

The cover features a central illustration of a branch with several leaves. The leaves are drawn with black outlines and filled with a pattern of fine, parallel lines. The branch and leaves are set against a background of soft, textured, light brown and tan washes. The text is centered over the branch.

FOR
I KNOW
THE
PLANS

365 DAILY
DEVOTIONS

BroadStreet
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FOR I KNOW THE PLANS

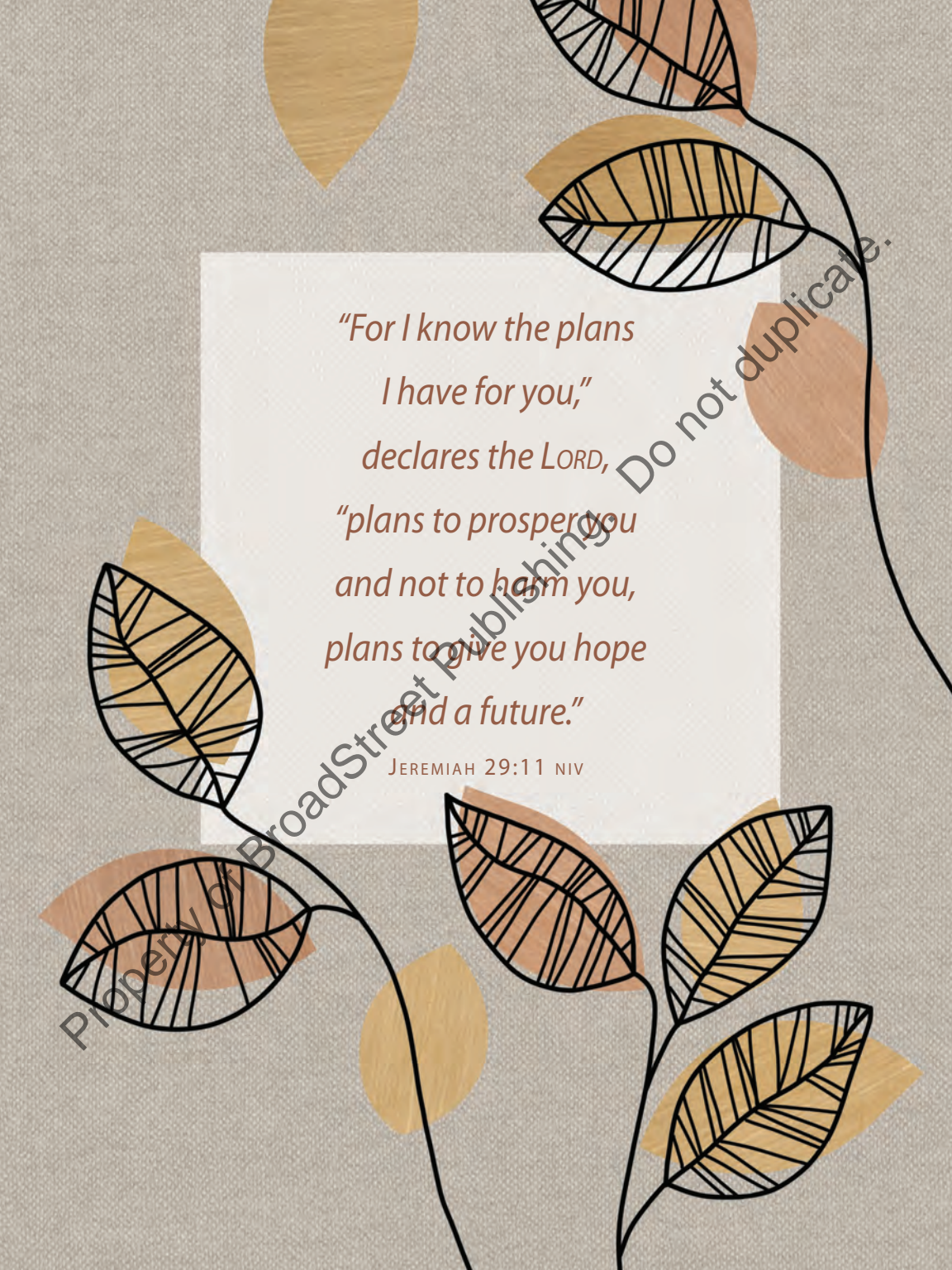
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The background is a textured grey color. It features several stylized leaves with black outlines and internal line patterns, some filled with a light brown or tan color. A white rectangular box is centered on the page, containing the text. A diagonal watermark reading "Property of BroadStreet Publishing Do not duplicate." is overlaid across the page.

*"For I know the plans
I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope
and a future."*

JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV



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INTRODUCTION

God has a plan for your life.

When you consider all that lies ahead of you, it can be difficult to trust that things will work out the way you want. If only you could know that the plans for your future are good!

Spend time with God today, trusting that he knows you and your destination perfectly. He can take you places and show you things you never could have imagined on your own.

God knows the future, he knows you, and he knows exactly what you need. He created you just the way you are for a specific purpose. Be encouraged as you continue to walk in your unique calling.

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JANUARY

*"My grace is all you need.
My power works best in weakness."*

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 NLT

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JANUARY 1

THRIVE DURING WINTER

*To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under heaven.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 KJV

Winter can be a time of inactivity. For farmers, winter is their slow season. For others, just the snow, rain, and chill make it difficult to be outside. But stillness and slowness do not mean nothing is happening. In nature, things are always happening below the surface. Birds are still eating, animals are still sleeping, and trout are still swimming under frozen ice.

Sometimes slowing down can be one of the most powerful acts in the life of a believer. It is a declaration of trust that the one who made us is still working and fighting for us. We allow the work and the seeds he has planted in us to grow and take even greater root in our hearts. Sometimes in our stillness, we have the greatest victories over our giants because we exhibit trust that God is still moving mightily.

God, teach us to not resist the slowness of winter. Give us the faith to see that you are still moving and working even if our physical eyes don't perceive it.

*Can you believe God is working, even in winter,
or have you become a complainer?*



JANUARY 2

GERMINATING

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me."

JOHN 15:4 ESV

When winter comes, although things look quiet on the outside, there is much life and growth brewing under the surface. Just because we don't see life budding up from the ground, it does not mean that no growth is happening. It is hidden from our eyes. Many trees and plants that pop up in the spring were able to do so because the seeds were germinating in the winter months. And scientists have found that some seeds do better with a layer of snow on top of the soil.

This is true of us as well. There are seasons we feel like we are dripping with the evidence of God's activity in our lives. And other seasons where the work of God feels deeply internal—shifting our preferences and loyalties. Rest assured that any beautiful work you see externally in a child of God was first cultivated internally. God knows when to plant, water, and prune. The work is in his hands; we have only to abide.

God, give me the courage to believe you are at work even when I can't see it. Help me to trust in your love.
You will complete that which you began.

*Are you resisting God's blessings in winter
by only looking toward spring?*



JANUARY 3

RESOLUTION TO ABIDE

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6 ESV

The start of a new year can bring about a lot of emotions. Culturally we are told to quickly come up with a resolution. Often, we look back at our previous year and reflect on what we want to change. This has the potential to cause regret for a lost year or shame for what we did or didn't do.

With God, however, all things can be made new, regardless of if it is January first or mid-October. He is our good shepherd who promises to be our steady leader. It takes courage to trust him and not grow anxious as we abide in him. The thing that pleases his heart most is our trust in him. As we trust, our courage and bravery will increase.

Jesus, thank you that you will be my ever-faithful guide throughout this year. Thank you that I can rest assured you are always working on me, and because of that, I can simply abide in you and trust you to complete your work.

Are you sure, like Paul says, that God will complete that which he began in you?



JANUARY 4

ROD AND STAFF

*Your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

PSALM 23:4 ESV

It takes courage to follow God where we sense him leading. Sometimes the path is clearly obvious—a well-worn trail blazed by the saints that have gone before us. However, there are other times that we sense him leading in a new direction on a new path. In some ways, it's not even a path; it's an uncharted trail that has yet to be traversed.

In these times, we need the assurance from God that this is the direction we are to walk in. When we are told he is our shepherd, it means that he knows how to usher us in the right direction for our lives. While we might be afraid that our bravery may cause us to take the wrong path, his staff will keep us from doing so. The hook of the staff will curl around us and pull us back. As the Psalmist says, that staff will be a comfort to us. We never have to worry because our good shepherd is always on the watch.

Jesus, thank you that you are good at using your staff of comfort. Thank you that you're quick to pull me back if I am wandering. I trust you to guide me.

Do you doubt God's skill as a shepherd?



JANUARY 5

THE SHEPHERD ROLE

"I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd lays his life down for the sheep."

JOHN 10:11 ESV

For first century readers, a comparison to sheep was not lost on them. They knew sheep were vulnerable animals with no way to protect themselves. They knew that sheep responded well to leadership. And they knew that if sheep were to accomplish anything noteworthy, it was to the credit of their shepherd.

When Jesus announced that he was a good shepherd, it brought an incredible sense of security to his followers. It meant that they had a protector, defender, and leader. Shepherds care for their sheep and they are equipped to do what it takes to carry this out. The instinct to lead and protect sheep is so strong that they are willing to take on a predator, even unto death, so their sheep won't die. The benefit of following our shepherd is that we don't have to be brave and fight for ourselves—that is his job, and one he does quite well.

Father, thank you that you are my shepherd.

When I am afraid, remind me that you fight
my battles for me.

Are you comforted by the protection of your shepherd?



JANUARY 6

MANUAL

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 ESV

All new phones come with an owner's manual. The manufacturer produces one specific to each phone they make. One phone might have GPS tracking installed while another has a great camera. If owners want to enjoy the phone to the fullest extent, they will read the manual. Our maker designed us even more intricately than a complex phone; we were fearfully and wonderfully made.

Without using our manual, the Bible, we will miss many of the unique features God put in us. Through his Spirit, he apportions each of us with giftings. May we take the time to draw near to him and inquire of him what special features he has put in us, for it will not only benefit us but also those around us.

Lord, thank you for gifting me with special abilities.
Remind me to walk in my giftings so others can
see you and your love.

*Do you believe that God knows you better than you
know yourself?*

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JANUARY 7

THE RIGHT FUEL

It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning.

PSALM 92:2 NLT

There are many different fuel options at the pump. A driver can choose from regular, premium, and at some stations, an ethanol-based fuel. All three options will work in most cars, but some vehicles were designed to run best with premium gasoline. The engine will not operate at its optimum on regular gas, and long term it has the propensity to break down sooner.

God designed us not to simply trudge through our days but to thrive. In Psalm 92, he admonishes us to begin our days reflecting on his unfailing love. His intent is that we would be strengthened in our spirits to know that no matter what comes our way, we have been loved with a love that is incapable of failure. Can we function without knowing this? Sure, just like a car on regular gasoline. But we were designed to run on premium, each day remembering that we are loved so we dwell in grace and peace instead of anxiety and fear.

God, thank you that your love will never fail me. Please write that truth on my heart that I might never forget it.

*Do you refuel with God's love every day
or trust in something cheaper?*

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JANUARY 8

ALL THINGS NEW

You have experienced the extravagant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was infinitely rich, he impoverished himself for our sake, so that by his poverty, we become rich beyond measure.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 TPT

We can't imagine a king in all of his splendor and richness, full of wealth and abounding in power as Christ was in heaven. We can try our best to picture the most majestic earthly kingdom, and then assume we would multiply that by one million. This is what Christ left when he came to dwell among us. He was born to parents on the move, not owning a home. When he ended his life, he didn't even have any financial means to take care of his mother; he had to entrust her to John. He was the epitome of poor.

He did this to abide with you. Not to hand you a variety of earthly riches, that will rust and fade away, but to pick you up out of your low estate, wash you clean, and hand you a robe of righteousness. You are wealthy in every sense of the word. All that the King has is yours. His promises for provision are abundant.

God, thank you for all the ways
you have blessed me richly!

How do you see the richness of Christ in your life today?



JANUARY 9

STILL PRAYING

He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

HEBREWS 7:25 ESV

Some people have the benefit of being prayed for their entire lives. From birth, they have had a steady stream of prayers by faithful family members. That isn't the case for everyone. Some didn't grow up in Christian homes or, even if they did, they weren't necessarily praying homes. Do not dismay if you fall into the latter category.

There is one who has prayed for you from the beginning. His name is Jesus. It is his delight, and a sign of his inheritance for you, that he prays. He sits right beside his Dad, with scarred hands, asking for the reality of the completed work on the cross to become your daily victory.

Father, please strengthen me as I receive
the availing prayers of your Son.

Do you believe Jesus hears you when you pray?

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JANUARY 10

GLORIOUS DESIGN

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

REVELATION 4:11 NIV

You only need to pause and take a look outside to see God's glory reflected in every part of nature. Whether a delicate rosebud or full array of stars at night, his beauty and magnificence are evident. Not only do we see his creativity, but his intellect in the design of the interrelationships of the natural world. The way the wind creates the waves, the moon affects the tides, and a bird gathers sticks for its nest, are just a few examples of his remarkable design.

You are a part of this amazing nature as well. He created you as an image bearer, someone who reflects his glory. Be proud of the way he created you! You may not feel perfect, but he designed you with the same beauty as the rest of his creation; you are his handiwork.

Worthy Lord, thank you for all the amazing things you have created around me. Help me to stop and notice your creative design in nature. May I accept that I am beautiful because you have made me according to your will, and your will is perfect.

What can you appreciate about God's creation today?



JANUARY 11

MY ENEMIES

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies,
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

PSALM 23:5 NIV

This psalm wasn't a cute thought to David. He had tapped into the truth that even when enemies were lurking around every corner, God himself could be found preparing a table. David felt served, cared for, and covered even when the enemy was upon him.

This is an incredible picture of God. He delights in serving us not just when things are calm but also when trials are upon us. In the moments we want to explode into frantic activity to protect ourselves from our enemies, God says, "Have a seat, child. Look, I have prepared a table for you, and I will serve you. Even though you are in a trial, your cup will overflow."

Father, thank you that you fight my enemies
and serve me at the same time.

*Have you experienced a time that you felt
served by God in the middle of a trial?*

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JANUARY 12

FERTILE SOIL

"Go, and sin no more."

JOHN 8:11 NIV

A woman was caught in the act of adultery. Unlike the Pharisees who wanted her to die, Jesus gave mercy. Minutes before, she was covered in shame and humiliation—standing at death's door. She knew the Pharisees were right. She deserved death. Jesus saw this moment as an incredible opportunity to reach someone at their lowest point. The woman's heart was fertile ground for a Savior.

In God's gracious way, he uses sin as an opportunity to draw us close to himself. He knows that in the moments after we choose sin we are most vulnerable to the outpouring his love and forgiveness. When we sin, we should run to the arms of our forgiving God. It is one of the most courageous acts we can do.

Jesus, thank you that you delight to give mercy and forgiveness. Help me run to you and not away from you after I have sinned.

After you sin, do you run to God or away from him?

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JANUARY 13

ACCUSED

*Jesus stood up again and said to the woman,
"Where are your accusers?"*

JOHN 8:10 NLT

God silences the enemy by speaking truth in the presence of their accusations. Sometimes we are so beaten down by discouragement or fear that we lack the strength to run to the Lord—especially when we feel like the enemy's camp is surrounding us.

The women caught in adultery knew she was powerless to escape her enemies and accusers, so God chose that to be the very place to save her. It wasn't in a private cave or at the temple. In their presence he stood and delivered her.

Jesus, give me the humility not to be self-absorbed.
Help me to look to you in the moments
when I am being accused.

*Do you run to Jesus when your accusers surround you
or do you listen to their lies?*

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JANUARY 14

HEART TRUTH

*O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?
He who speaks the truth in His heart.*

PSALM 15:1-2 ESV

Our thoughts need coaching because most of the time they will derail. It is natural to become self-focused throughout the day. In doing so, insecurities and fears can subconsciously be strengthened. It's important to pause throughout the day and take stock in what we have given our minds to.

There is great value in actively controlling your mind. It is critical to speak the truth to our hearts. Don't be discouraged when you see that you aren't walking closely with God. View it as a revelation from God to help you correct your course. He will give you the strength you need to align your mind with his truth.

Holy Spirit, I invite you to remind me to speak the truth in my heart today. Please show me when I am not and give me the grace to change my course.

Are you speaking truth in and to your heart?

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