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# GRACE

*for the Moment*<sup>®</sup>

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

100 Devotions for Families to Enjoy God's Grace

MAX LUCADO



THOMAS NELSON  
Since 1798

*Grace for the Moment® Family Devotional*

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Dear Families,

Just like parents take care of their children and provide for them, God provides for and takes care of his children. He gives us what we need: hope and forgiveness and joy. He comforts our sadness. And, most important, he gives us grace.

Grace is God saying, “I know you’ve messed up, but I still love you anyway.” Grace is when you tell God you’re sorry and he says, “You’re forgiven.” One of my favorite Bible verses explains it like this: “Let us, then, feel free to come before God’s throne. Here there is grace. And we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it” (Hebrews 4:16).

You can’t always choose what happens in your day. But you can choose how you think about it and what you do about it. You can choose to worship God as a family. Each entry in *Grace for the Moment® Family Devotional* includes an adult devotion from *Grace for the Moment®* and a corresponding children’s devotion from *Grace for the Moment®: 365 Devotions for Kids*. Parents and children can read their devotions separately or together and then come together to read the key verse aloud to dig deeper into the day’s entries. The “Grow in Grace” sections are thoughts and questions designed to draw you closer to the God of grace as you spend time together.

MAX LUCADO

## A Chosen People

Do you ever feel unnoticed? New clothes and styles may help for a while. But if you want permanent change, learn to see yourself as God sees you: “He has covered me with clothes of salvation and wrapped me with a coat of goodness, like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding, like a bride dressed in jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).

Does your self-esteem ever sag? When it does, remember what you are worth. “You were bought, not with something that ruins like gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb” (1 Peter 1:18–19).

The challenge is to remember that. To meditate on it. To focus on it. To allow his love to change the way you look at you.

*When Christ Comes*

### Read Together

You are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession.

1 PETER 2:9



## God Chooses You

Do you ever feel invisible? As if nobody even notices you? *Maybe some new clothes will get me noticed*, you think. And maybe they do. For a little while. But then the latest craze is yesterday's news, and you're back to . . . invisible. Want a change that lasts? Learn to see yourself as God sees you—covered with the “clothes of salvation” and wrapped in “a coat of goodness” (Isaiah 61:10 ICB).

Do you ever feel like a nobody? When you do, remember what you are really worth. Remember what—or rather who—God gave to save you: “You were bought with the precious blood of the death of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb” (1 Peter 1:19).

If you ever start to feel invisible or left out, remember this: God *chooses* you to be his child. That can be hard to remember sometimes. So pray about it. Think about it. Let the way God sees you change the way you see yourself.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*God chooses to see you as his wonderful creation. How do you choose to see your family and friends? They are each a wonderful creation of God. Your mom. Your dad. Even your sister and brother. Find something you love about each of your family members and friends—then tell them what it is.*

## A Complete Restoration

God loves to decorate. God *has* to decorate. Let him live long enough in a heart, and that heart will begin to change. Portraits of hurt will be replaced by landscapes of grace. Walls of anger will be demolished and shaky foundations restored. God can no more leave a life unchanged than a mother can leave her child's tear untouched . . . .

This might explain some of the discomfort in your life. Remodeling of the heart is not always pleasant. We don't object when the Carpenter adds a few shelves, but he's been known to gut the entire west wing. He has such high aspirations for you. God envisions a complete restoration. He won't stop until he is finished . . . . He wants you to be just like Jesus.

*Just Like Jesus*

### Read Together

You will know that God's power is very great for us who believe.

EPHESIANS 1:19

You know the Father. . . . The word of God lives in you.

1 JOHN 2:14 ICB



## God Lives Here

Have you ever done any decorating in your room? Maybe you added a poster here. Put out a favorite collection there. Maybe you even got to pick the color for the walls. You added this and changed that until it looked like *you* lived there.

Well, God loves to decorate too. Actually, God *has* to decorate. Let him live long enough in a heart, and that heart will begin to change. He'll move some forgiveness into that corner. He'll add some shelves and fill them up with his Word. It's not always pleasant though. You might feel a little uncomfortable when he knocks down that wall of jealousy or anger, but that new spirit of kindness he puts in will look and feel great. Then he'll paint your whole heart with love—love for him and love for others.

God wants to give your heart a complete makeover. So he won't stop working until he's completely finished—until it looks just like *he* lives there.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Decorate your room with God's Word. Write favorite Bible verses on sticky notes. Then stick them by your light switch, above your pillow, or anywhere else you're sure to see them. God loves it when you make "room" for him!*

## The Foundation of Courage

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1 NIV).

“[God] justifies those who have faith in Jesus” (Romans 3:26 NIV).

For those in Christ, these promises are not only a source of joy. They are also the foundations of true courage. You are guaranteed that your sins will be filtered through, hidden in, and screened out by the sacrifice of Jesus. When God looks at you, he doesn't see you; he sees the One who surrounds you. That means that failure is not a concern for you. Your victory is secure. How could you not be courageous?

*The Applause of Heaven*

### Read Together

“I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

HEBREWS 8:12 NIV



## Be Brave!

The Bible says that “those who are in Christ Jesus are not judged guilty” (Romans 8:1 ICB). It also says that God will “make right any person who has faith in Jesus” (3:26 ICB).

That is great news for God’s children! Because sometimes, even when you *want* to do right, you do wrong. We all do. That’s why God’s promises are so wonderful! If you believe in Jesus and obey him, God promises that your sins will all be taken away and that they will be hidden by Jesus. So when God looks at you, he doesn’t see your sin; he sees the One who saves you—Jesus.

That means that you don’t have to worry about messing up. You’ve already won because Jesus saves you. Trusting in that promise gives you the courage to try to do the right thing—even when you know you might mess up. Trusting in that promise lets you be brave.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Grab some friends and play a game of hide-and-seek. As you hide, remember how Jesus hides your sins and mistakes. And as you seek, remember how God promises never to seek for your forgiven sins!*

## Our High Priest

Read how J. B. Phillips translates Hebrews 4:15:

*For we have no superhuman High Priest to whom our weaknesses are unintelligible—he himself has shared fully in all our experience of temptation, except that he never sinned.*

It's as if he knows that we will say to God: "God, it's easy for you up there. You don't know how hard it is from down here." So he boldly proclaims Jesus' ability to understand. Look at the wording again.

*He himself.* Not an angel. Not an ambassador. Not an emissary, but Jesus himself.

*Shared fully.* Not partially. Not nearly. Not to a large degree. Entirely! Jesus shared fully.

*In all our experience.* Every hurt. Each ache. All the stresses and all the strains. No exceptions. No substitutes. Why? So he could sympathize with our weaknesses.

*In the Eye of the Storm*

### Read Together

Our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin.

HEBREWS 4:15

## Jesus Knows

Some people might think, *Jesus, it's easy for you up there. You're in heaven. You just don't know how hard it is down here.* But those people would be wrong. The Bible says he “is able to understand” (Hebrews 4:15 ICB).

Jesus knows. He knows because he *himself* left heaven and came to earth. He didn't send an angel or a messenger. And he didn't come as God. He made himself completely human.

Do you ever feel angry, scared, or left out? Jesus did. Did you know that Jesus was once your age? He had parents to obey and brothers and sisters to get along with. He fell down, and he fell asleep. He went to school and played with friends. He was laughed at, and he was hurt.

Jesus knows everything you're going through. It's one of the reasons he came to earth—so he would know what it feels like. And so he could help you get through it.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Jesus can help you because he's “been there and done that.” Is there someone you can help because you've been there and done that? Teach a younger child to catch a ball. Walk with a frightened preschooler to Bible class. Help your brother or sister study for a test.*

## Who Is the Servant?

Martha is worried about something good. She's having Jesus over for dinner. She's literally serving God. Her aim was to please Jesus. But she made a common, yet dangerous mistake. As she began to work for him, her work became more important than her Lord. What began as a way to serve Jesus, slowly and subtly became a way to serve self. . . . She has forgotten that the meal is to honor Jesus, not Martha. . . .

It's easy to forget who is the servant and who is to be served.

*He Still Moves Stones*

### Read Together

Martha was distracted with much serving . . . . "But . . . Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

LUKE 10:40-42 NKJV

## Serving Jesus

Martha was a dear friend of Jesus. But the Bible tells us about a time when she was worried. She was having Jesus over for dinner. She was *really* going to be serving God! She wanted everything to be just right for Jesus. But she made one very big mistake. She was working so hard for Jesus that she let her work become more important than her Lord.

You see, Martha wanted Jesus to praise *her* for all her work. She forgot that she was supposed to be praising *him* with her work. She forgot that the meal was to honor Jesus. What began as a way to serve Jesus turned into a way to serve herself.

It is important to serve Jesus. But don't serve him just so that others will see you. Don't serve him so that others will be pleased with you or say nice things about you. Remember—you are the servant, and he is the One to be served.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Want to make sure you are serving Jesus and not yourself? Serve in secret. Find something you can do—take out the trash, feed the dog, water the plants—but don't let anyone know you did it. Secret servants make God smile.*

## Sowing Seeds of Peace

Want to see a miracle? Plant a word of love heart-deep in a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer, and watch what happens.

An employee gets a compliment. A wife receives a bouquet of flowers. A cake is baked and carried next door. A widow is hugged. A gas-station attendant is honored. A preacher is praised.

Sowing seeds of peace is like sowing beans. You don't know why it works; you just know it does. Seeds are planted, and topsoils of hurt are shoved away.

Don't forget the principle. Never underestimate the power of a seed.

*The Applause of Heaven*

### Read Together

“Plant goodness, harvest the fruit of loyalty, plow the new ground of knowledge.”

HOSEA 10:12

## Planting Seeds of Kindness

Want to see a miracle? Plant a kind word in the heart of someone who is sad and hurting. Water it with a prayer and add a sunny smile—and then watch what happens.

Want to see some more miracles? Fix a snack for your mom or dad without being asked. Smile at your teacher just because. Give a friend a pat on the back when she's had a tough day. Draw something special for a person who is sick. Bring in the mail or the newspaper for an older neighbor. Offer to clean up even when it's not your turn.

Sowing seeds of kindness is like sowing beans. You don't know how they grow or why; you just know they do. And somehow that one little seed of kindness that you plant will grow into a whole garden of good deeds.

Never doubt the power of a seed.

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Sow some flower seeds. Fill each cup of an egg carton with dirt. Poke a seed—like petunias or snapdragons—into each cup. Add a little water and sunshine. As they grow, think about how they started from tiny seeds. What do you think will grow from a seed of kindness?*

## You're Something Special

We want to know how long God's love will endure . . . . Not just on Easter Sunday when our shoes are shined and our hair is fixed. . . . Not when I'm peppy and positive and ready to tackle world hunger. Not then. I know how he feels about me then. Even I like me then.

I want to know how he feels about me when I snap at anything that moves, when my thoughts are gutter-level, when my tongue is sharp enough to slice a rock. How does he feel about me then? . . .

Can anything separate us from the love Christ has for us?

God answered our question before we asked it. So we'd see his answer, he lit the sky with a star. So we'd hear it, he filled the night with a choir; and so we'd believe it, he did what no man had ever dreamed. He became flesh and dwelt among us.

He placed his hand on the shoulder of humanity and said, "You're something special."

*In the Grip of Grace*

### Read Together

Nothing . . . in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.

ROMANS 8:39

## You're Something Special

How long will God love you?

Not just on Easter Sunday when your shoes are shined and your hair is fixed. Not just when you're happy and kind. Not just then. Everybody loves you then.

But how will God feel about you when you snap at everyone around you? When you have hateful thoughts? When you sass your parents? How does God feel about you then?

*Can anything separate you from the love Jesus has for you?*

God answered that question long before you even asked it. He answered it by lighting up the sky with a star. He answered it by waking the shepherds with the song of angels. He answered it by sending his one and only Son to be born in a stable in Bethlehem—to save you.

By sending Jesus to live and die on earth, God said to all people, “You're something special. Nothing can keep me from loving you.”

### GROWING IN GRACE



*Bad days happen. They just do. Next time you're feeling rotten—or when you've been rotten—ask your mom if you can use a dry erase marker on the mirror. Look at yourself in the mirror and draw a big heart around your face. Then write “Jesus loves me—even today.”*

## God Heals Our Hurts

The Greek word for compassion is *splanchnizomai*, which won't mean much to you unless you are in the health professions and studied "splanchnology" in school. If so, you remember that "splanchnology" is a study of . . . the gut.

When Matthew writes that Jesus had compassion on the people, he is not saying that Jesus felt casual pity for them. No, the term is far more graphic. Matthew is saying that Jesus felt their hurt in his gut:

He felt the limp of the crippled.

He felt the hurt of the diseased.

He felt the loneliness of the leper.

He felt the embarrassment of the sinful.

And once he felt their hurts, he couldn't help but heal their hurts.

*In the Eye of the Storm*

### Read Together

He had compassion on them.

MATTHEW 14:14 NIV



## Jesus Feels Our Hurts

The book of Matthew was first written in Greek. The Greek word for “felt sorry” is *splanchnizomai*. Since you probably haven’t studied *splanchnizomai* in school, this word won’t mean much to you. But what it means is “in the gut.”

So when Matthew wrote that Jesus felt sorry for the people, he didn’t mean that Jesus just felt a little sad for them. No, it is far more powerful. Matthew was saying that Jesus felt their hurt like a punch in the gut:

He felt the limp of the crippled.  
He felt the hurt of the sick.  
He felt the loneliness of the leper.  
He felt the shame of the sinful.

And once Jesus felt their hurts, he couldn’t help but heal their hurts.



### GROWING IN GRACE

*Whom do you feel sorry for? Is it someone in your class who is always being teased? Is it the orphan from another country you see on TV? Is it someone who doesn’t know Jesus? Don’t just feel sorry for them. Ask Jesus to show you how you can help.*

## Your Day Is Coming

Some of you have never won a prize in your life. Oh, maybe you were quartermaster in your Boy Scout troop or in charge of sodas at the homeroom Christmas party, but that's about it. You've never won much. You've watched the Mark McGwires of this world carry home the trophies and walk away with the ribbons. All you have are "almosts" and "what-ifs."

If that hits home, then you'll cherish this promise: "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away" (1 Peter 5:4 NIV).

Your day is coming. What the world has overlooked, your Father has remembered, and sooner than you can imagine, you will be blessed by him.

*When Christ Comes*

### Read Together

"Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

REVELATION 3:11 NIV