



GOD HEARS HER



A  
*Joyful*  
EASTER

40 Morning &  
Evening Devotions

Our Daily Bread

GOD HEARS HER

▲  
*Joyful*

EASTER

40 Morning &  
Evening Devotions



Our Daily Bread  
Publishing.

*God Hears Her, A Joyful Easter: 40 Morning and Evening Devotions*

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**T**his Easter, the woman authors of *Our Daily Bread* invite you to walk in Christ's footsteps. Be captivated by your Savior as you experience Him through the events of His life and resurrection. In this redemptive forty-day devotional, pause at the beginning and end of your day to reflect on—and be amazed by—the wild and wondrous Person of Jesus: *who He is, what He did for us, and how He desires a deep, personal relationship with you.*

Jesus is alive, He rose from the grave, and He longs to give You joy forever in His presence! As you walk with Jesus, encounter the sacrificial love of the One who is fully God and fully man: the indescribable, mysterious One who became like us—giving up His rights, His home, and enduring the shame and suffering of the cross—so that we might draw close to Him.

What an amazing thing to celebrate this Easter.

Experience this inspiring, Scripture-based morning and evening devotional in three journeys:

- **Part 1: Jesus's Ministry**—Deepen your intimacy with Jesus while immersing yourself in the last three years of Jesus's life, teachings, and miracles.
- **Part 2: Journey to the Cross**—Be present with Jesus, and stay close to Him, as Jesus surrenders Himself completely to the way of the cross in the days leading up to His arrest.
- **Part 3: The Cross and Empty Tomb**—Feel the depth of Jesus's love and sacrifice and the power of His resurrection as you rejoice in Christ's victory over death.

**Embrace the wondrous joy of Easter as Jesus reveals Himself to you.**

*Anna Haggard*

General Editor

Our Daily Bread Publishing



I came that they may have  
*and* enjoy life, and have  
it in abundance [to the  
full, till it overflows].

JOHN 10:10 AMP

PART 1



*Jesus's  
Ministry*



# Day 1

MORNING

The Son is the image of the  
invisible God, the firstborn  
over all creation.

COLOSSIANS 1:15



# SPITTING IMAGE

Read Colossians 1:15–23

**D**uring an outing, we met a woman who had known my husband's family since he was a child. She looked from Alan to our son, Xavier. "He's the spitting image of his daddy," she said. "Those eyes. That smile. Yep. Looks just like him." As the woman delighted in acknowledging such a strong resemblance between father and son, she even noted similarities in their personalities. Still, though they are alike in many ways, my son doesn't reflect his father perfectly.

There's only one Son—Jesus—who reflects His Father completely. Christ is the "image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15). In Him and through Him and for Him all things were created (v. 16). "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (v. 17).

This Easter, together we can discover the Father's character by looking at Jesus—God in the flesh. He invites us to witness His love in action by examining how He interacts with others in Scripture and in our day-to-day living. If we've surrendered our lives to Christ and received the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can also grow in knowing and trusting our loving Father. He transforms us to reflect His character, so we can live for Him.

What a joy it would be if others could say we look just like Jesus!

—*Xochitl Dixon*

*Jesus, You came to earth to show us what our heavenly Father looks like. Reveal Yourself to me in fresh ways, and help me draw closer to You.*

# Day 1 EVENING



I bring you good news that will  
bring great joy to all people.

LUKE 2:10 NLT



# RESTORING JOY

Read Luke 2:8–12

**A**fter Adam and Eve disobeyed God, joy was lost. God expelled them from their garden home to prevent something worse from happening. If they had eaten from the Tree of Life after eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would have lived forever in their misery.

Life outside the garden was not easy. Adam and Eve had to work hard for their food. The reality of death was everywhere, and animals preyed on one another. Even worse, the couple's firstborn son murdered his younger brother. What could be worse? Sin had pierced their lives, and the couple could not stop joy from draining out.

But God had a plan to restore joy. Joy was lost in the garden when death came, but joy returned through birth—the birth of God's own Son. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people” (Luke 2:10 NLT). Jesus grew up to heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and raise the dead. But this was just a taste of things to come. God entered our world, experienced our sorrow, and conquered death, giving us hope that He will keep His promise to end pain, and eliminate sorrow and death (John 11:25–26; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Revelation 21:4). No wonder Easter is the season of joy! —*Julie Ackerman Link*

*Jesus, I'm in awe that You chose to enter into our pain and brokenness by becoming one of us. Thank You for restoring joy!*



*Day 2*  
MORNING



Jesus called his twelve disciples  
to him and gave them authority.

MATTHEW 10:1



# JUST AS I AM

Read Matthew 10:1, 5–10, 16–20

The young woman couldn't sleep. The next day was a fundraiser for girls' education. Having suffered a physical disability for many years, she alone of all her family members was unable to help. I'm useless, she thought. As Charlotte Elliott tossed and turned, she gave in to her distress and was soon questioning every aspect of her spiritual life.

Still restless the next day, Charlotte determined to focus instead on what she knew to be true of God. She moved to a desk and picked up paper and pen to write down the words of the now classic hymn, "Just as I Am."

"Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come."

Her words, written in 1835, express the right attitude to have as we contemplate service for our Savior. We don't have to be ready—we have to be willing. Think about the team Jesus sent out to serve Him. It was a ragtag group, including a tax collector, a zealot, two overly ambitious brothers (see Mark 10:35–37), and Judas Iscariot "who betrayed him" (Matthew 10:4). But they were willing to go, just as they were. And Jesus gave them authority to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons" (v. 8)—all without taking any money, luggage, extra shirt or sandals, or even a walking stick with them (vv. 9–10).

"I am sending you," He said (v. 16), and He was enough. For each of us who say yes to Jesus, He still is. —*Patricia Raybon*

*Jesus, thank You for loving me just as I am.*



# Day 2

EVENING



Put out into deep water, and  
let down the nets for a catch.

LUKE 5:4



# LET DOWN YOUR NETS

Read Luke 5:1–11

**R**efuge Rabindranath has been a youth worker for more than ten years. He often interacts with the youth late into the night—playing with them, listening to them, counseling and teaching them. He enjoys working with the young people, but it can be disheartening when promising students sometimes walk away from the faith. Some days he feels a bit like Simon Peter in Luke 5.

Simon had been working hard all night but caught no fish (v. 5). He felt discouraged and tired. Yet when Jesus told him to “put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch” (v. 4), Simon replied, “Because you say so, I will let down the nets” (v. 5).

Simon’s obedience is remarkable. As a seasoned fisherman, he knew that fish move to the bottom of the lake when the sun is up, and the dragnets they used could not go deep enough to catch those fish.

His willingness to trust Jesus was rewarded. Not only did Simon catch a large number of fish, he gained a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. He moved from calling Jesus “Master” (v. 5) to calling Him “Lord” (v. 8). Indeed, “listening” often allows us to see the works of God firsthand and draw closer to Him.

Perhaps God is calling you to “let down your nets again.” May we reply to the Lord as Simon did: “Because You say so, I will.”

—*Poh Fang Chia*

*Ask Jesus where He may be inviting  
you to “let down your nets.”*

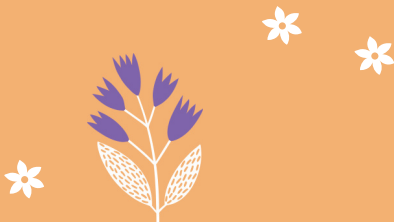
# Day 3

MORNING



[Jesus] called them, and they left  
their father . . . and went after Him.

MARK 1:20 NKJV



# WALKING IN HIS DUST

Read Mark 1:16–20

In the first century, a Jewish man who wanted to become a disciple of a rabbi (teacher) was expected to leave family and job to join his rabbi. They would live together twenty-four hours a day—walking from place to place, teaching and learning, studying and working. They discussed and memorized the Scriptures and applied them to life.

The disciple’s calling, as described in early Jewish writings about basic ethics, was to “cover himself in the dust of [the rabbi’s] feet,” drinking in his every word. He followed his rabbi so closely that he would “walk in his dust.” In doing so, he became like the rabbi, his master.

Simon, Andrew, James, and John knew that this was the type of relationship to which Jesus was calling them (Mark 1:16–20). So immediately they walked away from their work and “went after Him” (v. 20 NKJV). For three years they stayed close to Him—listening to His teaching, watching His miracles, learning His principles, and walking in His dust.

As Jesus’s followers today, we too can “walk in His dust.” By spending time studying and meditating on His Word and applying its principles to life, we’ll become like our rabbi—Jesus.

—*Anne Cetas*

*Rabbi Jesus, I want to stay close to You today; help me trust Your gentle guidance and receive Your daily care.*



# Day 3

EVENING



The woman then left her waterpot  
[and said,] “Come, see a Man  
who told me all things that I ever  
did. Could this be the Christ?”

JOHN 4:28-29 NKJV



# LEAVING IT BEHIND

Read John 4:9–14, 27–29

In the year or so after our teenage son got his driver's license and started carrying a wallet, we got several calls from people who had found it somewhere. We cautioned him to be more careful and not leave it behind.

Leaving things behind, though, is not always a bad thing. In John 4, we read about a woman who had come to draw water at a well. But after she encountered Jesus that day, her intent suddenly changed. Leaving her water jar behind, she hurried back to tell others what Jesus had said to her (vv. 28–29). Even her physical need for water paled in comparison to telling others about the Man she had just met.


Peter and Andrew did something similar when Jesus called them. They left their fishing nets (which was the way they earned their living) to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18–20). And James and John left their nets, boat, and even their father when Jesus called them (vv. 21–22).

Our new life of following Jesus Christ may mean that we have to leave things behind, including those that don't bring lasting satisfaction. What we once craved cannot compare with the life and "living water" that Jesus offers. —Cindy Hess Kasper

*Jesus, You are Living Water; thank You for  
promising to provide everything I need.*



*Day 4*  
MORNING



Jesus replied, “. . . That  
is why I have come.”

MARK 1:38



# CHRIST OUR PRIORITY

Read Mark 1:35–39

“**M**ay we” invite you to be the main speaker in our nationwide church leadership conference?” After Jose read the invitation from the renowned organization, he replied, “Please let me pray about it first.” Later, when he turned down the offer, he told a friend, “I knew God was calling me to editorial work on a mission’s project, and the speaking engagement would take time and energy away from that. I said no so I can do what God wants me to do.”

What God wants me to do—that was Jose’s priority and what determined his decision. Jesus also made God’s purpose His priority. The morning after healing many in Capernaum who were sick and demon-possessed, Jesus went to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:32–35). The disciples came, saying, “Everyone is looking for you!” (v. 37). Some of those seeking Him were likely requesting healing. Christ, however, didn’t allow urgency or His sudden popularity to determine what He’d do next. “Let us go . . . to the nearby villages,” He said, “so I can preach there also. That is why I have come” (v. 38). Jesus followed His priority—a ministry that covered the rest of Galilee, and one that included preaching (v. 39).

How may we know God’s purpose for us? We can approach Him in prayer, be led by His wisdom found in the Scriptures, and seek counsel from people who uphold His ways. Let’s spend our life doing what God wants us to do. —*Karen Huang*

*Precious Jesus, please show me what You want me to do.*

# Day 4

EVENING



I have come into the world as a  
light, so that no one who believes  
in me should stay in darkness.

JOHN 12:46



# INTO THE LIGHT

Read John 3:1–21

According to the apostle John, Nicodemus “came to Jesus at night” (John 3:2). Was this Pharisee skulking under cover of darkness, embarrassed or ashamed that he, as one of the ruling class, was curious about Jesus?

Some have suggested that it was just cooler at night. Others have said that evening was a better time to ask Jesus questions because it was quieter and there were fewer distractions.

We really don’t know the reason Nicodemus went to Jesus at night, but John seemed determined to make a point of that specific fact. Every time he mentioned Nicodemus, he identified him by saying something like: “You know who I’m talking about—the guy who came to Jesus by night” (see 3:2; 19:39).

Nicodemus, no doubt, was quite moral and lived according to Mosaic law. People probably thought he was a pretty good person. Yet none of that mattered. He was in the dark about who Jesus really was, and he wanted to know the truth. So he was drawn from the darkness into the presence of “the light of the world” (John 8:12).

Jesus calls us “out of darkness” too (1 Peter 2:9) and promises that whoever believes in Him will not stay in the dark (John 12:46).

—Cindy Hess Kasper

*Jesus, You rescued me from darkness to give me freedom, light, and life—thank You!*



*Day 5*  
MORNING



I will remove from them  
their heart of stone and give  
them a heart of flesh.

EZEKIEL 11:19



# A NEW HEART IN CHRIST

Read Ezekiel 11:14–21

**B**rock and Dennis were childhood friends, but as they grew up, Brock showed little interest in Dennis’s faith in Jesus. Dennis loved his friend and prayed for him because he knew the path he was going down was dark and depressing. In praying for Brock, Dennis adapted the words of the prophet Ezekiel: “Please God, remove from Brock a heart of stone and give him a heart of flesh” (see Ezekiel 11:19). He longed that Brock would walk in God’s way so he would flourish.

Ten years later, Dennis was still praying faithfully. Then he received a call from Brock: “I just gave my life to Jesus!” Dennis rejoiced, tears brimming, to hear his friend exclaim that he’d finally come to the end of himself and trusted God with his life.

In his prayers, Dennis focused on God’s promises to His people through Ezekiel. Although they’d turned from God with detestable practices, He said He would change their hearts: “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh” (v. 19). With changed hearts, they would follow their God faithfully (v. 20). In John 3, Jesus offers this same promise to the Pharisee Nicodemus, inviting him to be “born again”—transformed and remade into the image of God’s likeness and love (vv. 5–21).

No matter how far we’ve turned from God, He delights to give us warm and loving hearts. We need only to turn to Him with faith and repentance as we trust in Jesus to save us from our sins.

—Amy Boucher Pye

*Jesus, thank You for second chances, new beginnings,  
and the gift of Your redemptive love! Remake  
me each day into Your likeness and love!*



# Day 5

EVENING



[God will] make the way of escape,  
that [we] may be able to bear it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 NKJV



# A WAY OF ESCAPE

Read Matthew 4:1–11; 1 Corinthians 10:12–13

**H**ighway 77, which passes through the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia, features a series of runaway truck ramps. These semi-paved exits appear in an area of the highway where the altitude drops nearly 1,300 feet over the course of about 6 miles. This steep descent combined with the road’s winding path can create problems for motorists—especially truck drivers.

Just as a runaway truck needs an escape route from a highway, we also need “a way of escape” when out-of-control desires threaten our spiritual well-being. When we face temptation, “[God will] make the way of escape, that [we] may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV). God enables us to say no to enticement through the power of His Word. Jesus conquered Satan’s temptation relating to food, authority, and trust by quoting verses from Deuteronomy (Matthew 4:4–10). Scripture helped Him resist the devil despite the effects of a forty-day fast in the wilderness.

When we are tempted, we may feel like disaster is just around the bend. Memories of past failure and isolation from others can intensify this feeling. However, we can trust God in moments of temptation; He is faithful. He will provide a way for us to resist sin’s allure.

—*Jennifer Benson Schuldt*

*Invite Jesus’s compassion and help into an  
area of struggle and temptation.*

## THE WRITERS

**Amy Boucher Pye** is a London-based writer, speaker, and spiritual director. She has written six books, including *Transforming Love* (Our Daily Bread Publishing, 2023) and *7 Ways to Pray* (NavPress, 2021), and has a Master of Arts in Christian spirituality from Heythrop College, University of London. Find her at amyboucherpye.com.

**Anne Cetas** became a follower of Jesus in her late teens. She was given a copy of *Our Daily Bread* by a friend to help her read the Bible consistently. Several years later, she joined the editorial staff of *Our Daily Bread* and has worked as a proofreader, a devotional author, a managing editor, and senior content editor of the publication. Anne and her husband, Carl, enjoy bicycling and attending baseball games together, and serving in the jail, benevolence, and refugee ministries at their church.

**Poh Fang Chia** received Jesus as her Savior as a fifteen-year-old when she was taught 1 Peter 2:2, “Like newborn babies, you should long for the pure milk of God’s word. It will help you grow up as believers” (NIV). Since then, reading, reflecting and responding to God’s Word daily has become an important habit in her life. Today, Poh Fang serves with *Our Daily Bread Ministries* at the Singapore office as executive director. Poh Fang

says, “I really enjoy exploring the Scripture and finding passages that bring a fresh viewpoint, answer a question that is burning in my mind, or deal with a life issue I’m facing. My prayer is to write so that readers will see how presently alive the Bible is and will respond to its life-transforming power.”

**Xochitl (So-Cheel) E. Dixon**, a regular contributor to *Our Daily Bread* and *God Hears Her*, is a disabled Mexican author and speaker who enjoys serving Jesus with her beautifully diverse family and her service dog, Callie. She contributed to Tyndale’s *NLT Go Bible for Kids* and is the author of *Sacred Strides: Walking in the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit* and *Waiting for God: Trusting Him for the Answers to Every Prayer*. Xochitl also celebrates God’s multiethnic, multicultural, and multigenerational family while increasing disability awareness through her children’s picture books, *What Color Is God’s Love?*; *Wonderfully, Marvelously Brown*; and the 2021 ECPA Christian Book Award Finalist, *Different Like Me*. With a passion for spiritual growth, discipleship, and prayer, she connects with readers at [www.xedixon.com](http://www.xedixon.com).

**Jasmine Goh**, at eighteen, was constantly on her phone when God reached out to her through a friend’s text message. Since then, she’s of the opinion that He’s way more tech-savvy than He lets on! She’s the author of *My Unique Child*, a book that helps families navigate the challenges of autism at different life stages. After eight years as a magazine writer, Jasmine now serves as an editor with Our Daily Bread Ministries in Singapore.

**Anna Haggard**, general editor, is associate content editor for Our Daily Bread Publishing. A follower of Jesus, she loves to write and edit books sharing about God’s generous, deep love for all people. Anna coauthored the *Called and Courageous Girls* series, and she lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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**Karen Huang** discovered, as a child, the love of Jesus in the Bible storybooks of her school library. She immersed herself in reading and writing stories, learning that it was her faithful Savior who gives meaning to the story of every human being. Karen eventually became a book editor for many years. She has enjoyed developing books in both educational and Christian publishing. Her written works have also appeared in devotional books, literary anthologies, and inspirational books for women. Author of the book *Letters to a Single Woman*, Karen enjoys long walks, being with family and friends, and caring for stray animals.

**Cindy Hess Kasper** retired from her editorial position at Our Daily Bread Ministries in March 2018, but she's still regularly penning *Our Daily Bread* articles as she has since 2005. She previously wrote for other devotional publications for the ministry (*Campus Journal*, *Soul Journey*). Her enthusiasm for writing and editing sprang from the influence of a mom who encouraged a love of reading and a dad who took pride in teaching her the art of editing. Cindy and her dad, Clair, spent a combined ninety-nine years serving at Our Daily Bread Ministries.

**Alyson Kieda** is the mother of three adult children and the grandmother of eleven grandchildren. Alyson was employed by Our Daily Bread Ministries for sixteen years. Now retired,

she continues to enjoy writing devotionals and insights for *Our Daily Bread*, spending time with her grandkids and friends, and volunteering at her church.

**Monica La Rose** is a content editor at Our Daily Bread Ministries. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and theology from Trinity Christian College and a Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in church history from Calvin Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Ben, and their son, Kayden, live in Saint Charles, Illinois.

**Julie Ackerman Link** was a popular author with *Our Daily Bread* readers, and her insightful and inspiring articles have touched millions of lives around the world. Julie worked in publishing and started her career at Zondervan, where she served as managing editor of devotional and self-help books. She authored *Above All, Love*. After a lengthy battle with cancer, Julie went to be with the Lord in April 2015. Her books *Hope For All Seasons* and *100 Prayers Inspired by the Psalms* were published posthumously.

**Elisa Morgan (MDiv)** has authored over twenty-five books including *The Beauty of Broken*; *Hello, Beauty Full*; *You Are Not Alone*; *Christmas Changes Everything*; and *Fruitful Living*.

For twenty years, Elisa served as CEO of MOPS International (The MOMCo) and now is President Emerita. She writes for *Our Daily Bread* and cohosts *Discover the Word* and *God Hears Her* for Our Daily Bread Ministries.

With her husband, Evan, she has two grown children and three grandchildren who live near her in Denver, Colorado. Her constant companion is Mia, an elderly Jack Russell terrier who shadows her every move. Connect with Elisa at [www.elisamorgan.com](http://www.elisamorgan.com) and on Facebook and Instagram (@elisamorganauthor) and X/Twitter (@elisa\_morgan).

**Remi Oyedele** is a finance professional and author with twin passions for God's Word and children's books. Her ultimate life goal is to channel scriptural truths into stories for children and children at heart. Needless to say, C. S. Lewis is a major inspiration! Remi has a Master of Arts in writing for children and has completed correspondence courses with the Christian Writer's Guild and the Institute of Children's Literature.

**Patricia Raybon** is a Christy Award-winning author of books, essays, and novels, many at the intersection of race, faith, and grace. A regular contributor to *Our Daily Bread*, she also writes the new Annalee Spain Mystery series set in 1920s Colorado. Her first standalone title for Our Daily Bread Publishing is *God Is Our Help: Our Daily Bread Reflections for Living with His Love and Strength*. A mother of two and grandmother of five, she lives in Colorado. Find her online at [patriciaraybon.com](http://patriciaraybon.com).

**Lisa M. Samra** graduated with a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Texas and earned a Master of Biblical Studies degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. She lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with her husband and four children, where she serves as a minister at Calvary Church in a ministry that trains future church leaders. Having been nurtured in her faith through the writings of faithful men and women throughout history, Lisa is humbled that her writing might encourage others to take another step on their spiritual journeys. Her work has appeared in a variety of outlets and publications, and can be found at [olivesandcoffee.com](http://olivesandcoffee.com). Lisa enjoys good coffee, running, and reading, just not all at the same time.

**Jennifer Benson Schuldt** has been writing professionally for twenty-seven years in corporate, ministry, and creative settings. Jennifer works as an adjunct professor at Moody Bible Institute

and lives in the Chicago area with her husband and their two children. She enjoys serving at church, painting, reading, and taking walks with friends and family.

**Katara Washington Patton** is executive editor at Our Daily Bread Publishing, and the author of eight books, including her latest, *Navigating the Blues: Where to Turn When Worry, Anxiety, or Depression Steal Your Hope*, an Amazon bestseller.

Katara is also author of a series of books on successful living based on biblical characters. The series includes *Successful Moms of the Bible*, *Successful Women of the Bible*, and *Successful Leaders of the Bible*. Katara's other books include: *Inspiration for Christian Teen Girls*, *The Parables of Jesus Coloring Book Devotional*, and *Joyous Advent*.

Katara and her husband, Derrick, reside on the South Side of Chicago with their teen daughter, Kayla.


**Joanie Yoder** wrote for *Our Daily Bread* for ten years, until her death in 2004. In addition, she published the book *God Alone* with Our Daily Bread Publishing.







*Jesus said to her, “I am the  
resurrection and the life.”*

—JOHN 11:25



In His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made Himself accessible to women of all backgrounds—the respected, the rejected, and the overlooked. Time after time, Jesus made His love for them known, reaching out to them, even when others failed to do so. These devotions from the woman writers of *Our Daily Bread* invite you to spend time with Him.

Each devotion includes

- personal stories from women like you,
  - Scripture for meditation,
  - prayers to draw close to God, and
  - redemptive reminders of the Father’s goodness.
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Pause at the beginning and end of your day to reflect on the wild and wondrous person of Jesus. Remember and rejoice in the great love that He has for you.



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