

*We're So  
Blessed*



# *We're So Blessed*

*Forty Days of Devotions  
and Activities for the  
WHOLE FAMILY*

*Taylor, Madison, and Logan Cain  
With Jared Johnson*

**KLOVE**  
BOOKS

We're So Blessed: Forty Days of Devotions and Activities for the Whole Family

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*For Beau: Our memories of you will keep us  
feeling so blessed until we see you again in  
heaven. We love and miss you, sweet boy.*

## Introduction

If you could have been a fly on the wall in our quaint childhood home in small-town Alabama, you would have witnessed the beautiful chaos in which we Cain siblings grew up. You would have seen the eldest (*and best*) of us, Taylor, skillfully plucking her acoustic guitar and figuring out all the harmony parts to a Steven Curtis Chapman song. You would have seen the middle sibling and glue of the family, Madison, playing with the family video camera while acting out a homemade skit. And you would have seen baby brother, Logan, doing just about anything to get under the skin of his two older sisters. Our childhood was full of wild memories, great laughter, and light. And every bit of that is due to our intentional, loving parents and pastors, Charley and Shari Cain.

Even in the craziness of a home with three children all separated by one year in age, our mom and dad poured their all into each day. They supported our wildest dreams, they worked alongside us on last-minute school projects, and they created core memories for us we will never forget. We were the direct beneficiaries of God-centered family time, and now—as we’ve grown older, gotten married, and have had children of our own—we feel the challenge of establishing God as the head of our own homes.

We feel the challenge of quieting the discord of this world and creating a home for our children to grow not only in stature but in spirit and in truth. We want to cultivate the same deep connections with our growing families that our parents so thoughtfully cultivated with us. That challenge led us to the creation of this

family devotional. Our prayer is that through these daily readings both our own families and yours can glean from God's Word together, notice the blessings of God together, and experience memorable moments and conversations *together*.

*We're So Blessed* is a forty-day, family-oriented devotional to help guide you and your family away from the madness of the world to a place of peace with God. It is an aid to help your family take the time to recognize God's hand in your everyday lives and to realize how truly blessed you are as children of God. This devotional is designed to be enjoyed *together*, and it is written in a way that is attainable and meaningful for all members of the family. Each day of the devotional is composed of three elements:

1. Approachable passages from God's Word
2. Relatable, personal stories from the entire Cain family, our spouses, and our children
3. Meaningful family conversation starters and activities to do as a family

Through each day's reading, we pray that your family feels encouraged by God's Word, you feel *seen* relating to our zany stories, and your family feels inspired to create some unforgettable moments of your own. You can gather around the kitchen table or the living room couch, open this devotional, and let it serve as the launchpad for Spirit-filled conversations and laughter-filled activities that leave your family feeling refreshed, refocused, and reminded that *We're So Blessed*.



## Lost & Found

### Scripture

Parable of the Lost Sheep • Matthew 18:12–14

<sup>12</sup> *“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?”*<sup>13</sup> *And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away!*<sup>14</sup> *In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.”*

### Madison’s Hide & Seek (Taylor)

Growing up, Madison wasn’t what you would call a “bad kid”; she was just “curious.” Sometimes she might have been a little *too* curious. After one particular day of playing with family friends, Madison wasn’t quite ready for the fun to be finished. She hoped to spend the night with our friends and keep the good times rolling, but to her disappointment, our parents said, “No, not tonight.” But even though she heard “no,” Madison’s mind began to come up with a plan. She thought to herself, *If I can just hide in the back of our friends’ car, they will drive all the way back home and then I can pop out for a big “Surprise!”*

*moment. We'll all laugh, and they'll be so happy that I'll be able spend the night after all.*

So, without telling a soul, Madison quietly opened the minivan door, crawled like a worm until she was hidden under the back seat, and stayed as quiet as a mouse. Before too long, our family friends loaded into their minivan, cranked the engine, and began the long drive back home. Madison had done it! She had successfully hidden and was now along for the ride. Now she just had to wait for the right moment to pop out and give everyone the biggest surprise of their lives!

Meanwhile, it wasn't long before Mom and Dad realized they hadn't seen Madison in a while. They checked in her bedroom, they checked in the living room, they checked the backyard...no Madison. They checked with the neighbors, and Madison wasn't there either, so panic began to set in. Our parents loaded into our old miNIVan and drove through the neighborhood searching high and low for Madison. When they couldn't find her, they began calling friends to help with their search. They even got the local police department involved, and a full hunt for Madison ensued. With terror in their minds, our parents sped down the highway and eventually caught up to our family friends and waved them over to the side of the road. Little did they know, a very well-hidden Madison lay quietly giggling under the back seat.

"Have you seen Madison?" Dad shouted worriedly. "We haven't seen her since you all left the house. We're getting worried, and we've already called the police!"

"No, we haven't seen her!" they replied.

Finally, to Madison, the moment she was waiting for had come. She wriggled out from under the back seat, jumped up into the

air, and shouted “Surprise!” But to *her* surprise, the look on everyone’s faces wasn’t pure happiness. They all nearly fainted with relief as their worst nightmare was resolved: Madison was not lost but found.

Mom and Dad wanted to be angry, but in that moment, they couldn’t feel anything but pure joy and relief to see sweet Madison’s smiling face again. Dad scooped Madison into his arms and carried her home more thankful than ever to have his “curious” daughter back in his sight. Just like our Dad stopping at nothing to find Madison, our God loves us so much that He will find us when we *too* are lost and far from Him and bring us home safe to His presence. Today’s scripture tells us that it is not God’s will that we should perish, but He desires to bring us “home” to a relationship with Him. And when we are back at home with our God, as verse 13 says, “*He will rejoice.*”

### Reflection Questions

- *What part of the Parable of the Lost Sheep stands out to you?*
- *What do you think of the shepherd leaving his ninety-nine other sheep to find the lost one?*
- *Does Madison’s dad react like the shepherd when Madison goes missing?*
- *God loves us so much that He will come and find us when we’re lost and bring us home safe. How does that make you feel?*



## *Sneaking in Joy*

### Scripture

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ • Colossians 3:1–4, 12–17 ESV

<sup>1</sup> *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* <sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* <sup>3</sup> *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* <sup>4</sup> *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory . . .* <sup>12</sup> *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,* <sup>13</sup> *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* <sup>14</sup> *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.* <sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.* <sup>16</sup> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* <sup>17</sup> *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

### **Taylor's Secret Visitor (Madison)**

In 2015, when Taylor was 26 years old, she went on a mission trip to Honduras. Taylor loved this experience; she played with the local children, sang songs, and helped work on some building projects in the community. However, after she returned home, Taylor found herself very sick. After several days of sickness and no relief in sight, we took her to the hospital. What the doctors discovered was much worse than Taylor and our family had hoped. Her kidneys were in such critical shape that she might have to take powerful medicine for the rest of her life, and she might experience changes that would really break her heart, such as losing her ability to sing.

Taylor had to stay in the hospital for several days, and to help keep her company, our whole family stayed with her. There in her tiny hospital room, we crammed air mattresses and blankets and tried our best to not trip over one another. It was crowded and uncomfortable, and each day brought more frightening news about Taylor's sickness. However, we all made it a point that no matter the discomfort we experienced lying on the floor or the fear we felt in our hearts for Taylor, we would choose to stay positive and believe that God would heal Taylor's kidneys. We did everything we could do to "let the peace of God rule in our hearts," as the scripture above says. We did this by playing games, watching funny movies, telling jokes, and singing songs. We all prayed together and sang praise and worship songs to God throughout the day. When we felt scared, we chose to focus on Jesus and not on all the bad news around us.

Then when the bad news seemed to be at its worst, Logan and I came up with a big idea to help encourage Taylor. We wanted to

bring her a special visitor to cheer her up . . . our family dog, Pepe. However, dogs weren't allowed in the hospital, so we had to be very careful. We went home, gathered up Pepe, the largest suitcase we owned (it helped that Pepe was on the smaller side), and all the dog treats we could carry, and headed back to the hospital. Then we carefully placed Pepe into the suitcase along with several of his favorite treats, and Pepe began to happily chow down as we carried him secretly to Taylor's hospital room.

We walked into the hospital room, placed the suitcase on Taylor's bed, unzipped it—and out popped Pepe! Taylor was so happy to pet her dog and have a sense of “home” even at the hospital. In that moment, Taylor wasn't thinking about being sick, she was thinking about how thankful she was for Jesus and her family. She smiled and hugged Pepe all night long.

Finally, after many scary days, Taylor got the report that she had been longing for: she was healed and could go home! Her sickness miraculously improved and she was able to make a full recovery. Taylor and our family praised God and celebrated the mighty work He had done. All along the way we tried to “be thankful,” “sing hymns with thankfulness in our hearts,” and “let the peace of God rule,” and it helped bring us closer together even in a trying time. Most importantly, when we were most afraid, we “put on love” by encouraging and caring for one another. Sometimes putting on love means playing games together, sometimes it means praying together when times are tough, and sometimes it means sneaking joy (in the form of a dog) into a hospital!

### **Reflection Questions**

- *How can you “sneak joy” into your family?*

- *What is something nice someone in your family has done to encourage you?*
- *What is your favorite way to give thanks to God?*

**Activity**

*It's praising time! Find your family's favorite praise and worship song and crank it up! Sing together and thank God for all the good things He has done for your family. Bonus points if you even add in some dance moves!*

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## Staying Prepared

### Scripture

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids • Matthew 25:1-13

<sup>1</sup>“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ <sup>12</sup> But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you.’ <sup>13</sup> So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.”

## Charley's Chocolate Syrup (Logan)

There is a well-known fact in the Cain family. If the patriarch, Pastor Charley Cain, is going to the grocery store for *anything* at all—whether it be a loaf of bread or a jug of laundry detergent—he's coming home with one extra item . . . chocolate syrup. It's an easy item to forget. It typically sits in the crowded condiments shelf in the Cain family refrigerator, and it isn't used every day, or every week for that matter. So each time Pastor Charley goes to the grocery store, the thought occurs to him, *Do we have any chocolate syrup at the house?* Before you know it, the Cain family has three or four bottles of syrup tucked safely away in their refrigerator.

And while it seems just like a funny case of forgetfulness, the heart behind it is anything but forgetful. Pastor Charley knows that nothing brings his family together like enjoying a sweet treat. Every time the family is all in one place, no matter how large of a dinner we just enjoyed, there always seems to be room for everyone to enjoy a bowl of ice cream with chocolate syrup. It's these moments together where the family laughs, dreams, and shares the truest parts of themselves with one another. Through perfect, syrupy bites, family achievements are celebrated and family losses are comforted. Nothing binds a family quite like ice cream.

Each time Pastor Charley picks up yet *another* bottle of chocolate syrup, ultimately, he's being obedient to his calling as the spiritual head of his household. He's making an investment in his family, an investment in what will be a future moment shared with his children and grandchildren. Like the five wise bridesmaids waiting on the bridegroom with ample oil, Charley prepares himself and his home to host a meaningful time with

all of us—no matter *when* that time may come. As the years have passed, these moments together may not be as frequent as they once were, but they are more valuable than ever. Each time these family moments occur, you can guarantee that there will be chocolate syrup for everyone’s ice cream.

### Reflection Questions

- *What was the significance of the bridesmaids preparing oil for their lamps? What happened to those who hadn’t prepared enough oil?*
- *The oil in the bridesmaids’ lamps signified obedience to God. What are some ways you can store up “oil” in your life to help you stay close to God?*
- *In the same way Charley invested in his family by making preparations for a family ice cream night, what is a way you can invest in your family to create meaningful moments together?*

### Activity

*You guessed it: time for a family ice cream party! Someone grab the bowls, spoons, and ice cream of your choice; someone grab all the toppings (especially the chocolate syrup); and everyone make their favorite ice cream sundae. Turn off the TV, put away the phones and screens, and enjoy some ice cream and conversation together!*



## *A Curious Mind*

### Scripture

Unity in the Body • Ephesians 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*

<sup>3</sup> *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*

### Madison's Blue Phase (Taylor)

As a child Madison was certainly a well-mannered young girl. She minded our parents, was respectful to others, and played kindly with any kid she'd meet. However, as mannerly as she was, her curious mind would get her into a little trouble from time to time. Our parents now say with a chuckle that if Madison was ever quiet you needed to find her *quickly*! She was just so curious about the world around her, and sometimes that curiosity led her to innocently do some rather mischievous things.

When Madison was five years old, while our parents were merely one room away, her curiosity led her to the family's "junk" drawer in the kitchen. This drawer was a catch-all for rubber bands, paper clips, pencils, and, on this fateful day, an extra-large, dark blue permanent marker.

Madison was mesmerized by the marker. She removed the cap to reveal the dark blue tip, and that's when her curious mind took over. Madison thought, *Wow, with a big marker like this, I bet I could color my entire leg blue.* That thought was very quickly put into action. Calmly and quietly, young Madison applied deep blue marker strokes to her leg. She meticulously colored in heavy ink, solid line by solid line, until, lo and behold, her entire leg looked just like a blueberry. Madison sat back, astonished with her masterpiece. Again, she thought to herself, *This looks amazing. I can't wait to show Mom and Dad. They'll be so impressed!*

Madison walked gingerly into the living room where our parents were sitting, and when she had her blue leg displayed proudly, she shouted "Surprise!" And it was *indeed* a surprise. Our parents shared dumbfounded looks as they figured out what exactly they were witnessing. Then they frantically delivered a bevy of questions: "What have you done? Which marker did you use? Did you know this was a *permanent* marker?" Madison beamed with pride as she truthfully answered each question: "I colored my leg! I used the big marker in the junk drawer . . . and no I didn't realize it was permanent." Mom and Dad quickly took her into the bathroom and began desperately trying to wash away the blue ink with soap and water. While a slight amount was removed, it was evident after the fourth or fifth wash that this blue leg was here to stay until it could gradually fade over time. And until it faded, it would be quite the conversation piece for our parents around town.

Madison wasn't a bad kid in the slightest; she was just wholeheartedly curious. And in this situation, like many others, our parents decided to respond with patience and gentleness. While

they explained that applying homemade, permanent marker tattoos *wasn't* a great idea, they also were careful not to dissuade Madison from inquiring about the world around her. They had the foresight to know that a curious child like her would grow into an intelligent, inquisitive adult. As today's scriptures instruct, they were patient with her and made allowances for her faults and missteps because of their love for her as they raised her into a strong, confident woman of faith.

### Reflection Questions

- *Has curiosity ever gotten you into trouble? If so, share that story with your family.*
- *Ephesians 4:2 says to make allowances for one another's faults because of your love. How can you live out that scripture? How can you make better allowances for others?*
- *Think of a time someone was patient with you. How did that make you feel?*

### Activity

*Now for a less permanent version of Madison's Blue Phase: it's washable marker tattoo time! All you'll need is a box of washable markers and each other to use as a canvas. Take turns making wacky tattoos on one another. Be sure to take some photos to remember your artwork before you clean it off.*



## Love What You Have

### Scripture

Freedom from Rules and New Life in Christ • Colossians 2:6–7

<sup>6</sup> *And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him.* <sup>7</sup> *Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

### Taylor's Treasure Map (Logan)

Growing up in the Cain household was anything but dull. With three young children all close in age, the house was always teeming with laughter and full of raucous games. However, on a particularly dreary day, we found ourselves stuck inside. All the games had been played, all the movies had been watched, and young Taylor and Madison found themselves to be surprisingly quite bored! Toys and books surrounded them on all sides, but the two of them just couldn't think of anything *new* to play. As they stared blankly out the living room window, Taylor, the typical leader of the Cain kid crew, devised a plan.

Their old, familiar toys had lost a bit of their luster, but Taylor thought to herself, *What if we could play with our old toys in a new*

way? Without any explanation, Taylor quietly exited the room. She grabbed Madison's toy jewelry, which was once used for fun dress-up games but now sat lonely on the floor. Then she picked up a piece of paper and a pen and sneaked silently outside. The idea was simple: Taylor would take the toy jewelry to a remote location within our yard and bury it discreetly. Then, using the paper and pen, she would create a precise treasure map leading directly to the newly buried treasure. Now all she needed was a willing pirate to take part in the search.

Taylor ran inside with wide eyes. "Madison, you have to help! I found this treasure map, and it looks like it leads to something!" Madison's sense of boredom instantly left her body as she matched Taylor's excited energy. The search was on! Madison held the map tightly as she zigged and zagged all throughout the yard, following the directions on the map perfectly until . . . eureka! Madison had found the supposed treasure location and began to feverishly dig into the earth with her bare hands. Her digging proved successful as she unearthed her own toy jewelry with her smile a mile wide! She squealed with delight and clung to the toy jewelry like it was her most prized possession—so thankful to have successfully found this old, familiar toy. Thanks to Taylor's creativity, the same toy jewelry that had seemed worn out moments earlier was now Madison's most valuable treasure. Taylor could have given up on this day and succumbed to boredom, but she chose to rediscover the love for something she already had on hand. Ultimately, she realized the real treasure all along was creating a fun memory that she and Madison would cherish forever.

Much like a beloved toy we've taken for granted, we can often lose our sense of love and wonder for the ultimate gift of Jesus as

our Lord. We initially accept Jesus' love and unmerited grace for us with such delight and gratefulness, but as the difficulties and repeated rhythms of life set in, our delight and gratefulness can sadly decline. Scripture challenges us to reverse this decline and grow our faith by letting our roots grow down deep into Him and building our lives on Him. When we choose to organize our lives around Jesus, we will continually rediscover our love for Him and our thankfulness for His presence.

### Reflection Questions

- *When we first accept Jesus as our Lord, we often do so with excitement and thankfulness. But as we experience life and its struggles, this sense of excitement and thankfulness can start to wither. What does today's passage say we can do to combat this from happening?*
- *When we continue with Jesus and let our lives be built on Him, the scripture says our faith will grow and we will overflow with thankfulness. How have you noticed your faith growing? What are some specific elements in your life for which you are thankful?*
- *What is a practical way that you could reinvigorate your faith?*

**Activity**

*It's time to take a page out of young Taylor's book. One person gets to be the hider and everyone else is a seeker. The hider takes a familiar household item and hides it secretly in the house (or you can even bury it in the yard with your parents' permission). Then the hider creates a map that will lead the seekers to the hidden treasure. See how long it takes for the seekers to find the hidden item!*

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