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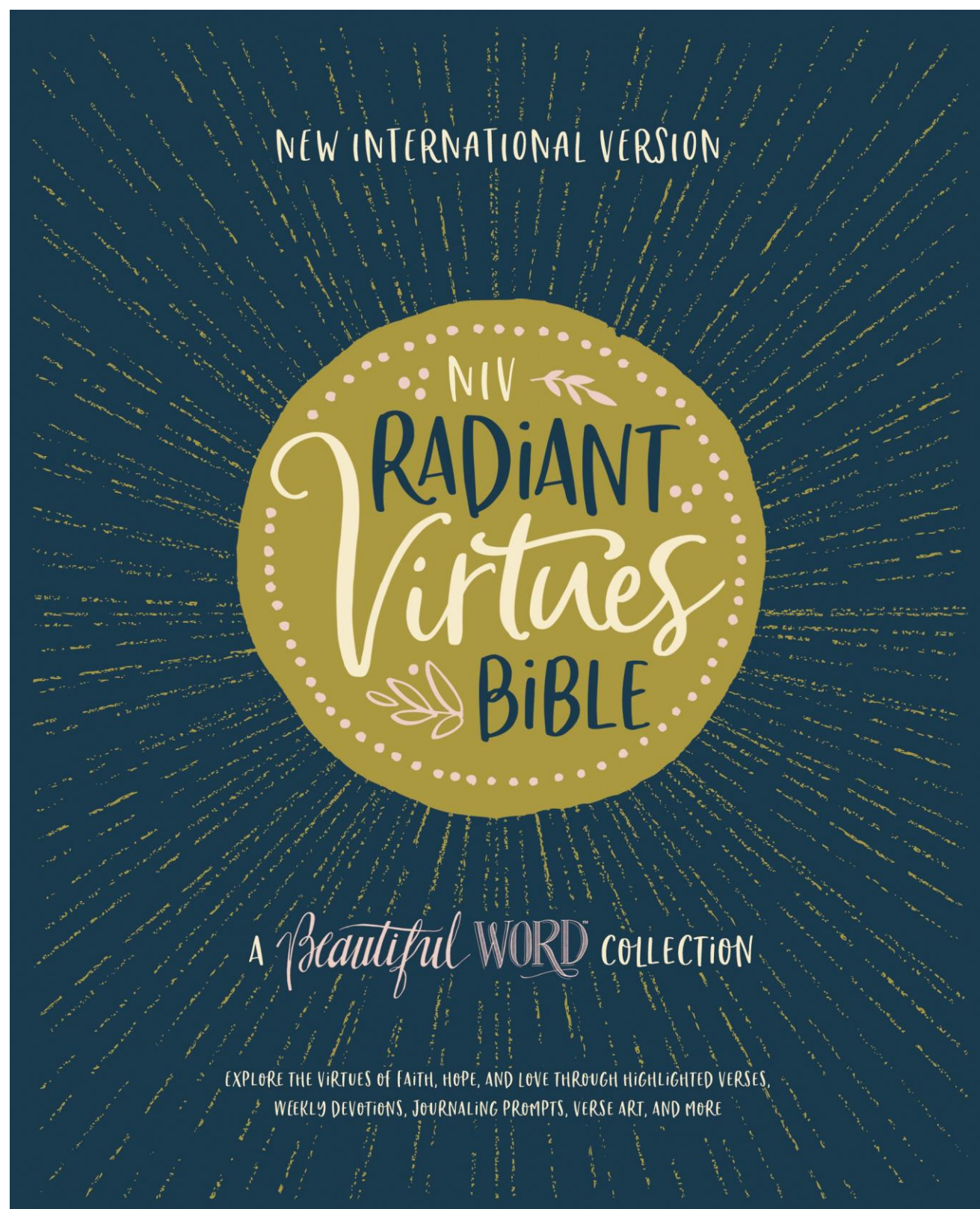
Virtues

BIBLE

A Beautiful **WORD** COLLECTION

A 6-Day Plan on Faith, Hope & Love

NIV Radiant Virtues Bible



Focusing on the virtues of faith, hope, and love, each day of this 6-day reading plan features a Scripture reading, a related devotional reading, a prayer, a journaling prompt, and a verse art coloring page.

All content is taken from the *NIV Radiant Virtues Bible: A Beautiful Word Collection*.

Day One: Humble Faith

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the Lord heard this.

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, he said, “Listen to my words:

“When there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.

**But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.**

With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them.

When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous — it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh half eaten away.”

So Moses cried out to the Lord, “Please, God, heal her!”

The Lord replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back.” So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.

- **Numbers 12:1 - 16**

Text in bold pertains to the theme of faith.

Day One: Humble Faith

In this passage, we see consequences that come when people don't react in faith. Instead of trusting God's work through Moses, Miriam and Aaron grumbled against him. The result of their faithless grumbles? God chastised them and elevated Moses. This humble prophet spoke to God face to face, like friends talk. Because Miriam did not recognize Moses' authority and humble faith, God struck her with leprosy, but then healed her.

What can we learn about humble faith from this passage?

God loves the humble.

He speaks to the humble.

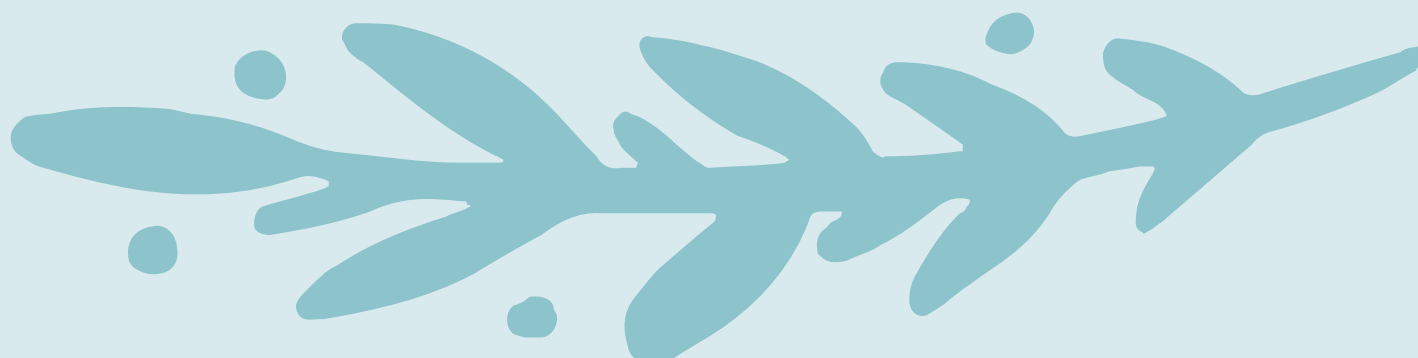
He reveals himself to the humble.

He makes his home with the humble.

He defends the humble.

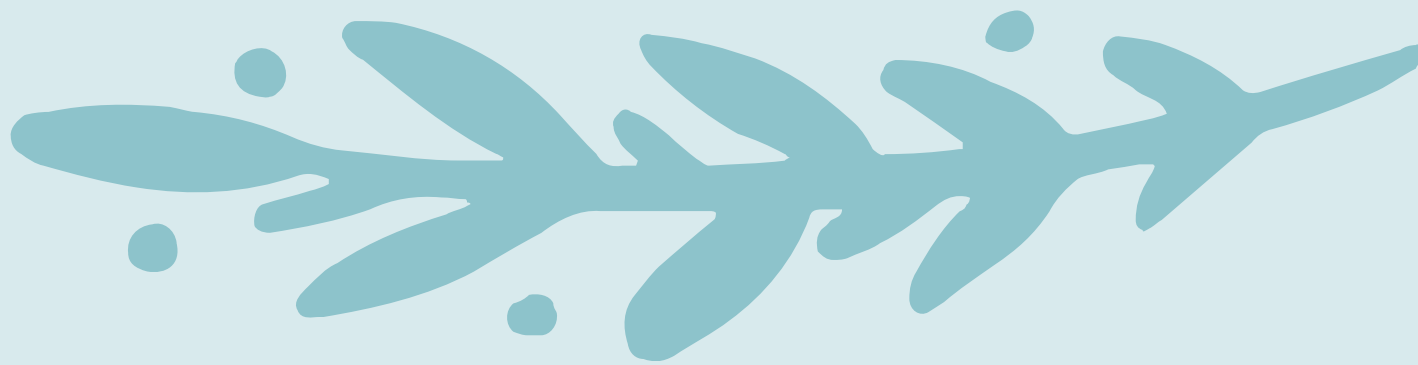
He vindicates the humble.

To be humble is to recognize that we are not the object of faith, but God is. Humility is taking steps of faith, knowing that God's greatness can work with our weakness. It's realizing that God deserves the glory for all he has done; it's living in worship and faithfulness to him.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, I want to have humble faith like Moses. Rescue me from grumbling, and help me to long for times with you, particularly when I'm worried or stressed about what I face. You are God; I am not. Humbly, I put my faith in you. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

Who is the humblest person you've ever known? List a couple traits you have seen in that person. In what ways are you working to become humbler in your life?

Moses was a
very humble man,
more humble than
anyone else on
the face of
the earth.

Numbers 12:3

Day Two: Love God First

When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, the Lord appeared to him at night and said:

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

“As for you, if you walk before me faithfully as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor to rule over Israel.’

“But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. This temple will become a heap of rubble. All who pass by will be appalled and say, ‘Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them — that is why he brought all this disaster on them.’”

- **2 Chronicles 7:11 - 22**

Day Two: Love God First

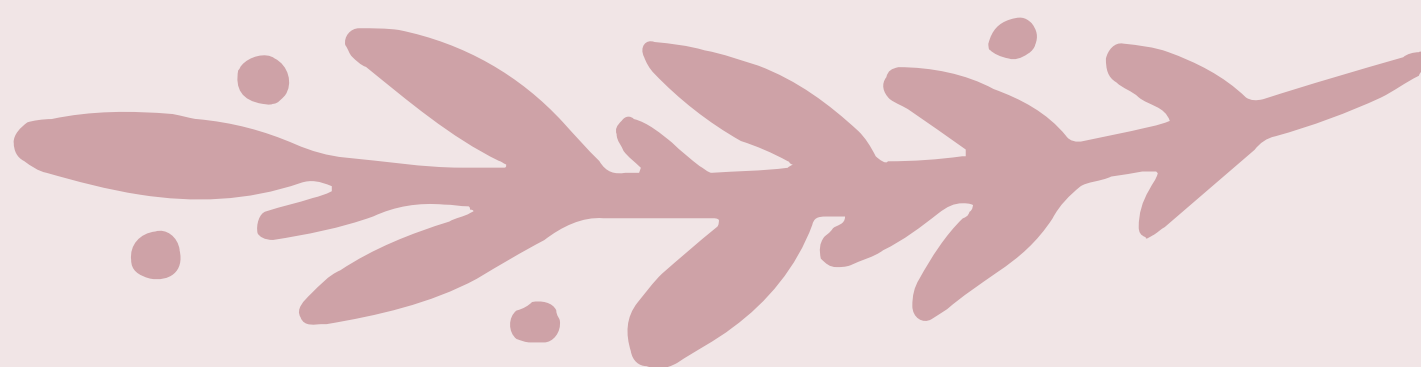
Solomon finished the task of his life, completing the temple of the Lord, and now he had the privilege of once again hearing directly from God himself! What love God sent Solomon's way, in the form of relationship.

God's words to Solomon are ones we can digest as well. Like the Israelites, when life is difficult (or good), we can pray to the God who loves us.

Our kindhearted God promises to hear us and forgive our sins. He will be attentive to the prayers offered up in the temple, and now because of Jesus Christ, we are the temple of God. He reminds Solomon that his eyes and his "heart will always be there." That same promise is for us. He will always see us and be attentive toward our needs. He will always be with us.

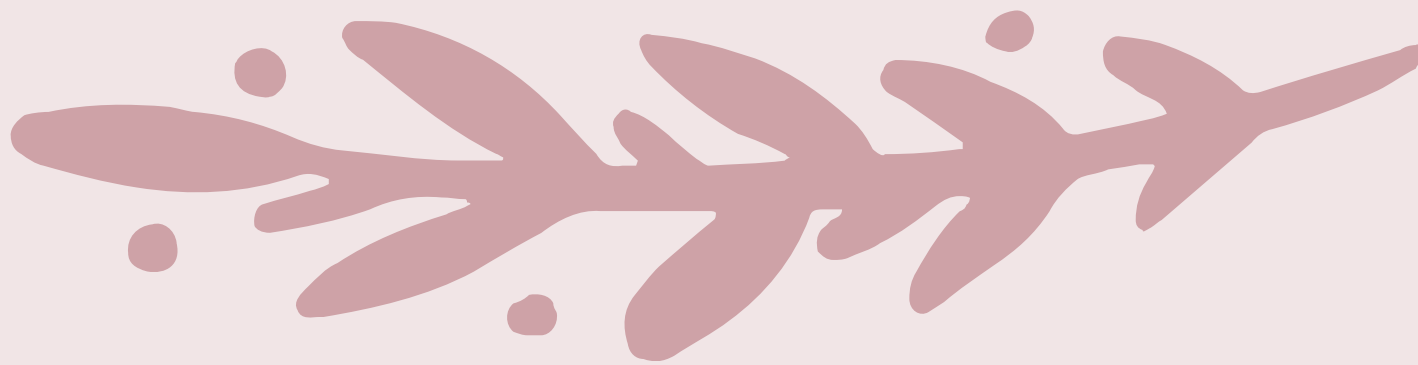
God's words to Solomon also come with a warning we should be careful to heed. Consequences follow when we fail to love him as we should. We lose the intimacy of a close relationship our heart often craves.

The good news is that God's steadfast love always awaits us as we come back to him. He loves to restore our relationship, clean and new.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, thank you for reminding me of your love for me each day. Thank you that you see me, and you will be with me. I choose to love you first, above all distractions in life. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

In your own words, what does it mean to be the temple of God? When did you first realize that you carry in you the very presence of God? How does this truth bring comfort?

IF MY PEOPLE, WHO ARE CALLED BY MY

NAME,

WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND

SEEK MY

FACE AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS,

THEN I

WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND I WILL

FORGIVE

THEIR SIN AND WILL HEAL THEIR

LAND.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Day Three: Hope Through Honest Prayer

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
May he send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.
May he remember all your sacrifices
and accept your burnt offerings.
May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.
May we shout for joy over your victory
and lift up our banners in the name of our God.
May the Lord grant all your requests.

Now this I know:

**The Lord gives victory to his anointed.
He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary
with the victorious power of his right hand.
Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**
They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.
Lord, give victory to the king!
Answer us when we call!

- Psalm 20:1-9

Text in bold pertains to the theme of hope.

Day Three: Hope Through Honest Prayer

Here we see David fashioning a blessing upon all those who pray—that we would be rescued from distress, find help when we need it, experience God’s strong support, find our heart’s desire, and see our plans succeed.

God loves to answer our prayers, even when our words are raw and unfiltered. Instead of trusting our wits and strength to rescue us, we turn in hope to him for help.

It is okay to have distress. God welcomes our honest worries. It is not a sign of weakness to acknowledge our fears. Instead it reveals where our hope is placed—firmly on the shoulders of the One who shoulders our worries and fears.

God already knows your needs. Nothing you say will surprise him. Hiding your problems or pain only hurts you. Besides, he delights in hearing you and answering your requests. He loves to give you victory in your current conundrum. Because of his name (his character), he will support those who hope in him.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, I come to you today, giving you everything that bothers and worries me—even the parts I'd rather keep hidden. Here are my fears, my hurts, and my desires. Please restore my hope. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

Write a prayer to God listing everything you are worried about. Then thank him for hearing your honest words, and place your hope and trust in God to see you through all things.

MAY THE LORD
ANSWER YOU WHEN
YOU ARE IN DISTRESS

MAY THE NAME
of the GOD OF JACOB
PROTECT
YOU.

PSALM 20:1

Day Four: Faith in God's Ways

Seek the Lord while he may be found;

call on him while he is near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

As the rain and the snow

come down from heaven,

and do not return to it

without watering the earth

and making it bud and flourish,

so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

so is my word that goes out from my mouth:

It will not return to me empty,

but will accomplish what I desire

and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy

and be led forth in peace;

the mountains and hills

will burst into song before you,

and all the trees of the field

will clap their hands.

Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,

and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord's renown,

for an everlasting sign,

that will endure forever.”

- **Isaiah 55:6-13**

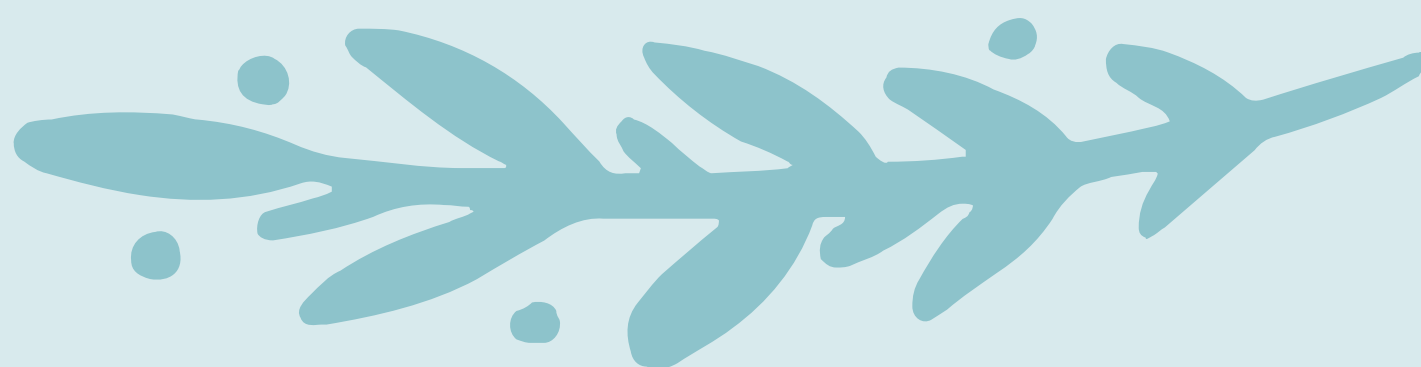
Text in bold pertains to the theme of faith.

Day Four: Faith in God's Ways

How God does things is often not how we would do things. Isaiah reminds us that his ways are higher, his thoughts are utterly different than our own. In short, he is God, and we are not.

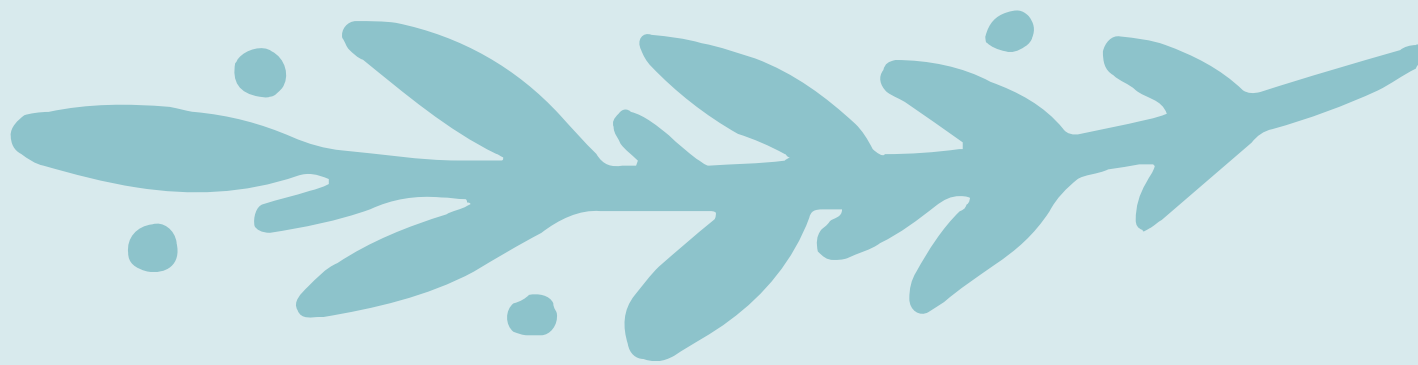
Isaiah ends today's passage with joy. As we trust in God and his ways, joy returns. We don't have to figure everything out. We don't have to rely on our own frail understanding. Our sovereign, powerful God has a good plan, and that plan involves his presence going before us. Sometimes we cannot see how a painful situation will ever work out. Where we see thorn bushes, God sees junipers. Where we see briars, God sees the myrtle. He makes beauty from ashes, life from death, hope from hopelessness. Because his ways are higher, and we can't understand everything that is happening, we can trust that he will do good things in and through us.

It's one thing to have faith in our own ways, but it is quite another to truly have faith in the ways of God. He is the master of miracles. May today be a day that you have complete faith in God's ways.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, my ways are understandable and explainable, but your ways? They are higher than my highest thought. Help me to have faith in your ways, relying on you and what you can do. I choose to follow you, come what may. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

What struggle in your life right now would you like to see God turn around? Write a prayer, asking God to intervene.

★ ★ FOR MY thoughts ★ ★
★ ★ are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways ★ ★
★ ★ my ways! ★ ★ AS the ★ ★
heavens are higher than
the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways ★ ★
and my thoughts than
your thoughts. ★ ★

★ ★ ISAIAH
55:8-9 ★ ★

Day Five: Love That Crosses the Road

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. **He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.** The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

- **Luke 10:25-37**

Text in bold pertains to the theme of love.

Day Five: Love That Crosses the Road

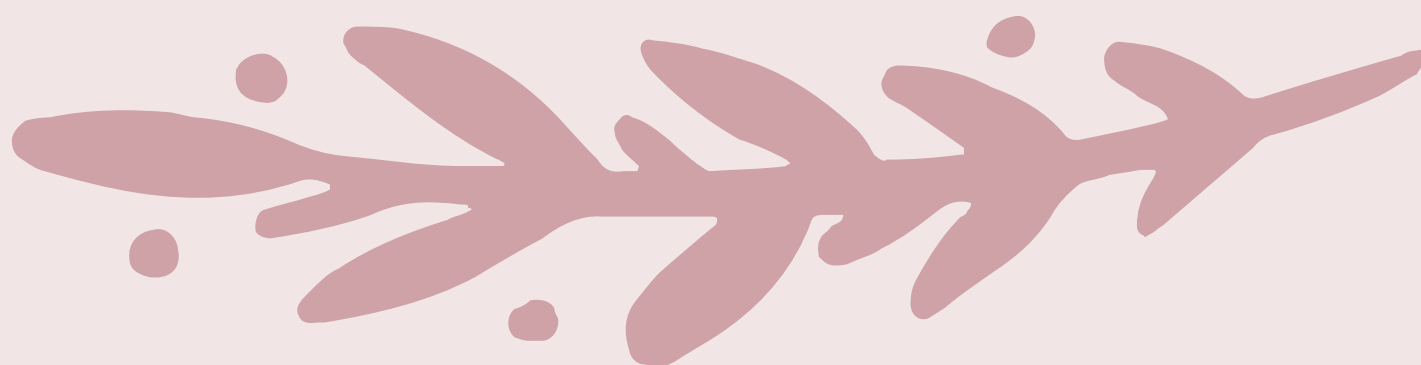
An expert in the Jewish law wanted to justify his lack of love toward certain people, so he asked Jesus to clarify who his neighbor was. Jesus responded with a story about a man who had been robbed and beaten and a Samaritan who happened upon him.

A priest and a Levite, both of whom knew Scripture and that God wants us to help one another, avoided the beaten man by passing on the other side of the road. They exhibited no compassion and didn't care enough to be inconvenienced.

Jesus uses contrasted exaggeration in this story to highlight the kind of love that crosses the road. The person who helped the stranger was a hated Samaritan. And yet he was the one who loved.

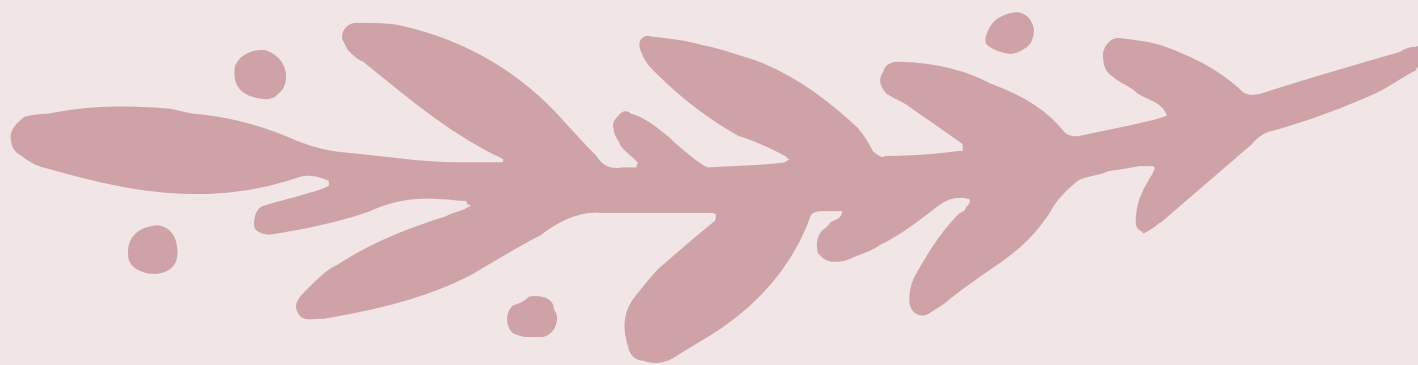
The expert in the law asked Jesus who his neighbor was so he could love certain people and dismiss others, but Jesus didn't answer the question in a way that would give him that option. Instead he asked a question back, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" (verse 36).

Jesus will enable you to be the kind of neighbor who crosses the road to help those in need.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to become a good neighbor who cares for anyone who comes into my life and has a need. I don't want to discriminate when it comes to giving love. Instead, when I encounter someone in need, I want to demonstrate love like the Samaritan did. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

When you read this story, what struck you that you hadn't noticed before? Place yourself in the story. How would it feel to be the Levite? The robbed man? The Samaritan? What do you learn by placing yourself in their sandals?



LOVE THE LORD
YOUR GOD

WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND,
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF. LUKE 10:27

Day Six: Blessed Hope

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **while we wait for the blessed hope — the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

- **Titus 2:11-15**

Text in bold pertains to the theme of hope.

Day Six: Blessed Hope

Titus reminds us that God's grace extends to every single human being. Salvation is freely offered—like a gift. And when we receive this gift, this same grace at work in our lives teaches us to live in a manner that pleases the Lord. With the power of the Spirit within us, we can walk away from sin, choose self-control over out-of-control behavior, and wait for what Titus terms “the blessed hope” (verse 13).

He describes the object of our hope as the return of Jesus. When life grows difficult, we can put our hope in his return. In that holy moment, he will usher in the end, a time when justice prevails over injustice, where wrongs are exposed, and when we are finally, completely set free from our sinful behaviors. All our grief will be washed away. All pain will be eradicated. On streets of gold, we will experience the presence of God like never before. Joy will be our language.

Yes, you may walk through trials here and now. This world is still a broken place with broken people, and hurting people sometimes hurt other people. But there will be a day when all is made right. That is a solid, foundational hope with the power to help you persevere today.



A Prayer for Today

Lord, when things are difficult, I choose to hope in you and your return. I rejoice that one day everything will be made right. I will be made well. And the joy that follows will far outweigh the pain I'm enduring today. Amen.



A Journaling Prompt

Describe a time in your life when it was hard to find hope. How did God carry you through? What did you learn about hope in the aftermath?

WE WAIT

FOR THE

BLESSED

HOPE—THE APPEARING
OF THE GLORY OF OUR

GREAT

GOD AND
SAVIOR,

JESUS
CHRIST.

TITUS 2:13