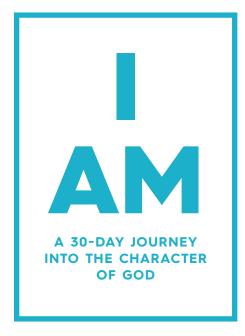
#### A 30-DAY JOURNEY INTO THE CHARACTER OF GOD

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# WHAT'S THIS?

This devotional book is designed to help you dig into Scripture, apply it to your life, and discover the flawless, unchanging, majestic character of God. You'll study many different aspects of God's character, learning what God has revealed about Himself and His own character, how it affects you, and how those truths have an impact on your daily life, relationships, and attitudes. As you read, take time to interact with Scripture and respond to it. In each devotion you'll find journal prompts, thoughtful questions, biblical or historical context of the passage, and straight-forward actions to apply what you've learned.

This devotional book is formatted to help you dive into God's Word for thirty days. We encourage you to take this book with you wherever you go—it will fit in your back pocket or inside your backpack. While the daily reading only takes a few minutes, you can ponder the questions long after you close the book. Highlight, draw, or make notes all through this book as you discover more about the character of God and His calling on your life.

We believe you were created to glorify God with your everyday life. Our hope is that diving into His Word will become an integral part of your daily routine. The Lord will use your time with Him to shape your character and guide your decisions.

### DAY 01: A POWERFUL CREATOR

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. **GENESIS 1:1-2** 

#### PAUSE

Turn off your phone, the TV, or anything distracting. Take a deep breath and spend some time in silence before God, asking Him to prepare your heart for what He wants to teach you.

Read Genesis 1:1-5. Think through these questions:

What do these verses teach you about God's power? His supremacy? His authority?

When you think about the whole of creation and all that God has done, how do you respond?

Why is it important to recognize God as Creator?

The first sentence of the Bible isn't arbitrary. It establishes key truths on which the whole of Scripture rests. These truths include:

- God exists. Verse 1 tells us that before there was a universe, God existed.
- God is the main character of the Bible. Scripture is His story, and every part of it teaches us about Him and His relationship with us.
- God is the Creator. He is not dependent on the universe, but all of creation is dependent upon Him.

#### THE POINT

God is your Creator and the Creator of everything that exists. He is powerful, active, and life-giving. This aspect of His character invites our awe and calls us to worship.

#### RESPOND

Consider all God has created: beautiful landscapes, the intricacies of the human body, the enormity of the universe. See all of God's creation as the work of a powerful, awesome, life-giving Artist. As you spend time in His creation, praise Him. Journal your response.



# DAY 02: A GRACIOUS GOD

<sup>5</sup> The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, "the LORD." <sup>6</sup> The LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed: The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, <sup>7</sup> maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.. EXODUS 34:5-7a

#### PAUSE

Focus your mind on God by listening to "Your Grace Is Enough" by Matt Maher, or listen to one of your favorite worship songs.

Read Psalm 145:8-9,13. David could proclaim that God was gracious and compassionate because God had already said it about Himself. Read Exodus 34:5-7a, highlighting in your Bible what God proclaimed about Himself:

Compassionate: God genuinely cares about His people and wants to extend mercy.

Gracious: God will show His people favor they don't deserve.

Slow to anger: God will be patient with His peoples' failures.

Forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin: God eagerly forgives sin, something He alone can do.

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Exodus 34 records what happened after Moses received the Ten Commandments, then found the people worshiping the golden calf. God was angry, but responded out of His character: compassionate, gracious, merciful. This was welcome news to people who had so recently failed Him.

#### THE POINT

God is gracious. He continually shows us mercy and favor we do not deserve.

#### RESPOND

Moses met with God and God proclaimed truths about His character. As you pray over today's passage, ask God to reveal aspects of His character and the depths of His graciousness to you. Record anything He reveals through His Spirit and His Word.

For further study, consider how God's mercy and grace toward us is always balanced with His justice. Read John 3:36 and compare it to Exodus 34:5-7.



# DAY 03: A WISE GOD

<sup>20</sup> ... May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him. <sup>21</sup> He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. <sup>22</sup> He reveals the deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. DANIEL 2:20-22

#### PAUSE

Rid yourself of all distractions. Quiet your mind and ask the Lord to open your heart to His Holy Word and what He wants to teach you today.

Read through Daniel 2:20-22, underlining any words or phrases that teach you about God's character. Think through these questions:

How do you see God's wisdom on display in these verses?

Verse 21 says that God gives wisdom to the wise. Do you think wisdom is something humans can achieve or something only God can give? Explain.

In Scripture, the "name of God" stands for God's nature or revealed character. Therefore, when Daniel began praising "the name of God" in verse 20, he wasn't referring to a title or a label. He was praising God's very character, namely His wisdom and power.

#### THE POINT

God is wise. It isn't something He just does or something He's learned over time. It's simply who He is.

#### RESPOND

Record your own prayer of praise to God, celebrating His wisdom and power. Thank Him for all the ways you see His wisdom on display in your own life.

#### MEMORY VERSE

Fill in the blanks to begin learning Proverbs 9:10: The \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ is understanding.

### DAY 04: HE'S GOD... AND WE ARE NOT

<sup>2</sup> Seraphim were standing above him; they each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Armies; his glory fills the whole earth. <sup>4</sup> The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke. ISAIAH 6:2-4

#### PAUSE

Take a moment to unplug from the world around you. Silence your phone. Turn off the music. Close your door. And travel with the ancient prophet, Isaiah, in his vision of the throne room of God.

Read Isaiah 6:1-7 in your Bible.

A word repeated in Hebrew meant that it was important. What word is most important here?

How did God's holiness penetrate Isaiah's heart and soul? How did it change Him?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

In Exodus 33:20, God told Moses that no man could see God's face and live. Isaiah's response to his vision is one of concern because he knew humans were incapable of surviving the sight of God's majesty and power. In light of God's perfect holiness, Isaiah's unholiness stood in stark contrast.

#### THE POINT

No one can stand before God and brag about their accomplishments or their goodness. God's holiness strips us of all pride and forces us to bow before Him in reverent worship.

#### RESPOND

Reread Isaiah's experience with God in today's passage and ask yourself the following questions about your own worship. Jot down your responses or prayers.

Is my worship exalting myself or God? Explain.

Am I willing to let God's holiness penetrate my heart? Why or why not?

Am I worshiping in a spirit of repentance? Why or why not?

### DAY 05: THE UNCHANGING GOD

<sup>25</sup> Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. <sup>26</sup> They will perish, but you will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away. <sup>27</sup> But you are the same, and your years will never end. PSALM 102:25-27

#### PAUSE

Take a minute and think about how many times you've changed your mind already today. Now, thank God that He is not like you, constantly changing His mind and purpose. Ask Him to prepare your heart to meet with Him.

In your Bible, read Psalm 102:25-28. Then, consider verses 25-27. As you read, highlight the words or phrases that point to God's unchanging character.

What do these verses teach you about God's character? Why is it important that God never changes?

If God never changes, what does that mean for His purposes or work? Explain.

Written during the Babylonian captivity, Psalm 102 reflects a low point in the history of Israel. God's Word was not being proclaimed and the temple lay in ruins. The psalm begins in despair. Recognizing his frailty and the momentary nature of his life, the psalmist cried out to God and found hope in God's unchanging nature.

Why is understanding God's unchanging character important in today's world?

#### THE POINT

God is unchanging. He established the earth, and He remains on His throne. He is unwavering about carrying out His divine work and will always remain true to His purpose.

#### RESPOND

Unchanging. Permanent. Steadfast. Immutable. That is who God is. He does not change and isn't led away by whims. He remains committed to His work and His purpose. Let the enormity of that truth overwhelm you today. Journal your prayerful response below.

### DAY 06: ALWAYS RIGHT

The Rock—his work is perfect; all his ways are entirely just. A faithful God, without bias, he is righteous and true. DEUTERONOMY 32:4

#### PAUSE

Think about the things you've done this week when your motives weren't quite right, or the ways you tried to manipulate a situation to your advantage. Now, thank God that He isn't like that.

Read Deuteronomy 32:1-4.

"The Rock" points to God's stability, strength, and enduring nature. How have you seen God's stability and strength on display lately?

"entirely just" - God doesn't just do what is right some of the time, and He doesn't have an angle. There is no hint of injustice with Him. Why is it important that God always does what is right?

"without prejudice" - What is the relationship between partiality, favoritism, and injustice?

Moses' use of words and phrases like "fall like rain," "settle like dew," and "showers" is not just poetic. Instead, they point to the gentleness of Moses' teaching and his belief that God's Word would soften the hard soil of the peoples' hearts and produce obedience. He didn't call for a storm that would rage against the people, but a quiet shower and a soft dew that would gently bring the people in line with God.

#### How has God's Word done that in your life?

#### THE POINT

All of God's ways are just. Even when circumstances seem hard, unfair, or beyond your understanding, God's ways are always perfectly right.

#### RESPOND

Read the rest of Moses' song in Deuteronomy 32. It details the Israelites' history and how God had always been at work in their lives. If you were writing a song to describe God's work in your life, what lyrics would you use? What examples of God's justice and faithfulness toward you would you include? Jot down your ideas.

# DAY 07: RULER OVER ALL

<sup>1</sup>Not to us, LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory because of your faithful love, because of your truth. <sup>2</sup> Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?' <sup>3</sup> Our God is in heaven and does whatever he pleases. PSALM 115:1-3

#### PAUSE

God's sovereignty is a difficult subject to wrap your mind around, but it's crucial to understanding who God is. Stop right now and ask Him to give you an open mind and heart to hear and experience what His sovereignty truly looks like.

Read Psalm 115:1-2 carefully, paying attention to what it teaches you about God and His character. Then, consider these questions:

How does this passage point to God's sovereignty?

"Whatever He pleases" doesn't mean that God is always changing His mind or giving in to whims; it means He does what He has planned. How would truly recognizing this aspect of God's character change your point of view on things that happen in the world? In your life?

Why is it vital that God's children understand that He is absolutely sovereign?

Written at a time when Israel had suffered devastating defeats and when God seemed nowhere to be found, this psalm records the taunts of Israel's pagan enemies. They misjudged Israel's defeat in battle as the result of God's weakness or nonexistence, even asking, "Where is your God now?" But instead of complaining, Israel announced their confidence in Him, declaring God sovereign over all, including the powerless idols these nations worshiped. Idols can do nothing, but our God is on His throne and knows His plan and purpose.

#### THE POINT

God is the ultimate Ruler with supreme power over all. He does what He pleases, always acting for His glory and your good wanting to bring you back into a right relationship with Him.

#### RESPOND

Take a minute to really think about the concept of God's sovereignty. He is over all. Nothing happens that He has not ordained for His glory and purposes. In a world that seems out of control, God is in control. Praise Him for that today.

For further study of God's sovereignty, read Psalm 135:6, Daniel 4:35, and Romans 9:19-21.

# DAY 08: EVER FAITHFUL

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD, all nations! Glorify Him, all peoples! <sup>2</sup> For his faithful love to us is great; the LORD's faithfulness endures forever. Hallelujah! PSALM 117:1-2

#### PAUSE

Listen to "Faithful" by Hawk Nelson (*Made*, 2013). Think of three ways that God's faithfulness has been revealed to you and thank Him.

Read Psalm 117 in your Bible. Circle any words, phrases, or punctuation in the passage that indicate how the psalmist felt about God's faithfulness.

What reason did the psalmist have for praising God?

Why is God's faithfulness a big deal?

How have you seen God's faithfulness at work in your life? In someone else's?

Psalm 117 is the shortest chapter in the Bible. The words translated "faithful love" and "faithfulness" are Hebrew words that refer to loyalty based on a covenant relationship and God's reliability. In other words, you can count on God to keep His promises.

#### THE POINT

At the core of His character, God is faithful. He always has been and always will be. That fact invites the awe, worship, and praise of all people.

#### RESPOND

God's character is faithful, so it is impossible for Him to be unfaithful. Take some time to ponder how that truth affects your life. Use the space below to write your own short hymn of praise about God's faithfulness. Consider sharing it on social media.

For further study on God's faithfulness, read Deuteronomy 7:9, 2 Timothy 2:13, and Malachi 3:6.

### DAY 09: EXTRAORDINARY PATIENCE

But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life. 1 TIMOTHY 1:16

#### PAUSE

Look over the previous days' lessons. Take some time to praise God for what you've learned already of His character. Thank Him for meeting with you today.

When are you the most impatient? Think about the people, situations, and circumstances that most often trigger your impatience. List a few.

It's easy for us to place our own characteristics on God. Because we get impatient, we think He will, especially in light of our sin. Even as Christians, we often sin, but we don't have to worry that God will get impatient with us and walk away. That's not who He is. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 to learn more.

Ponder these thoughts:

Reread verses 12-14. Highlight or underline the words Paul used to describe himself before he came to Christ. What words would describe you before Jesus came into your life?

### According to this passage, why is Paul an example of God's great patience?

Paul obviously still marveled at the power of the gospel and the transformation Jesus had brought into His life. He knew how bad he'd been, so he understood the patience God had shown Him in forgiving Him and never giving up on Him.

### Have you ever felt that way about the gospel? Why or why not?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

The "extraordinary patience" discussed in verse 16 suggests an attitude of moral restraint even when provoked. In His patience, God holds back overdue judgment and offers forgiveness rather than separation and lostness.

#### THE POINT

Paul claimed to be the worst example of sin, but his life gives proof of God's great patience toward us. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and no sin is too great for forgiveness.

#### RESPOND

Meditate on these truths:

Because God is patient, I know He can forgive and transform me, no matter the sin. Because God is patient, I know that He will never be impatient with me.

Do you live like you believe those truths? What changes will you make today in order to do so? List one idea below.

# DAY 10: HOLY WRATH

*Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.* PSALM 90:12

#### PAUSE

Think about what you know about God's character—holy, just, wrathful. In recognition of who He is, kneel or lie face down as you pray, asking Him to use today's Scripture to teach you more about Himself.

Read Psalm 90:7-12 in your Bible. Re-read verse 12 carefully, then answer these questions:

Was God justified by His extreme anger toward the Israelites? (See "Behind the Story.") Why or why not?

To number your days is to value them and choose to live in ways that please God because you recognize that life is short and know that God hates sin. Who in your life is a good example of that kind of attitude? Why?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Psalm 90 was written by Moses in response to God's anger toward the Israelites. God had freed them from slavery, but they repeatedly disobeyed and rebelled. Their faithlessness kindled God's anger. The ultimate result of their disbelief was wandering in the wilderness for the rest of their lives, instead of entering the paradise God wanted to give them. These people understood firsthand the cost of sin and the wrath of God.

#### THE POINT

God's holy anger toward sin seems extreme to us because we don't understand the horrendous destruction of sin. If we did, we would take our sin more seriously and live much differently.

#### RESPOND

God's righteous response to sin is His holy wrath. How would your life be different if your attitude toward sin reflected His? Journal your response. Ask God for wisdom so that you will "number your days" and live out your life in a strong, healthy relationship with Him.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

Read John 3:36 a few times. Then, close your eyes and picture the words in your head. Write them in the air or on a surface with your finger as you try to memorize it.

# DAY 11: ALL POWERFUL

The LORD answered Moses, "Is the LORD's arm weak? Now you will see whether or not what I have promised will happen to you." NUMBERS 11:23

#### PAUSE

Find a quiet place outside for today's devotion. Get away from everything that could distract you from God and His Word. Ask Him to open your eyes and heart to what He wants to teach you.

Think about all your knowledge, skills, and talents. Now, consider your limits in those areas. Is there a mathematical concept that's past your understanding? Is there a level when your athletic skills just don't match up? Jot down a few ideas.

We all have our limits, but God's power isn't limited. He is able to do what He promises. Read Numbers 11:21-23 to learn more.

Read verse 23 again carefully, then respond to these questions:

### What was the only solution Moses could see to the problem of feeding that many people? Was it the only option?

How many of the possible solutions do you think God is able to see? And how many of those solutions is He capable of making happen? Explain. Does the knowledge that God sees all possible scenarios and is capable of doing whatever He chooses affect the amount of trust you have in Him? If so, how?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

In context, this passage records an event that happened after the people had made the golden calf. Because of their disobedience, God had declared that the people would wander in the wilderness for 40 years, until the unfaithful generation was gone. During the wandering, God supplied food in the form of manna, but the people complained that they wanted meat—and God provided it. Read Numbers 11 in its entirety for more.

#### THE POINT

Because God is all-powerful, His power isn't limited. He is able to do whatever He has promised.

#### RESPOND

Are there situations or circumstances in your life in which you're doubting God's ability to act or the promises of His Word? Be honest with Him about those things today. Pray over them, then write a statement of your commitment to trust Him completely below.

For further study, read Ephesians 3:20 and Philippians 4:19.

### DAY 12: NEVER ALONE

<sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. MATTHEW 28:19-20

#### PAUSE

Go to a place where you can be alone and away from distractions. Begin your quiet time by pondering this quote from A.W. Tozer: "Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one."<sup>1</sup>

Think about your closest friends. If you were leaving them and had the opportunity to speak some final words to them, what would you say?

When Jesus was preparing to ascend to heaven, He also spoke some final words to His followers. His final words involved both a commission and a promise. Look for both as you read Matthew 28:19-20. Highlight or underline what Jesus commissioned His followers to do; circle His promise.

#### What did Jesus tell His followers to do in these verses?

Write Jesus' promise in verse 20 in your own words.

What does Jesus never leaving us have to do with making disciples? Explain.

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

This passage is called the "Great Commission" because it is a huge task that all believers are called to. It includes making disciples, which involves both sharing the gospel and helping believers understand and observe the whole of Scripture. Baptism is also vital, as it symbolizes a person's submission to Christ and a desire to live God's way. As we obey and boldly proclaim the gospel, we can rest in the knowledge that we aren't alone, but empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### THE POINT

We are the broken tools God is using to build His kingdom. The only way we can do the work He has called us to—making disciples—is because He is with us and in us.

#### RESPOND

Witnessing and helping other believers grow in their faith isn't something you should do in your own power. You need the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for people in your life who don't know Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts to the gospel and place people—even you!—in their lives who will share the gospel.
- Who has been a spiritual mentor or helped disciple you in the faith? Send a note, text, or message thanking them for their godly influence in your life.

1 https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/414299-always everywhere-god-is-present-and-always-he-seeks-to

# DAY 13: NO LIMITS

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding. ISAIAH 40:28

#### PAUSE

Focus your mind on meeting with God by praying and listening to a few of your favorite worship songs. Consider "Jesus" by Chris Tomlin (*Never Lose Sight*, 2016). Think about a time in your life when you wanted someone to step in on your behalf and make everything OK. Maybe you wanted your parents to make a bad grade go away, or a friend to resolve a conflict. Journal about that time, your feelings, and what actually happened.

Now, read Isaiah 40:27-31. The Israelites were in a similar position. They were in exile and had accused God of overlooking their troubles (v. 27). They wanted Him to step in and fix the problem.

Instead of doing what the people expected, God pointed to His character. What did He reveal about Himself?

What does it mean that there is "no limit" to God's understanding? Explain.

God knows things that are well beyond our comprehension. Why is it important that this is part of His character? What if it wasn't?

In Isaiah 40:28, the prophet Isaiah made four statements about character:

- 1. God is everlasting. There is nothing in the past or future that is outside His knowledge.
- 2. God is the Creator. There is no people group or creature that is outside His knowledge or care.
- 3. God never gets tired. He isn't worn out by caring for His people. Nothing exhausts Him.
- 4. God's wisdom is unlimited. There are no uncontrollable circumstances that confuse or overtax Him.

#### THE POINT

God has infinite understanding. He knows the *why* behind everything that happens, and has a purpose for it all.

#### RESPOND

God isn't like an encyclopedia, full of information, but distant and uncaring. He is never worn out, overwhelmed, or confused.

- Think about the things in your life or in the world that confuse you or seem purposeless. Pray for specific situations and concerns.
- Thank God that He knows all the details and how they fit together. Affirm your commitment to trust that He knows the beginning from the end (Isa. 46:10) and is working all things together for His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

Find a partner to memorize Isaiah 40:28 with you. Remind and test each other about the verse throughout the week, but also make a point to discuss it and how it applies to your life.

I AM 29

# DAY 14: GOD = LOVE

And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. 1 JOHN 4:16

#### PAUSE

Spend a few minutes pondering the depth of God's love for you and the ways He daily reveals that love to you. Thank Him for being a loving God.

Think for a moment about the word love. Is love something you can actually touch, see, hear, or smell? Or is love something that is experienced when it's demonstrated? Write your definition or journal your thoughts below.

Scripture has a very clear and succinct definition of love: God. Read 1 John 4:14-16 in your Bible. As you read, circle the word *love* any time it is used.

How can God be the definition of love? How is the statement "God is love" different from saying God is loving?

Being loving is not one of God's many activities; instead, all of His activities are permeated with love because He is love. What would the world be like if this were not the case?

In the New Testament, three Koine Greek words are used for love:

- eros: sexual passion
- philos: friendship
- agape: lovingkindness

John used *agape* exclusively to characterize the special, unconditional, and compassionate love God has for humanity.

#### THE POINT

Love does not completely define God, but God completely defines love. Love can never be absent from God's being or any of His actions because it is the very essence of who He is.

#### RESPOND

C.S.C.

Love is the very essence of who God is. Love isn't just one of God's many activities or attributes; it's at the very core of who He is. Look for evidence of God's love in your life and in the world. Spend some time simply praising Him for who He is: Love. Record your praises below.

# DAY 15: OUR PROTECTOR

<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to slip; your Protector will not slumber. <sup>4</sup> Indeed, the Protector of Israel does not slumber or sleep. <sup>5</sup> The Lord protects you; the Lord is a shelter right by your side. PSALM 121:3-5

#### PAUSE

Focus your mind and heart on God. Ask Him to prepare you for what He has to teach you today.

Read Psalm 121:1-8 in your Bible and consider the following:

<u>Protector</u>: This is from the Hebrew word "shamar," which means "to guard," "protect," "keep," or "observe." God is presented as the Guardian and Protector here. How have you seen God act as Protector?

<u>slumber or sleep</u>: God's protection is continual. He is always awake and always attentive to the needs of His people. What does this teach you about God's character?

<u>shelter</u>: Sometimes translated "shade," this conveys the idea of relief or protection in the midst of oppression. When have you seen God be a shelter for someone? For you?

Psalm 121 is classified as a "song of ascent." Jewish pilgrims sang these songs as they made their way to Jerusalem to worship God and participate in the seasonal feasts. The journey involved an upward ascent into the city, reflected in the words of Psalm 121. Pilgrims likely made this journey three times a year.

#### THE POINT

God is always present; you cannot escape from His watchful care. He is a faithful guardian and protector of His people.

#### RESPOND

This psalm was sung by people on the way to Jerusalem to worship God. Throughout their journey, they acknowledged the ways He protected and cared for them along the way. How have you seen God do the same as you journey through life? Recall a specific way God has shown you He is your protector recently. Write your psalm of praise and thankfulness for His protection below.

For further study on how God will never neglect His children, read Romans 8:35-39.

### DAY 16: GOD THE GREAT KING

<sup>2</sup> For the Lord, the Most High, is awe-inspiring, a great King over the whole earth... <sup>7</sup> Sing a song of wisdom, for God is King of the whole earth. PSALM 47:2,7

#### PAUSE

Turn off your phone, computer, or anything that would distract you. Ask God to focus your mind on what He wants to teach you.

Open your Bible and read Psalm 47:1-9. As you read, underline or highlight the words or phrases that describe God as being greater than anyone else.

- · awe-inspiring: a word related to fear or reverence
- King of the whole earth: Earthly kings have limited authority, but God's authority is absolute and universal.

How is God's authority different from that of earthly kings or leaders? Explain.

These verses declare that God is king, but what does that mean? How would you explain this concept in your own words?

Why do you think it's important to understand that God rules over all people from all nations?

Psalm 47 provides the reader with great truth in understanding that God is not only above us (v. 2), but His kingdom expands across all nations and kingdoms. Israel understood this great truth as the Abrahamic covenant was unfolding before their very eyes (Gen. 12:3).

#### THE POINT

God is the powerful Creator, Sustainer, and King over all of creation. All of the earth belongs to Him, and His authority is unrivaled.

#### RESPOND

God is not your pal; He is the powerful King who has rule and authority over all the earth. Think about how approaching God as the powerful King might change the way you communicate with and worship Him on a daily basis. With that in mind, write your own psalm of praise to the great King of your life.

For further study on the proper response of all of creation to the reign and rule of God, read Psalm 98:8 and Isaiah 55:12.

## DAY 17: A GOD WHO SAVES

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be the Lord! Day after day he bears our burdens; God is our salvation. <sup>20</sup> Our God is a God of salvation, and escape from death belongs to the Lord my Lord. PSALM 68:19-20

#### PAUSE

Reflect on your view of God. Do you usually see Him as Creator? Father? Judge? What about as your Redeemer? Ask Him to show Himself to you in a new way today.

Read Psalm 68:19-20 in your Bible. Dig deeper into the passage by thinking through these questions:

Some people think that God is presented as harsh and eager to punish us in the Old Testament, but Jesus is all about love and forgiveness in the New Testament. What statements in these verses tell you that view is wrong?

What does God's desire to rescue those who are lost, in danger, bound, and broken teach you about His character?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Psalm 68 is a song of praise to God as the Divine Warrior who delivers His people.<sup>1</sup> It retells how God rescued His people from Egyptian slavery and vanquished their opponents through the wilderness on the way to the promised land. It paints Him as the compassionate champion of widows, orphans, the homeless, and prisoners. God's history as Redeemer sets the stage for salvation He ultimately provides for all the world through His Son.

#### THE POINT

God is the God of salvation. He is and has always been the God who saves, bears our burdens, and rescues us.

#### RESPOND

If your house was on fire or being robbed, you'd probably call 911. That's because you believe the emergency response professionals will do their job to rescue you. You understand their role. It's also important that you understand God's role as Savior in your life. Spend a few minutes mulling over this thought. Then, journal a prayer thanking God for specific ways He has acted as your Savior or Rescuer.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

Write Romans 10:9-10 on a sheet of paper, writing each phrase on a different line and in a different color. Read over it several times a day.

1 Zondervan NIV Bible Commentary: Vol. 1 Old Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), 866.



## DAY 18: STEADFAST LOYALTY

Know that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commands. DEUTERONOMY 7:9

#### PAUSE

Take a moment to think about God's faithfulness. Consider listening to Sandra McCracken's "Steadfast" from the album God's Highway (2017) or one of your favorite worship songs.

Read Deuteronomy 7:9-12 in your Bible. As you read, circle the words that teach you something about God's loyalty.

What does it mean to say that God is loyal for a thousand generations? Why is that important? (Hint: See the definition that follows.)

How have you seen God be faithful to the generations of your family, church, or Christians in general? Explain.

In a world where people are loyal only as long as it benefits them, why is it important to know God's loyalty isn't like that? Explain.

In Deuteronomy 7, Moses was giving the Israelites God's instructions for claiming the promised land. The Israelites were to drive the other nations out of the land. God would then guide, protect, and give the people victory over these enemies—but Israel must remain obedient and faithful to Him. Israel's future and their spiritual health depended on their obedience to God's command. As we face temptations and evils in this world, we must also be obedient to God, driving out anything that would pull us away from Him.

A thousand generations: A phrase meaning "endlessly" or "forever." It denotes an immeasurable future, not a specific span of time.

#### THE POINT

God is loyal and faithful— and He always acts out of His character.

#### RESPOND

How has God been loyal to you? Examine your life for examples, then praise God for how He has been faithful. Record your praises below.

## DAY 19: A TENDER GOD

"The LORD your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing." ZEPHANIAH 3:17

#### PAUSE

What is the last thing you celebrated? How did you celebrate? Take a few moments to think about the amazing truth that God celebrates you with shouting and singing!

Read Zephaniah 3:16-17 in your Bible. Underline all the words or phrases that point to God's tender nature.

#### Think through these questions:

How can God be both a powerful warrior and also protect you with quiet love? Explain.

Reread verse 17. What pictures does this verse bring to mind? Sketch them below or in your journal. Look at all the things God is described as doing or feeling in verse 17. What does this verse teach you about God's tender love for you? Why are those things important?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

In Old Testament times, weak, limp hands expressed extreme terror, as shown in verse 16. Although the Israelites had much to fear, Zephaniah gently reminded them that they were not forgotten and that their predicament would not last forever. Zephaniah had clearly explained God's judgment on the people for their indifference toward Him and called them to return to Him. Their God would save and protect them, and His salvation would result in rejoicing and peace.

#### THE POINT

God can tenderly protect you because He is the powerful warrior who also delivered you. He has the strength to keep you safe.

#### RESPOND

Take a few moments to sit before the Lord, meditating on the beautiful truth that He is with you; fought as a warrior to save you; rejoices over you with gladness; quiets you with His love; and delights in you with shouts of joy. Which of these actions means most to you today? Write God a note, telling Him why that action is meaningful to you.



## DAY 20: JESUS-FIRST & LAST

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."* REVELATION 1:8

#### PAUSE

Think about the concept of forever—no beginning and no end. Thank God that there has never been a time when He was not.

ETERNAL adj.

*Lasting or existing forever; without end or beginning* 

Read Revelation 1:7-8 in your Bible. These verses tell us that God is eternal. Consider the questions below to help you debrief that:

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Why would Jesus use this analogy and title to describe Himself? Explain.

Look at the verb tenses used in verse 8. What does the use of past, present, and future tense tell you about God and His eternal nature? God is the beginning and the end, the first and last. All things begin and end in Him. How does that make Him different from us?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

The statement Jesus made to the apostle John in Revelation 1 is significant. In the Old Testament, God was often referred to as being the "first and last," a phrase that signified God's infinite, eternal nature. The Greek letters *alpha* and *omega* are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. John's readers would have immediately understood Jesus' claim in verse 8 because of this.

#### THE POINT

God is not like us. He is eternal, self-existent Creator of the universe. He always has been and always will be.

#### RESPOND

Stop again and really think about the fact that there has never been a moment when God did not exist. He is the Creator and controls the whole sweep of history. In Him, wisdom, power, and truth find their beginning. Let the wonder of His character overwhelm you. Journal your response below.

#### **MEMORY VERSE**

Like to sketch or interested in graphic design? Create a poster that illustrates Psalm 90:2. The time you spend working on it will help you begin to memorize. Then, hang it somewhere you'll see it often.

## DAY 21: THE RIGHTEOUS GOD

Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your judgments like the deepest sea. LORD, you preserve people and animals. PSALM 36:6

#### PAUSE

In *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer wrote: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." Ask God to give you a better understanding of Him as you study His Word.

Read Psalm 36:5-10 in your Bible. Pay close attention to verse 6.

RIGHTEOUSNESS n.

The Hebrew word means "straight" or "correct." When referring to God, it means that God always does what is right.

What images does the psalmist compare God's righteousness to in verse 6? Why do you think he chose those images?

Mountains were the most immovable object the psalmist knew. If you rewrote this psalm for today, what immovable object would you compare God's righteousness to? Why is it important that all God does is upright, just, and fair? Does His righteousness comfort, challenge, or scare you? Why?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Some scholars call Psalm 36 a Torah psalm. Torah psalms provide moral or religious instruction. In its entirety, Psalm 36 deals with the nature of human sin. The psalm declares that the wicked care only about themselves, while God cares for all creation. It stresses that God will intervene to bring about justice in the world.

#### THE POINT

God is as immovable in His righteousness as the mightiest mountains. He always does what is right, no matter what.

#### RESPOND

Look over Psalm 36:5-10 again. Consider all the analogies and word pictures David used to describe God's righteousness. Then, write your own psalm of praise to our righteous God using analogies from your life.

Listen to "Your Love Oh Lord" by Third Day. Thank God that He always does what is right.

## DAY 22: INFINITE GOD

The Lord is great and is highly praised; his greatness is unsearchable. PSALM 145:3

#### PAUSE

Listen to "Indescribable" by Chris Tomlin. Thank God that His greatness stretches beyond what our finite minds can comprehend.

When you need to know information about something, where do you go?

Circle all that apply. books Google scholarly journal YouTube Twitter Wikipedia friends teachers news media

When you're researching something, you consult all kinds of sources, trying to discover every little detail. But you can't do that with God.

Read Psalm 145:1-7 in your Bible. As you read, underline all of the words and phrases that describe God's nature and His power.

#### Consider these questions:

What does it mean to say God's greatness is "unsearchable"?

#### What if God wasn't infinitely beyond our understanding? Would He be a God worth worshiping? Why or why not?

## Re-read the verses. What did the psalmist do in response to God's infinite greatness?

infinite adj.

*Limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate* 

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Psalm 145 is an acrostic poem. Each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In traditional Jewish worship, the psalm is recited three times each day, twice in the morning service and prayers, and once during the afternoon service.

#### THE POINT

God's greatness is beyond our human comprehension. No matter how hard we try, our finite minds will never fully understand our infinite God.

#### RESPOND

Meditate on the concept of God's infiniteness. Ponder His character and all the things He has done. Think of all the qualities He possesses that call you to praise Him. List as many as come to mind below.

## DAY 23: TRUE

"Into your hand I entrust my spirit; you have redeemed me, LORD, God of truth." PSALM 31:5

#### PAUSE

Prepare your heart to hear from God by listening to your favorite worship songs. Try "Redeemed" by Big Daddy Weave (*Love Come to Life*, 2012).

"Truth is relative." Spend a few minutes mulling over that phrase. What does it mean? How would you explain it in your own words? We live in a world that says truth depends on the situation or that something is true of me, but not for you. But Scripture has a different view of truth. Read Psalm 31:1-5 in your Bible.

Read verse 5 again carefully and think through these questions: David seems completely certain in these verses. Why was he so confident he could place his trust in God?

Rewrite verse 5 in the words of someone who is uncertain that God can be trusted or that He's the God of truth.

What does the fact that God is the God of truth have to do with His trustworthiness? Explain.

David used words like *refuge*, *rock*, and *fortress* in Psalm 31 to show God's security and protection.

- refuge: a safe haven
- rock: a symbol of stability
- fortress: a military term, and place of protection from an enemy.

Even though this context was one of protection from harm, God is truth in all contexts of life. He doesn't just say true things; He is the embodiment of truth.

TRUTH n.
Fidelity, constancy; sincerity in action, character, and utterance; the state of being the case

#### THE POINT

God isn't just truthful; He is truth. He always remains true to His character, meaning we can trust Him in all things because He will always do what He has promised.

#### RESPOND

Truth isn't relative because truth is anchored in God. He doesn't promise something, then do something else. He is always true to His character. He is trustworthy because the God of truth cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Revel in the greatness of the God you serve, the one true God. Record a psalm of worship and praise below.

For further study, read Luke 23:46 and Acts 7:59.

## DAY 24: HE WILL PROVIDE

And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:19

#### PAUSE

Take a few minutes to be still and remove any distractions from before you. Begin to prepare your heart for time alone with God.

Read Philippians 4:15-20 in your Bible.

From prison, Paul wrote these words. Even though the Philippian believers were facing persecution, they had sent Paul a monetary gift which was much more than Paul needed. He was overjoyed that the Philippians had given this gift out of a spirit of love and devotion and described it as an act of worship to God (v. 18).

The Philippian church wasn't wealthy, but God had met all of Paul's needs through their generosity. Paul wanted the Philippians to recognize that same truth: they served a God who could and would meet all of their needs.

## Do you believe that? If so, do you live like it's true? Why or why not?

We live in a world where we look to people, organizations, our dreams, money, and many other things to meet our needs. But only God can truly meet all of our needs out of the abundance of His glorious riches. He can certainly meet our physical needs, but more than that, He meets our spiritual need. Only Christ can fill that deep spiritual void in our lives. Those who are "in Christ" have access to all of God's incalculable riches and can trust Him with their deepest needs.

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Paul planted the gospel in Philippi on his second missionary journey. He intended to head into North Central Asia, but saw a man in a vision asking for his help in northern Greece. He returned to Philippi on his third missionary trip. Philippi held a dear place in Paul's heart. They were the only church to send him gifts of support. He was grateful and assured the church that God would meet their needs just as God had met his. Though written in prison, Paul uses the word "joy" 16 times in this letter. He understood worldly possessions could not bring peace and contentment.

#### THE POINT

Only God can meet our deepest spiritual needs. All else is temporary happiness.

#### RESPOND

Philippians 4:19 isn't about getting whatever you want. It's more about trusting God, knowing that He knows what you need better than you do and is more than able to provide it. It's trusting Him in every circumstance, knowing He uses all things for His glory and His purposes.

- Personalize verse 19 as a prayer to God. Be honest with Him about the needs you see in your life, and express your confidence that He is the only One who can meet all of them.
- Trusting God involves following and serving Him. Ask God to reveal any ways you can step out in service and obedience to Him, trusting Him to meet your needs and provide strength to face obstacles. List two action steps you'll take to be obedient to what He reveals.

## DAY 25: A GOOD GOD

You are good, and you do what is good; teach me your statutes. PSALM 119:68

#### PAUSE

Focus your thoughts by listening to your favorite worship song. Consider "Good Good Father" by Chris Tomlin (*Never Lose Sight*, 2016).

Read Psalm 119:65-68 in your Bible. Read verse 68 carefully and respond to the following:

Circle the word that describes who God is and what He does.

What does it mean to say that God is good? What are the things about Him that make Him good?

God doesn't just do good things; He's good at the very core of His being. Goodness characterizes Him. Why is it important that this is an aspect of God's character? What would the world be like if it weren't true?

How can the truth of God's goodness help you when the circumstances in your life aren't good? Explain.

These verses were a prayer of praise and petition. The psalmist wrote them after a time of correction from God. He was praising God for doing "good" to him, even though it hurt. He trusted in the goodness of God and believed that everything he was going through was good, because it was bringing him back to God. This praise led him straight into praying that God would teach him more about His Word and His character.

#### THE POINT

God is good all the time and everything He does is good! This means that even in tough circumstances you have reason to praise Him.

#### RESPOND

Meditate on the goodness of God's character. Think of specific ways He has been good to you. In the space below, write verse 68, then follow it with your own psalm of praise and thankfulness for God's goodness in your life. Be specific!

For further study, read Deuteronomy 32:3-4 in your Bible.

## DAY 26: ALL THREE

For he (God) chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. (v. 4)

... to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.. (v. 10)

... you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (v. 13) EPHESIANS 1:3-14

#### PAUSE

Mull over this quote: "Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence." —John Wesley

Read Ephesians 1:3-14 in your Bible. Each time you see one of the names of the Godhead—God, Messiah, Holy Spirit—highlight it.

Ponder these questions:

Clearly, as Christians, we don't just have a relationship with one Person of the Trinity. We have a relationship with a triune God. Look back over the passage. How does it lay that out?

Why is it important that Christians understand this truth: that God is three-in-one, and they have a relationship with all three Persons?

What does it mean to say that Christians are "sealed with" the Holy Spirit (v. 13)? At that point in history, when sending an important document, the sender would seal it with wax and stamp it with a signet ring or symbol. This insured that the document was authentic and that it was secure and had not been tampered with. Thus, to say believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit means that we are His authentic spiritual children who are under God's protection. The Spirit also holds us secure until Christ's return.

#### THE POINT

As believers in Christ, we have been chosen by God the Father and redeemed by the work of Jesus, His Son. The Spirit gives us spiritual security and guarantees our inheritance in Christ.

#### RESPOND

Meditate today on each distinct Person of the Trinity and the role that He has played in your personal salvation story. Praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (individually) that you are no longer captive to sin and sentenced to die, but instead are a redeemed child of the King.



## DAY 27: JEALOUS FOR YOU

Because the LORD is jealous for his reputation, you are never to bow down to another god. He is a jealous God. EXODUS 34:14

#### PAUSE

Listen to the song, "Love Came Down," by Kari Jobe (*Where I Find You*, 2012). Meditate on the phrase, "He is jealous for me."

Think about times you've seen jealousy displayed or been jealous yourself. Circle the words that describe that situation or the way it felt.

envious possessive controlling angry insecure clingy selfish greedy afraid

In our world, jealousy is synonymous with envy. But what does it mean to say that God is a jealous God? Investigate by reading Exodus 34:14-16 in your Bible.

To say God is jealous isn't to say that He's envious. It means that He longs for you to love Him with an undivided heart.

Look back at the passage. Highlight what took the people's hearts away from God.

What things in our world today compete with our total devotion to God? List a few ideas.

What does God's jealousy for your heart tell you about what you mean to Him? Explain.

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

The importance of putting God first in terms of our love and loyalty is a theme repeated throughout the Bible. It is the subject of the first of the Ten Commandments. Old Testament prophets preached it time and again. And Jesus reiterated its significance when asked, "Teacher, which command ... is the greatest?" He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:36-37).

#### THE POINT

God wants to be first in your heart. He is not willing to share your devotion with idols of any kind.

#### RESPOND

The Creator God of the universe is jealous for you. The One who spoke the world into existence wants your undivided attention, allegiance, and love — your whole heart. Meditate on how passionately God loves and pursues you, jealous for all of your devotion. Praise and thank Him for that. Journal your thoughts below.

## DAY 28: YOU ARE A FORGIVING GOD

They refused to listen and did not remember your wonders you performed among them. They became stiff-necked and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love, and you did not abandon them. NEHEMIAH 9:17

#### PAUSE

Ponder this quote to begin your quiet time: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." —George Santayana

Read Nehemiah 9:14-17 in your Bible.

Consider the following questions:

What things do these verses point out that God had done for the Israelites? Highlight them in your Bible.

What was the Israelites' response to what God had done? Why do you think they responded that way?

Despite the Israelites' response, how did Nehemiah describe God (v. 17)? Why is that important? In spite of their sin and rebellion, how did God display His character quality of forgiveness to the Israelites? How has He displayed it in your life? Explain.

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Nehemiah wrote this book of the Old Testament to Jewish exiles who were returning from 70 years of captivity in Babylon. He wanted to remind them of God's faithfulness by helping them remember all God had done for them. The Israelites' 70 years in captivity demonstrates that God doesn't allow the guilty to go unpunished, yet He is still a God of forgiveness.

> Forgiveness n. To indicate pardon for a fault or offense; to excuse from payment for a debt owed

#### THE POINT

God's very character is one of forgiveness. Regardless of our sin and rebellion, He remains constant and true to His willingness to forgive.

#### RESPOND

Using Nehemiah 9:14-17 as a template, journal a brief history of your life. Include statements indicating how God has been faithful to you.

## DAY 29: BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION

God, how precious your thoughts are to me; how vast their sum is! PSALM 139:17

#### PAUSE

Before you begin today's study, go on a quick walk. Marvel at God's creation around you. Ponder what this says about His incomprehensible nature.

Think about what it would be like to scoop up a handful of sand and try to count the individual grains. What words would you use to describe that process? Jot down a few.

With that idea in mind, read Psalm 139:17-24 in your Bible.

Why do you think David compared God's thoughts to counting grains of sand? What analogy would you have used to convey the same idea?

Even though David struggled to understand God's ways, he still walked with God. When you find it difficult to understand God's plan, do you remain faithful? Why or why not? Why is it important that we realize God is so powerful and so vast that His ways and His knowledge are beyond our understanding? What would it be like if this were not a part of God's character?

#### **BEHIND THE STORY**

Just as the songs of our day and age use familiar language and imagery to express feelings and inmost thoughts, the psalms do the same. David's comparison in Psalm 139 of God's incomprehensible thoughts to grains of sand was not coincidental. He lived in a place where sand was part of the landscape around him.

#### THE POINT

We can't understand the depth of God any more than we can count grains of sand. God knows every detail of everything. Don't be afraid to trust Him!

#### RESPOND

You may not always understand God's thoughts, but you can trust that He knows what He's doing. Take some time to praise Him for His incomprehensible wisdom and the ways you have seen that wisdom at work in your life. Be specific! Journal a short prayer.

For further study, listen to Chris Tomlin's "Indescribable" (*Arriving*, 2004) and consider the wonder and majesty of our incomprehensible God.

## DAY 30: A KIND GOD

<sup>5</sup> For you, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, abounding in faithful love to all who call on you. <sup>6</sup> LORD, hear my prayer; listen to my plea for mercy. <sup>7</sup> I call on you in the day of my distress, for you will answer me. PSALM 86:5-7

#### PAUSE

Take a moment now to sit quietly before God. Ask Him to speak to you through His Word today.

Open your Bible and read Psalm 86 in its entirety. As you read, write in the appropriate columns the words and phrases that describe people and our needs and those that describe God.

People

God

Look over what you wrote. What does this psalm reveal to you about God and His character? What does it reveal about yourself?

In a time of turmoil, David called out to God in prayer. His prayer centered on God's character, because David knew that God's actions flow out of His character.

Why is it important that one of God's characteristics is His kindness? What would life be like if He weren't kind?

David wrote Psalm 86 while on the run from ruthless men who sought his life (v. 14). Notice what he did in the midst of his distress: he focused on the character of God. He didn't ask for a brighter tomorrow or assure himself that bad things don't happen to good people. He reminded himself that God is good, forgiving, abounding in love, and eager to answer David in his day of trouble.

How did he know that God would answer? Because he knew that God is kind, protective, and caring over His children.

#### Do you have that kind of faith? Why or why not?

#### THE POINT

God's kindness is part of His character. He shows us undeserved kindness in the way He cares and provides for His children.

#### RESPOND

Think about who God is—the very essence of His character. Respond in a prayer, using Psalm 86 as a model. List and praise God's character then thank Him for specific ways He has displayed His kindness in your life.

For further study of God's kindness, read Titus 3:3-7.

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# WHAT'S NEXT?

CONGRATULATIONS on sticking with this and finishing 30 days of devotions! We believe the time you spent with God will have a lasting impact on your life.

Have you noticed any changes in what you think about or how you spend your time since starting this journey? Have you applied some of the truths you've discovered in the last 30 days? If so, how? What has been the result?

So, what's next? Do you have a plan for next month and the month after that? Here are a few suggestions to keep you grounded in God's Word:

- Read a chapter of Proverbs every day. There are 31 chapters so this plan will work no matter what month it is!
- Begin reading through one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) in the New Testament. Read a chapter a day or spend several days digging into each section. If you finish before the end of the month, start the next book.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure you are taking time every day to pray and read God's Word.

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## A 30-DAY JOURNEY INTO THE CHARACTER OF GOD

Who is God? It's a question mankind has wrestled with throughout the ages. There are a lot of words and phrases people have used to describe God over the centuries, but rather than reduce Him to a single attribute, we can look to His Word and see how God describes Himself. Exodus 3:14 says, "God replied to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' From the beginning, we see God revealing His character to us and showing us His desire to be in a relationship with His people through His Son, Jesus.

You were created to glorify God. Over the next 30 days, watch how the Lord will use your time with Him to shape your belief in God, deepen your trust in His character, and guide your decisions.







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