



A  
LITTLE  
GOD  
TIME

FOR

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MEN

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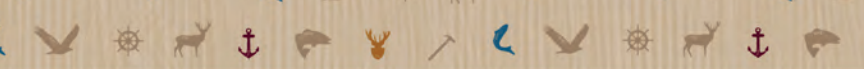
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Be strong in the Lord  
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and in his mighty power.

EPHESIANS 6:10 NLT





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## INTRODUCTION

We have the incredibly important role of leading younger generations through turbulent waters, modeling integrity in relationships, and providing foundations for wise decision-making. There are times we might feel like we've got things all figured out, and other times we feel unworthy of our great responsibilities.

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*A Little God Time for Men* is designed to help you meditate on Scripture, read thought-provoking messages, and communicate with God through prayer. It will challenge, equip, and encourage you to till the soil set before you.

Time spent with God empowers you to be a man of character, strength, and leadership. Be marked by the words written here and endeavor to be the man God has called you to be.





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# JANUARY

God is our refuge and strength,  
Always ready to help  
in times of trouble.

PSALM 46:1 NLT

## PRIORITIES

*All glory to God our Father  
forever and ever!*

PHILIPPIANS 4:20 NLT

The temptation we men struggle to overcome is the need for approval, affirmation, or adoration from those around us. We want love and respect from our family members, recognition from coworkers, and good standing within our community. We strive for these conditional social rewards. Something missing within us longs for acceptance, and so we shift our attention to the accolades this world so teasingly offers.

Perhaps we didn't get the approval we needed from our own fathers. Or perhaps we know we are inwardly more fragile than the lofty expectations we have placed upon ourselves. Or perhaps we are tempted to place the spotlight on ourselves. For whatever reason, if we're not proactive, our priorities can become misguided. We can be tricked into thinking, If only others would lift me up. It has been said that the chief end of man is to bring glory to God. The honest question that every man needs to face is this one: In all sincerity, who do I want to see glorified in my life today?

**God, whenever I am swayed to seek my own stance upon your pedestal, remind me of who you are and what my priorities should be.**



JANUARY 2

## BLESSING

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with your spirit.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:23 NLT

At the end of his letter to his friends in the city of Philippi, Paul gave a blessing: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.” Does anyone in your family or within your network of friends need to receive a blessing like this from you? As a man, you’re in a privileged and unique situation to speak life into those who need your love. You have the incredible opportunity, through your words, to curse or to encourage those closest to you.

God wants you to extend his blessing upon others. So today, receive the grace he has for you through Jesus and then be intentional about sharing that grace with those you love. Jesus loves you, has given his life for you, and offers you unrelenting relationship. Now do the same for others in his grace-full power.

**God, may you give me more than enough grace, so I may overflow upon those around me. In the name of Jesus.**



## CHANGING LIVES

*This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.*

COLOSSIANS 1:6 NLT

The good news of Jesus is that our sins are forgiven and our relationship with God is restored through his saving work on the cross. This seed, when planted, grows and bears fruit for generations.

As a man, you have a remarkable twofold calling. First, you are called to embrace the good news wherever you are, making the grace and truth of Jesus the central component of your life. Second, you are called to share this good news with anyone who comes across your path. Sow the seeds of the gospel of Jesus within their lives. Help them to cultivate their faith. Provide the water, the light, the nutrients, and the environment for their faith to flourish. And watch with joy as the good news of Jesus spreads through them. You know Jesus has impacted your life when he leads you to start impacting others. It has been said that your faith in God isn't actually yours. Rather, your faith in God is yours to give.

**God, let me never cover up my faith. Continue to change my life by your Spirit and empower me to be bold in the way that I live out my commitment to you.**



JANUARY 4

## WORK SO HARD

*We tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.*

COLOSSIANS 1:28-29 NLT

If you were called to a meeting with God, and if it was your special responsibility to introduce the people in your life to him, what would you say? How would you describe them to God? What would be the important aspects you would want God to know as you presented them to him? If you had your lifetime to prepare for this meeting, how would you spend your life? To what would you devote your time each day? What sorts of habits or characteristics would you hope would rub off you and onto them?

Paul tirelessly invested the qualities of his own life into others. His desire was to present people to God, perfect through Christ. He sought God's wisdom in the practice of his own faith so he would know how to teach and represent God to those he cared about. He worked so hard, not for his own gain but so others would discover and embrace the forgiveness and abundance that comes from knowing Jesus.

**God, may the work of my heart and hands today be determined, strong, and courageous on behalf of those around me.**





JANUARY 5

## CONTINUE TO LIVE

*Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord,  
you must continue to follow him.*

COLOSSIANS 2:6 NLT

Just because at some point in your life you committed yourself to Jesus, doesn't mean that your faith is to remain static. To be a disciple means to be a learner. In other words, a disciple of Jesus is a learner of Jesus.

Therefore, continue to follow Jesus. In fact, follow him with more attentive steps than yesterday. Learn his thoughts, learn his actions, and learn his will. Seek out his decisions for you, search out his advice, and call out for his wisdom. Run to his healing, walk where he miraculously stands, and get down into the messes in which he so willingly places himself. Embrace him as tightly today as you did at any point in your past. If Jesus is to be your Lord, let him be your Lord in every practical way today.

**God, give me the resolve to continue to trust myself to your guidance, your steps, and your presence in my life. I want to follow you again today, as I did yesterday and as I will tomorrow.**





JANUARY 6

## DON'T GET CAUGHT

*Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.*

COLOSSIANS 2:8 NLT

In Genesis 3, Satan captured Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He hunted them, he lured them, and then he snared them. They bought his shrewd, high-sounding nonsense. In Matthew 4, Satan tried his alluring arguments again, this time to trip up Jesus in the desert. Each statement and question lobbed by Satan was a like a high-arching softball grenade. If Jesus had taken the bait, the consequences would have been explosive. But he stayed the course. He didn't let the evil one capture him with falsehoods. In fact, he freely dispatched Satan's empty philosophies by being even shrewder than the snake.

How did he resist while Adam and Eve had fallen? What was Jesus' weapon? It was the uncompromising ballistic missile of truth. Staying alert and on course isn't just for your sake. The arguments you buy and the conclusions you accept impact the generations that follow you. Your kids will likely mimic your thoughts. Your grandchildren will likely reflect their grandfather's beliefs. If you get lost, it's likely that they will as well.

**God, as for me and my family, we will serve you. Help me, then, to stay true, for the sake of those around me.**





JANUARY 7

## NEW NATURE

*Put on your new nature, and be renewed  
as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.*

COLOSSIANS 3:10 NLT

In Genesis 1, God merely spoke, and the stars were born. He said, "Let there be..." and there was. In the beginning, Christ was the Word (mentioned in John 1) who declared to the darkness that there should be light.

Jesus has spoken into your life today. He declares you free from sin. He proclaims the year of the Lord's favor, release for those who are captured, and sight for those who have lost their vision. He speaks a new vocation for your days. He calls you to him, and he calls you to change the world. His words beckon you to draw near and empower you to move mountains. He asks you to speak with his voice, his authority, his commands, and his creativity. Be refreshed today. Put on the new nature given to you by Jesus, the creator of the world.

**God, by your Word, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Let me be refreshed in my soul today. Draw me close to you and help me to share this newness of life with those around me.**





JANUARY 8

## CONTENT

*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:12 NIV

We often think of contentment as the satisfaction of all our needs. If that were true, it would only be possible to be content when everything is perfect. God gives us the power and the peace to be okay even when everything around us is not.

Our decision-making and leadership is better when we learn to be content no matter the outcome. God frequently reminds us that true peace and contentment comes from our relationship with him and not the circumstances of our life.

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**God, please give me your perspective on my life. Help me to be content even when there are things I wish I could change. Keep me from acting in fear or worrying about things that are not how I wish they would be. Help me to trust that, no matter what, you are enough.**



## WITNESSES

*We have all of these great witnesses who encircle us like clouds. So we must let go of every wound that has pierced us and the sin we so easily fall into. Then we will be able to run life's marathon race with passion and determination, for the path has been already marked out before us.*

HEBREWS 12:1 TPT

We often perform better when someone is watching. We fight harder, strive further, and endure longer when we know others are paying attention. When we forget we're being watched, it becomes easier to succumb to our struggle. We might rest our defenses and end up tangled in things we wouldn't want others to see.

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The everyday people in our lives surround us like a cloud. They are paying attention even when we might think they're not. Through them, God cheers for us to wrestle free from the things that would hinder our relationship with them and with him. Our hearts will fight for others more fiercely than we fight for ourselves.

**Lord, I desire to be a good example for the people in my life. Please keep in my mind the truth that they are learning from my actions. Help me to trust that they are cheering for me, and that my successes are their successes. I believe they are worth any struggle, so please use them to inspire me to keep fighting.**

## GOD-BREATHED

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NIV

There's a mysterious weight to the words of Scripture. It's easy to live with a more-or-less understanding of God's ideal life gleaned from the general idea of a verse. When we forgo the specific words of the Bible, we pull its punches a little bit.

Even though those around us might respond with glazed eyes, it is worth quoting relevant verses at relevant times.

When we do, the life God has breathed into those words will help it come alive in the heart of the listener. The entire Bible is available to give just the right wisdom in just the right way.

**God, I want to know your Word so I can apply it when opportunities arise. Help me to recall the verses I have read whenever they can be of use in my life or the lives of those around me. Encourage me to cling to your specific promises and not just my own paraphrases. Please sharpen my spiritual mind.**

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## OBEDIENCE

*"Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."*

ESTHER 4:16 NLT

God rarely asks us to produce a specific result. What he most frequently asks of us is simply obedience. We don't always know what the result might be, or even what God's will is in a certain moment. What we can be sure of is that he desires our devotion and commitment no matter the consequences.

Esther was unsure what would come of her action, but she was certain it was what she needed to do. The result would possibly be death, but her only concern was obedience. We can miss opportunities to serve God when we focus on the outcome. God's desire is to grow us through an experience and to have us trust him with whatever happens. Life with God is not about results; it is about obedience.

**God, thank you for inviting me to be a part of what you are doing in the world. I confess I often worry about what might happen, instead of trusting you to work through every situation. Remind me that it pleases you when I obey, and that you want to take care of the rest.**

## DOING GOOD

*As for you, brothers,  
do not grow weary in doing good.*

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13 ESV

It is worth it to keep doing what is right and good. It may be thankless and difficult, but it is always worth it. You might feel like it doesn't matter or that nobody notices how hard you work to live how God says to live. Perhaps you feel cheated because, despite your efforts, things just aren't working.

Keep going. Don't grow weary now. It's possible you won't see the results of your devotion, but nothing you give to God is fruitless. Lower your shoulder and keep pressing on. Every decision you make to do what is good gives God one more tool in his toolbox, and he is working to build something beautiful in your life. Keep going. It is worth it.

**God, strengthen me to keep living how you ask me to live. Give me the endurance to make the decisions that please you, even when I'm worn. I pray you will restore my energy and help me to keep moving forward toward the life you want me to have. Thank you for being with me and for helping me live a life of doing good.**

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## ADDING WORDS

*“Every word of God is flawless;  
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.  
Do not add to his words,  
or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.”*

PROVERBS 30:5-6 NIV

When we believe the Bible is on our side, we must take great care in how we convey its truth. It is good to understand what the Bible says about any situation, and following what God says helps us keep our integrity.

However, we must be careful to not exaggerate what Scripture says just because we think we're right. Let Scripture speak for itself. It's not our job to make the listener agree. We can simply share what the Bible says and trust that God will water and grow his truth for his purposes. God delights in our righteousness, but he also yearns for the righteousness of others.

**Lord, help me to speak only your truth when helping others to see your light. Please protect me from injecting my own opinions into the work you're trying to do. I want to gladly share your Word with others, and I trust that it speaks for itself. Thank you for helping me be an amplifier for your truth instead of my own.**



JANUARY 14

## POINTING

*“You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.”*

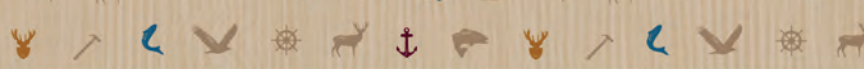
JOHN 5:39-40 NLT

Approaching Jesus can be intimidating. We’re often afraid of what he might say, or ask, or already know. This fear will drive us to keep doing the “safer” spiritual discipline of just reading the Bible. Secretly, we hope that rushed prayers and memorized verses won’t disrupt our lives too much.

But Jesus wants to disrupt our lives. He wants to shake up our routine and replace the parts that are lacking with the vibrant life we crave in the depths of our soul. Scripture is good precisely because it begs us to intimately connect with our Savior. Don’t shy away from the spiritual tug of Scripture, frightening as it may be. If you let it lead you to Jesus, you will find what are you are looking for in every verse.

**God, I believe that you want to bring satisfying life to every part of who I am. I confess that I sometimes hesitate to come to you for fear of what you might say. Please remind me that you are not interested in shame or judgment and that your core desire is for me to experience the life you created me to live.**





JANUARY 15

## INFINITELY MORE

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

EPHESIANS 3:20 NLT

God delights in surprising us. Like a father building an incredible treehouse for his child or a husband unveiling a dream vacation to his wife, God takes joy in doing things for us that exceed our expectations. He wants us to stare at him in wonder and realize that he is so much more impressive than we give him credit for.

Often, our dreams aren't big enough. We'd settle for a response to prayer that helps us just get by. Our heavenly Father wants so much more than that! We convince ourselves we aren't worth his time, but he says, "I want your life to be abundant, and I'm going to do that through you." The power of God is most beautifully demonstrated in his ability to exceed our expectations by working through us.

**God, you are so much better than I can imagine. I know that even my grandest request seems small compared to what you want to accomplish through me. Help me to remember that you are at work in my life to create something better than I could ever create on my own.**



## BIGGER

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.*

EPHESIANS 3:16-18 NIV

God is so big that only he can show us how big he is. Our understanding of God begins with that first aha moment where his power becomes reality to us. That first taste creates a hunger for more, and we strive to learn all we can about God. As our understanding of God grows, so does his stature and power in our mind.

But eventually we realize that God exceeds our ability to understand. For some, this stunts their growth, as they refuse to chase the Holy Spirit into the "unknown." For believers, however, the "unknown" is an invitation to experience God in a way we can't explain. God's power, working within us, pushes out the boundaries we've created around our creator. God is actively working to help you experience even deeper satisfaction in your relationship with him.

**God, thank you that I can never understand in this life just how truly wonderful you are. Thank you that every day is a chance to be amazed by your character. I pray that you will let my heart and soul continue where my mind wants to stop, and that I would feel the deep connection you desire with me.**

## MERCY THROUGH MENTORSHIP

*Fathers, do not make your children angry,  
but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord.*

EPHESIANS 6:4 NCV

For most people, the first understanding of God is directly connected to how they experienced their earthly father. Fathers are models of the Lord whether they intend to be or not. A child with a strict father will usually first assume God is judgmental. A child with an absent father will often first perceive God as uncaring. Fathers shape the lens through which children first see their Savior.

Through Jesus, God set his example of mercy through mentorship. It's easy to express reactionary anger when we are upset, but the Holy Spirit works to direct that angry energy into opportunities for growth and learning. When we do that, we paint a more accurate picture of God for the people in our lives.

**God, I want others to know you. Please help me to conduct myself in a way that makes you look good. I pray that I will choose opportunities for growth over angry outbursts. Help me to see the best way—your way—to respond to my frustrations.**

## NOTHING WITHOUT

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing."*

JOHN 15:5 NRSV

Many times we treat God like a turbo boost for life. For the most part we do our own thing, work hard to achieve our goals, and muscle through each day. But sometimes, when things are really hard, we finally relent and pray that God would help us over some particularly difficult hurdle in life.

If the above verse were written with regard to how many of us live, it would say "apart from me you can do most things."

Of course, Jesus knew what he was saying. His point was clear: we shouldn't save our reliance on him like some sort of power-up.

We are designed for constant connection to Christ. We function best, and really only function at all, when we choose to connect with God at all times, not just in tough times.

**God, thank you for being my source of strength every day. I pray that I will reflexively turn to you in every situation instead of leaning on you only when I feel I've exhausted all other options. Thank you for caring about even the things that seem small or insignificant. I know life is more enjoyable when you're in all of it.**

## WEARY

*Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

ISAIAH 40:30-31 ESV

Whenever you feel worn out, it should serve as a reminder to connect with God. When we try to do things with our own power, we often find ourselves drained before the task is accomplished. But when we trust that God is at work and we are simply assisting him, we find a deep supply of energy to keep doing his will.

The next time you're exhausted, pause and talk to God. He may encourage you to keep going, he may insist you stop worrying and rest, or he may convict you to shed the added weight of a sin in your life. No matter how he responds, he promises to help you keep going in a way you might have thought impossible before.

**Lord, thank you for giving me strength and energy when I feel I'm running out. Help me to continue experiencing your goodness even when I'm weary. I pray that I will realize the difference it makes to trust in you each day and that I will experience the vitality of living for you.**