, unless you are born again,\* you cannot see the Kingdom of God."**

<sup>4</sup> "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus replied, **"I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.\*<sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.\*<sup>7</sup> So don't be surprised when I say, 'You\* must be born again.'<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."**

<sup>9</sup> "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, **"You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things?<sup>11</sup> I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony.<sup>12</sup> But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man\* has come down from heaven.<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.\*"**

<sup>16</sup> **"For this is how God loved the world: He gave\* his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."**

2:17 Or "Concern for God's house will be my undoing." Ps 69:9. 3:3 Or born from above; also in 3:7. 3:5 Or and spirit. The Greek word for Spirit can also be translated wind; see 3:8. 3:6 Greek what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 3:7 The Greek word for you is plural; also in 3:12. 3:13 Some manuscripts add who lives in heaven. "Son of Man" is a title Jesus used for himself. 3:15 Or everyone who believes will have eternal life in him. 3:16 Or For God loved the world so much that he gave.



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# You are loved

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I LOVE YOU, IF . . .

*For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16

We all received different messages from our “family of origin” growing up. We are all products of how we were raised . . . both good and bad. Some may have received messages associated with love that were conditional—messages like, *I’ll love you if you do what I ask of you*; and then if you didn’t do what they asked, love was withheld. One soon learns in that environment: *If I please and achieve, I am loved; if I don’t, I am not*. The message of that kind of love is conditional. The message of unconditional love simply says, *I love you, period!* No conditions—I love you for who you are and will provide a safe environment for you to thrive and grow at your pace with established boundaries at each natural stage of maturity. Unconditional love gives without expecting anything back.

Christ was, is, and will always be the quintessential example of what unconditional love looks like. He never once said to anyone, “Hey, you, go get cleaned up. Fix that problem of yours first, and then come follow me.” To the tax collector that everyone despised, he said, let’s have dinner (Luke 5:27-32). To the Samaritan woman going to a well to draw water at an inconspicuous time of day so that no one would see her, he not only spoke to her but also told her things about herself that only she would have known, opening the door for Jesus to share about the true living water which would allow her to never thirst again (John 4:7-26). Jesus exudes love because he is love! Jesus is our go-to model when we are struggling to show another person unconditional love too—because while we were sinners, he died for us (Romans 5:8).

SUSAN GOSS, *We’re Still in This*

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*Lord, help me to fully grasp the depth of your unconditional love,  
and help me to share this amazing love with others.*

# You are important

JOHN 3:16

His love is unquestionable—  
its power unconquerable,  
its impact unmistakable,  
its sacrifice incomparable,  
its price unimaginable,  
its depth immeasurable,  
its absence unthinkable!

*God, your love is more life-changing than any of us realizes, and so we probably completely underestimate our impact on the world around us. Show me yourself at work in a way I haven't noticed. Make me in awe of you and your love, so that I can better impact your Kingdom for all eternity.*

Read more about this topic on page 1558.

<sup>17</sup>God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

<sup>18</sup>“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup>And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. <sup>20</sup>All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.\*”

### *John the Baptist Exalts Jesus*

<sup>22</sup>Then Jesus and his disciples left Jerusalem and went into the Judean countryside. Jesus spent some time with them there, baptizing people.

<sup>23</sup>At this time John the Baptist was baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was plenty of water there; and people kept coming to him for baptism. <sup>24</sup>(This was before John was thrown into prison.) <sup>25</sup>A debate broke out between John’s disciples and a certain Jew\* over ceremonial cleansing. <sup>26</sup>So John’s disciples came to him and said, “Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.”

<sup>27</sup>John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. <sup>28</sup>You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’ <sup>29</sup>It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the bridegroom’s friend is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success. <sup>30</sup>He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

<sup>31</sup>“He has come from above and is greater than anyone else. We are of the earth, and we speak of earthly things, but he has come from heaven and is greater than anyone else.\* <sup>32</sup>He testifies about what he has seen and heard, but how few believe what he tells them! <sup>33</sup>Anyone who accepts his testimony can affirm that God is true. <sup>34</sup>For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup>The Father loves his Son and has put everything into his hands. <sup>36</sup>And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

### *Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*

**4** Jesus\* knew the Pharisees had heard that he was baptizing and making more disciples than John <sup>2</sup>(though Jesus himself didn’t baptize them—his disciples did). <sup>3</sup>So he left Judea and returned to Galilee.

<sup>4</sup>He had to go through Samaria on the way. <sup>5</sup>Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. <sup>7</sup>Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup>He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.

<sup>9</sup>The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with

3:21 Or can see God at work in what he is doing. 3:25 Some manuscripts read some Jews. 3:31 Some manuscripts do not include and is greater than anyone else. 4:1 Some manuscripts read The Lord.



Samaritans.\* She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

<sup>11</sup>“But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? <sup>12</sup>And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”

<sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. <sup>14</sup>But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

<sup>15</sup>“Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

<sup>16</sup>“Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

<sup>17</sup>“I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband—<sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

<sup>19</sup>“Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. <sup>20</sup>So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim,\* where our ancestors worshiped?”

<sup>21</sup>Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. <sup>24</sup>For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup>The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup>Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!”\*

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked to find him talking to a woman, but none of them had the nerve to ask, “What do you want with her?” or “Why are you talking to her?” <sup>28</sup>The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” <sup>30</sup>So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.”

<sup>32</sup>But Jesus replied, “I have a kind of food you know nothing about.”

<sup>33</sup>“Did someone bring him food while we were gone?” the disciples asked each other.

<sup>34</sup>Then Jesus explained: “My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. <sup>35</sup>You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe\* for harvest. <sup>36</sup>The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! <sup>37</sup>You know the saying,

4:9 Some manuscripts do not include this sentence. 4:20 Greek *on this mountain*. 4:26 Or “The ‘I AM’ is here”; or “I am the LORD”; Greek reads “I am, the one speaking to you.” See Exod 3:14. 4:35 Greek *white*.



‘One plants and another harvest.’ And it’s true. <sup>38</sup>I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.”

### *Many Samaritans Believe*

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, “He told me everything I ever did!” <sup>40</sup>When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, <sup>41</sup>long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. <sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world.”

### *Jesus Heals an Official’s Son*

<sup>43</sup>At the end of the two days, Jesus went on to Galilee. <sup>44</sup>He himself had said that a prophet is not honored in his own hometown. <sup>45</sup>Yet the Galileans welcomed him, for they had been in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration and had seen everything he did there.

<sup>46</sup>As he traveled through Galilee, he came to Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. There was a government official in nearby Capernaum whose son was very sick. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged Jesus to come to Capernaum to heal his son, who was about to die.

<sup>48</sup>Jesus asked, “Will you never believe in me unless you see miraculous signs and wonders?”

<sup>49</sup>The official pleaded, “Lord, please come now before my little boy dies.”

<sup>50</sup>Then Jesus told him, “Go back home. Your son will live!” And the man believed what Jesus said and started home.

<sup>51</sup>While the man was on his way, some of his servants met him with the news that his son was alive and well. <sup>52</sup>He asked them when the boy had begun to get better, and they replied, “Yesterday afternoon at one o’clock his fever suddenly disappeared!” <sup>53</sup>Then the father realized that that was the very time Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. <sup>54</sup>This was the second miraculous sign Jesus did in Galilee after coming from Judea.

### *Jesus Heals a Lame Man*

**5** Afterward Jesus returned to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish holy days. <sup>2</sup>Inside the city, near the Sheep Gate, was the pool of Bethesda,\* with five covered porches. <sup>3</sup>Crowds of sick people—blind, lame, or paralyzed—lay on the porches.\* <sup>5</sup>One of the men lying there had been sick for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him and knew he had been ill for a long time, he asked him, “Would you like to get well?”

<sup>7</sup>“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

<sup>8</sup>Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”

<sup>9</sup>Instantly, the man was healed! He rolled up his sleeping mat and began

5:2 Other manuscripts read *Beth-zatha*; still others read *Bethsaida*. 5:3 Some manuscripts add an expanded conclusion to verse 3 and all of verse 4: *waiting for a certain movement of the water, for an angel of the Lord came from time to time and stirred up the water. And the first person to step in after the water was stirred was healed of whatever disease he had.*

walking! But this miracle happened on the Sabbath,<sup>10</sup> so the Jewish leaders objected. They said to the man who was cured, “You can’t work on the Sabbath! The law doesn’t allow you to carry that sleeping mat!”

<sup>11</sup>But he replied, “The man who healed me told me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

<sup>12</sup>“Who said such a thing as that?” they demanded.

<sup>13</sup>The man didn’t know, for Jesus had disappeared into the crowd. <sup>14</sup>But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” <sup>15</sup>Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

*Jesus Claims to Be the Son of God*

<sup>16</sup>So the Jewish leaders began harassing\* Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. <sup>17</sup>But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” <sup>18</sup>So the Jewish leaders tried all the harder to find a way to kill him. For he not only broke the Sabbath, he called God his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

<sup>19</sup>So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. <sup>20</sup>For the Father loves the Son and shows him everything he is doing. In fact, the Father will show him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. <sup>21</sup>For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants. <sup>22</sup>In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, <sup>23</sup>so that everyone will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.

<sup>24</sup>“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

<sup>25</sup>“And I assure you that the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. <sup>26</sup>The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son. <sup>27</sup>And he has given him authority to judge everyone because he is the Son of Man.\* <sup>28</sup>Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, <sup>29</sup>and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. <sup>30</sup>I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.

*Witnesses to Jesus*

<sup>31</sup>“If I were to testify on my own behalf, my testimony would not be valid.

<sup>32</sup>But someone else is also testifying about me, and I assure you that everything he says about me is true. <sup>33</sup>In fact, you sent investigators to listen to John the Baptist, and his testimony about me was true. <sup>34</sup>Of course, I have no need of human witnesses, but I say these things so you might be saved.

<sup>35</sup>John was like a burning and shining lamp, and you were excited for a while

5:16 Or *persecuting*. 5:27 “Son of Man” is a title Jesus used for himself.

about his message. <sup>36</sup>But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you.

<sup>39</sup>“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

<sup>41</sup>“Your approval means nothing to me, <sup>42</sup>because I know you don’t have God’s love within you. <sup>43</sup>For I have come to you in my Father’s name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. <sup>44</sup>No wonder you can’t believe! For you gladly honor each other, but you don’t care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.\*

<sup>45</sup>“Yet it isn’t I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. <sup>46</sup>If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup>But since you don’t believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

#### *Jesus Feeds Five Thousand*

**6** After this, Jesus crossed over to the far side of the Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A huge crowd kept following him wherever he went, because they saw his miraculous signs as he healed the sick. <sup>3</sup>Then Jesus climbed a hill and sat down with his disciples around him. <sup>4</sup>(It was nearly time for the Jewish Passover celebration.) <sup>5</sup>Jesus soon saw a huge crowd of people coming to look for him. Turning to Philip, he asked, “**Where can we buy bread to feed all these people?**” <sup>6</sup>He was testing Philip, for he already knew what he was going to do.

<sup>7</sup>Philip replied, “Even if we worked for months, we wouldn’t have enough money\* to feed them!”

<sup>8</sup>Then Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up. <sup>9</sup>“There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?”

<sup>10</sup>“**Tell everyone to sit down,**” Jesus said. So they all sat down on the grassy slopes. (The men alone numbered about 5,000.) <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward he did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>After everyone was full, Jesus told his disciples, “**Now gather the leftovers, so that nothing is wasted.**” <sup>13</sup>So they picked up the pieces and filled twelve baskets with scraps left by the people who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

<sup>14</sup>When the people saw him\* do this miraculous sign, they exclaimed, “Surely, he is the Prophet we have been expecting!”\* <sup>15</sup>When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself.

#### *Jesus Walks on Water*

<sup>16</sup>That evening Jesus’ disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. <sup>17</sup>But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn’t come back, they got into the boat and

5:44 Some manuscripts read *from the only One*. 6:7 Greek *Two hundred denarii would not be enough*. A denarius was equivalent to a laborer’s full day’s wage. 6:14a Some manuscripts read *Jesus*. 6:14b See Deut 18:15, 18; Mal 4:5-6.

## TYNDALE VERSE FINDER

### ADOPTION, SPIRITUAL

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God's children should obey him  
DEUTERONOMY 26:18 • *pg 262*

God disciplines his children  
2 SAMUEL 7:14 • *pg 399*

Do not despise God's discipline  
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God is our Father  
MATTHEW 6:9 • *pg 1334*

Christians are God's children  
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God's Spirit leads his children  
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Christians should be separate  
from the world  
2 CORINTHIANS 6:17-18 • *pg 1599*

All of God's children are equal  
in God's eyes  
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God's children will receive a  
spiritual inheritance  
GALATIANS 4:4-7 • *pg 1611*

God chose us to be his children  
EPHESIANS 1:4-5 • *pg 1616*

Jesus is our spiritual brother  
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### ADVICE

Leaders should consider the advice  
of others  
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Older people often give wise  
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Advice helps provide success  
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Give advice to those in need  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:14 • *pg 1640*

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