



For the Moment

The Binder Co. Devotionals

September 2018

Welcome to The Binder Co.: a do-it-yourself devotional and journaling experience for women who desire to grow deeper in God's Word on a daily basis. All you need is a 3-ring binder and a printer to get started — for free!

ABOUT THE BINDER CO.

The Binder Co exists to help women dive deeper into their faith and connect with others through free monthly eBooks of devotionals written by women for women. Every aspect of The Binder Co. is run by volunteers. Once a month, we release a free ebook with daily devotionals, corresponding scriptures, and daily challenges to help put what we learn into action. These daily devotionals are free to read, download, and print anytime. You can use them for yourself, your small group, friend group, or church group!

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We'd love to have you.

Access the free archives of every calendar at emilyfurda.com/thebinderco

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Binder Co. (originally called Her Binder Project) was started in 2014 by Morgan Harper Nichols as a way to challenge herself to dig deeper into God's Word and put her faith into action on a daily basis. She made a calendar one month that included weekly themes, Bible verses, and daily challenges. Even though she originally started writing and designing these for herself, she felt the Lord leading her to share it with others. So, she put it on Pinterest, and was unbelievable with more women studying along each month. You can learn more about Morgan at themhn.co

When I was 11 years old, my worship dance teacher gave all of the dancers a small hot pink booklet of devotionals for Christmas. That was my first devotional, and I fell in love with studying God's word and learning how to apply it to my life. I've rarely been without a daily devotional since then. When Morgan asked me to help with The Binder Co. in 2016, it was a dream come true to be able to write devotionals. This Ministry and the women who read every day captured my heart. The more I became involved as a writer, editor, and project manager, the more it became a part of me.

In 2018, Morgan asked me if she could give me The Binder Co. I was speechless, which rarely happens. It was not an easy decision for her or one made lightly by myself. My joy comes when I see women come alive as they study each month. I'm studying and learning along with you. Today, thousands of women are joining this project each month, and we are so grateful for each one of you!

-Emily Furda Director, Editor In Chief emilyfurda.com instagram.com/emilyfurda

This Month's Contributors

Danielle Nicole, Guest Writer

instagram.com/its.daniellenicole

herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Heather Golden Horton: Writer

facebook.com/Horton.snapshots

instagram.com/heatherghorton

Twitter: [@gidge1992](https://twitter.com/gidge1992)

partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Diane Marie: Writer

instagram.com/crazymom2eight [dianemarie](https://twitter.com/dianemarie)

[dianemarie](https://twitter.com/dianemarie)

**Morgan Harper Nichols: Writer,
Cover Design**

facebook.com/morganharpernichols

instagram.com/morganharpernichols

Twitter: [@morganhnhichols](https://twitter.com/morganhnhichols)

morganharpernichols.com

Emily Furda: Director

facebook.com/JesusInEveryMoment

instagram.com/emilyfurda

Twitter: [@emilyfurda](https://twitter.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

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The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:3 NLT

#THEBINDER CO

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1
2 Peter 1:3
Write down the monthly theme verse and place it where you'll see it often..

2
Philippians 3:13-14
Memorize today's Scripture.

3
Psalm 34:4
Listen to "The Breakup Song" by Battistelli.
youtu.be/H0wpP5o7xpl

4
Hebrews 13:5
Journal about what it means to have Jesus as your friend who never leaves.

5
John 6:1-14
Listen to "Dream Small" by Josh Wilson.
youtu.be/dOBaLrItEyc

6
Philippians 4:4-7
Make a list of 10 things you've accomplished in your life that you can be proud of. Remember, even something you think of as little is to be celebrated.

7
Matthew 7:6
When it comes to new relationships, are you a hermit crab, a slow wader, or head first diver? Pray and journal asking God to show you how to guard your heart and see yourself as priceless.

8
Isaiah 43:1
Can you honestly say you love yourself? Journal about why or why not and ask God to show you how He sees you.

9
Proverbs 17:17
Send an encouraging message or video to a friend, or make plans to get together, just the two of you.

10
Matthew 14:23
Set aside time this week to spend time with God in a way that will refresh you in your own unique way.

11
John 16:33
Listen to "Look Up Child" by Lauren Daigle.
youtu.be/7NAYz0zhEs

12
2 Corinthians 12:9
Are there areas where you're struggling? Pray and journal, asking God if there are some safe people who you could open up to. Also, journal your thoughts about being a safe person for someone else.

13
Jeremiah 29:11
Write today's scripture out in your own words and journal about what it means to you.

14
Isaiah 55:8-9
Listen to "The Best is Yet to Come" by Group 1 Crew.
youtu.be/Alwwk625qiE

15
Genesis 37 & 45
Journal about a situation you had no control over that God got you through. How does that strengthen your faith now?

16
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
Is there an area you are or want to serve in, but feel discouraged or nervous? Pray over it, and journal about what God speaks to you.

17
Luke 15:31-32
"Listen to Who You Love" by Jasmine Murray.
youtu.be/yiB9sbJg8Gs

18
Job 16:20-21
Pray for a friend this week either in person, on a video chat, or phone call. If it's not possible, write a prayer for her and send it to her.

19
Psalm 86:17
Listen to "Battles" by The Afters.
youtu.be/MQJWt017jwc

20
Romans 12:4-8
Is there something in your past that seemed out of place but now you see where it fits? How does that change your perspective about your life now?

21
Psalm 43:5
Listen to "I have this Hope" by Tenth Avenue North.
youtu.be/cjetZn5lrBc

22
James 1:19-20
Pray and journal about your friendships today. Ask God to show you if any need healing or let go of and ask Him to show you how and give you the strength.

23
Ephesians 3:20
Memorize today's Scripture.
30
1 Cor 13:12
Listen to "Fact 2 Face" by Mandisa.
youtu.be/Wpfl7R7xHEs

24
1 Kings 17:7-16
Listen to "Miracles" by Hawk Nelson.
youtu.be/fNNbulojWcw

25
Hebrews 4:16
Write out today's verse in your own words.

26
John 6:38
How does knowing Jesus was rejected change your view about when you have been/are rejected? Journal your thoughts.

27
Galatians 1:10
Is there something God has called you to do, but you're afraid of what others will think? Journal and pray, asking God what He wants you to do and how to do it.

28
1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Journal about a time when you were overlooked. Ask God to show you what He wants you to know about that situation and how it impacts you now.

29
James 5:13
Write a prayer to God about what you're feeling today.

By his divine power,
God has given us
everything we need for
living a godly life.
We have received all of
this by coming to know
him, the one who
called us to himself by
means of his marvelous
glory and excellence.
2 Peter 1:3 NLT

Saturday, September 1

For the Moment

Written by Emily Furda

Read 2 Peter 1:3

Have you ever found yourself needing something and before you could ask you were given it? You felt tears welling up in your eyes, and someone handed you a tissue. Your hands were full and just when you were about to drop your groceries on the ground, a stranger opened the door. You were running late and a friend reached into your purse (where you intentionally put your keys so you wouldn't lose them) and hands them to you. Sometimes you can't see what's right in front of you just like desperately looking for your phone, only to realize it's in your hands.

What about other moments? What about when we feel unlovable, feel embarrassed because of our struggles, are left out, or when we're angry? Finding what we need in those moments can seem more difficult than finding a missing sock we know we put in the dryer. While it may feel impossible to find what we need, just like the "missing" phone, everything we need is right in front of us.

Our theme verse for this month tells us God has already given us everything we need. The way we receive it is by spending time with Him and getting to know Him. This month is a collection of devotionals for specific moments in our lives. As we study, we'll get to know God better and learn about the marvelous things He has for us.

No matter what we're lacking, God always has what we need For the Moment.

Daily Challenge

Write down the monthly theme verse and place it where you'll see it often.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

Sunday, September 2

For the Moment You're in a New Season

Written by Emily Furda

Read Philippians 3:13-14

Have you ever found yourself in a place where what once seemed easy is no longer working for you? It's like trying to wear your favorite sandals while walking through 2 feet of snow. Your once comfortable shoes that were cool and made it easy to walk are suddenly useless, and you're getting frostbite.

Those favorite sandals weren't always your favorite shoes. Chances are you had to break them in, and that was uncomfortable. They may have even replaced a previous favorite pair. Yet you kept walking knowing it was necessary and worth it so you could enjoy the summer season. It's ok to forget about those sandals you love and try out a new pair of boots once the seasons change. They may feel strange at first, but eventually they're comfortable, they protect you, and help you walk.

A new season usually means changing what you once did. That's a good thing! It means you've grown. When you enter a new season, you need to let the old season go. That includes not just the things you didn't like, but also some of what you loved. If you're looking back and hanging on, you'll never be able to walk in the destiny God has for you right now.

Paul says in Philippians to forget what is behind and press on. Change can be uncomfortable, but it's worth it. You might not be at your final destination yet, but to get there you'll have to do some things differently. You can't hold on to what you don't need. You have to focus on the season in front of you and what you need now. When you surrender your will and way of doing things to God's plan and what He's giving you now, it becomes much easier to keep pressing on in your current season. If you place your life in God's hands, you'll discover just how quickly something uncomfortable and new becomes something good and familiar.

Daily Challenge

Memorize today's Scripture

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Monday, September 3

For the Moment You're Afraid

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

Read Psalm 34:4

It's been said that saying 'goodbye' is one of the hardest things you could ever have to do. Many people struggle with saying "goodbye" and would rather just say "see you later."

Today, don't utter the words "see you later" to fear. Say goodbye. Say it boldly, say it proud, and say it like you never want to see fear again.

When you lay down the burden of fear at the feet of Jesus, you are able to truly start saying goodbye. You are able to truly be free and live a life that isn't built on what might go wrong, what might not come through, or what might never happen.

Live a life that is built on your relationship with Jesus Christ. Live a life that is centered on what God has in store for you and not on what other people or other opportunities may or may not have to offer.

Say goodbye to fear, and say hello to God's amazing grace freely given to us through Jesus Christ!

Daily Challenge

Listen to "The Breakup Song" by Francesca Battistelli. youtu.be/H0wpP5o7xpI

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

[instagram.com/morganhnickols](https://www.instagram.com/morganhnickols)
morganharpernichols.com

Tuesday, September 4

For the Moment You Feel Left Out

Written by Diane Marie

Read Hebrews 13:5

At first glance, the above scripture appears to be about money, but being content with what you have is about so much more than money and material things. Checking Facebook, Instagram, and other social media sites can be depressing at times. We see our friends, or maybe people we thought were our friends, hanging out and have fun while we sit at home feeling left out. We suddenly don't feel content with the life we're living.

Never before have we been exposed to so much of other people's private lives, but what we must realize is people only post what they want us to see. When we see someone smiling and laughing, we are only seeing part of a bigger picture. Chances are, those very same people have felt the exact same way you do at a different time in their lives. Maybe they've even envied you!

We need to read the entire verse. Not only are we called to be content, but we are reminded Jesus will never leave or forsake us. What a wonderful promise! When we stop scrolling, and take a moment to reflect, we can take comfort in knowing we are really never sitting home alone. Jesus never leaves our side.

It's okay to want friends, and if you do find you aren't getting out as much as you'd like to, it's perfectly fine to pursue friendships; however, know you already have a best friend who loved you so much that He died for you. You can't find a better friend than that!

Daily Challenge

Journal about what it means to have Jesus as your friend who never leaves.

Written by Diane Marie

[instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie](https://www.instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie)

Wednesday, September 5

For the Moment Your Giftings Seem

Insignificant

Written by Emily Furda

Read John 6:1-14

Do you find yourself waiting to use your gifts because you feel they're not good enough? You keep waiting until something else happens or you grow more in an area of your life. If one little boy in John 6 dismissed his gift as insignificant, a great miracle may not have happened. There was a crowd of over 5,000 hungry people. (5,000 only counted the men. It was likely at least double with women and children there.) Jesus already knew what He was going to do, but He wanted to see if His disciples saw Him as their provision or only focused on the huge need.

As usual, they only saw what seemed like a need that was impossible to fill. One disciple brought a little boy who had 5 small loaves of bread and 3 small fish. That boy could've kept his meal for himself. The disciples thought it was too little and tried to dismiss it. His small gift was big enough for Jesus. He used it to fill the needs of the people to overflowing.

This boy gave all he had, and Jesus did the rest. God wants to do the same with you. What gift do you have that you don't feel like is good enough? Do you compare yourself and hold back from serving because you think it won't matter or someone else can do it better?

God never asks you to be the best or perfect. What He asks is for you to give Him what you have. Treasure your gifts, no matter how small they seem. Not only do your gifts matter, you matter to God. You were created with a unique purpose. His power is what completes you and brings you to perfect fullness. Don't be afraid to take the first step. When you do, watch and be amazed at how God will multiply your efforts beyond your wildest dreams!

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Dream Small" by Josh Wilson.

youtu.be/dOBaLrItEyc

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Thursday, September 6

For the Moment You're Celebrating

Written by Emily Furda

Read Philippians 4:4-7

Have you ever found yourself in what feels like a mountaintop season only to have others try to diminish how good you feel? Maybe they're in a valley and liked it better when you were there too. Sometimes they're on a mountaintop just like you, only it seems like an even higher mountain. Then you begin to think maybe you shouldn't celebrate as much as you want to. You're worried you'll either offend someone or look silly for being happy when someone else has even more. It's okay to celebrate! The key is how you celebrate. Paul tells us to "Rejoice in the Lord." When you celebrate, celebrate by praising Him. When you tell others, it's okay to be excited. If they comment about how good things are going for you, use it as an opportunity to give God glory. Sometimes we get afraid to celebrate because we worry it will look like bragging. It's not, if you do it with the right heart.

Today's reading tells us to let our gentleness be evident, and God is near. Be gentle with those who are still in a rough season. You can be an encouragement and show them God is near in every season. If someone tries to diminish your good season because hers seems better, resist the urge to compare your life to hers. You both can be happy. Think about how parents celebrate every tiny milestone in their baby's life. From first barely understandable words to wobbly first steps, every little thing is looked at as a mountain top experience. The accomplishments aren't any less because a 5-year-old can speak in full sentences and run without falling. God celebrates you. He's not comparing you to anyone else. You are important, and you matter. Now, go celebrate!

Daily Challenge

Make a list of 10 things you've accomplished in your life that you can be proud of. Remember, even something you think of as little is to be celebrated. Did you learn something new, try something you've never done before, face a fear, or improved your skill at something you already know? Those are accomplishments worth celebrating.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Friday, September 7

For the Moment You're Making New Friends

Written by Emily Furda

Read Matthew 7:6

Sometimes it's hard to know how much to share when you meet a new friend. Do you open up right away or stay where it's safe but lonely?

Consider thinking about it this way: When you go swimming, you'll likely encounter at least two types of people. There are those who dip their toe in the water to test the temperature, then, slowly wade in a little at a time. Then there are those who dive in head first not caring what the temperature is. There is nothing wrong with either approach when it comes to a well-known swimming spot, but if it's unfamiliar territory, it's always safest to slowly ease in.

Making new friends is unfamiliar territory. Sometimes in our desperation for friendship we can dive in head first, only to discover what we thought was a pleasant lagoon is really shark infested waters, but that doesn't mean we need live like a hermit crab on the sand fearful of every person we meet.

When it comes to meeting new people who you think you might connect with, it's healthy to have boundaries. Start off by testing the waters. Share things you're comfortable with most people knowing. If you feel uncomfortable, you can easily retreat to dry land. If you feel safe, and the other person shares too, go ahead and share a little more. Take it slow, and gradually develop a deeper friendship. It's okay if you choose to not let someone into your heart as deeply as others. Like a pearl found deep in the ocean, you are precious. You deserve to be treated with love and respect. Just like cool water on a hot day, true, Godly sisters in Christ will refresh you.

Daily Challenge

When it comes to new relationships, are you a hermit crab, a slow wader, or head first diver? Pray and journal asking God to show you how to guard your heart and see yourself as priceless.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Saturday, September 8

For the Moment You feel Unlovable

Written by Danielle Nicole

Read Isaiah 43:1

What moments have you seen God in this week?

Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

When trying to love ourselves, it can be a challenge. We make mistakes, we fall down, and we mess up. We might wonder how God could ever love us. The truth is, God loves us no matter what, and He wants us to know we are loved so we can love ourselves.

When we define our worth by our mistakes and failures, it's hard to love ourselves. We must look to God for our true value. He created us for a specific purpose and plan and says we have been wonderfully made. We may not be perfect, but by knowing these things, we can know we have worth.

Even in our imperfections, God sees beauty. We need to stop looking at ourselves through our perspective and look through God's eyes. When we do this, we can see what He sees. He gave His life for us, so that even though we sin, and we mess up, we can still have second chances.

Sometimes it takes a change of perspective to love ourselves, and it might take changing how we think about ourselves as well. Only God has the power to define us. So not matter what others may say or what you may feel like saying, you have immeasurable worth and should praise God for it by choosing to love yourself.

Daily Challenge

Can you honestly say you love yourself?

Journal about why or why not and ask God to show you how He sees you.

Written by Danielle Nicole

[instagram.com/its.daniellenicole](https://www.instagram.com/its.daniellenicole)

herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Sunday, September 9

For the Moment Friendship is Messy
Written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Proverbs 17:17

Once you have found a close friend or a tribe of like-minded friends, it may seem as if the journey of friendship will be a simple road. You may laugh together until you can't breathe, make memories together in your favorite places, and even walk through the mundane seasons of life without a single dent in your friendship. In order to foster the strongest friendships, you must ask yourself an important question, "What will happen when friendship gets messy?" You also must embrace the fact that every long-lasting friendship will eventually have its share of messy moments.

Nurturing deep, abiding friendships takes cooperative work. This is where Proverbs 17:17 speaks of loving "at all times". It is impossible to see the true strength of this kind of love until friends have walked through deep, messy moments together: the struggle of disagreement, a crisis in health, the disappointment of unrealized dreams, or anything that threatens to choke growing friendships. In these moments, love is often shown by action. These are the seasons where showing God's love to a friend will require sacrifice, prayer, and possibly forgiveness. In these moments, love might be best shown without words, simply by being present and listening.

In the end, whether you and your friend walk together for just a season or a lifetime, is truly in God's hands. Make a prayerful commitment to seek a friendship that is healthy for all involved. Strive to consistently show God's love. Finally, let God lead you each through the joy and messiness of life.

Daily Challenge

Send an encouraging message or video to a friend, or make plans to get together, just the two of you.

Written by Heather Golden Horton
[instagram.com/heatherghorton](https://www.instagram.com/heatherghorton)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Monday, September 10

For the Moment You need to Take Time for Yourself
Written by Emily Furda
Read Matthew 14:23

When we look at all Jesus did during His time on earth, we often forget how many times the scriptures say He went alone to pray. It's easy to let our quiet times with the Lord slip away. So many things fight for our attention. We're burnt out because we never let God refresh us. It's as if we're next to a stream of water but dying of thirst because we won't stop to drink. We can't give and help others if we aren't taking time daily to be refreshed.

How we are spiritually refreshed will look different for each of us. For some singing songs filled with scriptural truths is refreshing, for others it may mean drawing or Bible lettering, sometimes it's journaling, and other times it's simply reading and praying. It could even mean playing with some kids clay, making a sculpture of what you're learning. We often feel selfish when we take time for ourselves, even when it's to spend time with the Lord. It's not something we need to feel guilty about because even Jesus did it. In fact, in Matthew 14 we see just what can happen after some alone time with God.

After Jesus miraculously fed over 5,000 people, He sent the crowd and His disciples away so He could pray. Once He spent time being refreshed, He did something amazing. He could've taken a boat to catch up to His disciples who were in the middle of the sea, but He just walked there instead. He walked on water.

Don't feel guilty about taking time to spend with God every day. The refreshment is what you need to sustain you. Who knows, after some time in God's word, you may just feel as if you can walk on water.

Daily Challenge

Set aside time this week to spend time with God in a way that will refresh you in your own unique way.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Tuesday, September 11

For the Moment the World Seems Overtaken by Evil
Written by Morgan Harper Nichols
Read John 16:33

It seems every single day we are faced with troubling news. The darkness in our world is impossible to ignore, and as the days go on, it hurts more and more.

Even in the most troubling times, we must continue to remind ourselves and each other God has not abandoned us in these troubling times. Because of that, we have no reason to fear evil. Yes, it's real. Yes, it's hard to watch, and it breaks our hearts, but we must continue to trust in the Lord.

Even on the days where it feels like God is just angry with us and He doesn't want the best for us anymore, we must remember, there is no bad news that is greater than His love for us.

No matter how troubling the headlines are, God is still greater! His light still burns brighter!

So, keep your head high, and let your heart remain steadfast. It is not wrong to grieve or to be troubled by what we see in the world (and we should always be compassionate and figure out how we can help), but we cannot let fear take over. Even when we hear terrible news, we cannot let it shut us down. Continue to pray and seek God in troubling times and know Jesus is more powerful than any evil in this world.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Look Up Child" by Lauren Daigle.
[youtu.be/7NAYz0zh_Es](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NAYz0zh_Es)

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols
[instagram.com/morganhnickols](https://www.instagram.com/morganhnickols)
morganharpernichols.com

Wednesday, September 12

For the Moment You want to Hide Your Struggles

Written by Emily Furda

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

Have you ever felt the need to hide your inner struggles and brokenness? You worry what others will think if they knew what is going on behind closed doors or in your heart and mind. How would other moms look at you if you admitted you didn't know how to handle a situation with your child? Would people think you're still a Christian if you admitted to struggling with sexual sin? Would you be looked down upon if they knew you struggled with addiction? Would you be removed from the worship team if they knew you struggled with an eating disorder or self-injury? It's hard to love yourself when you feel as if you have to hide your struggles.

In today's reading the Apostle Paul says he did something interesting when it came to his weakness: he talked about them! Our hidden weaknesses are usually the last thing we want to talk about, but when we're open and honest, that's when God can heal our brokenness. Paul knew the more he admitted how weak he was, the more the power of Christ would be at work in His life.

Instead of hiding how weak you feel today, you can choose to love yourself by being open about it. Pray, and let the Lord know all of your feelings. Ask the Lord to guide you to safe friends who will pray with you. You may just find they have weaknesses they thought they had to hide. You don't have to put it on social media for everyone to see. When you realize your struggles aren't something you have to be ashamed of, it naturally makes it easier to love yourself.

Daily Challenge

Are there areas where you're struggling? Pray over them and journal, asking God if there are some safe people who you could open up to. Also, journal your thoughts about if you could be a safe person for someone else.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Thursday, September 13

For the Moment You're Worried About the Future

Written by Danielle Nicole

Read Jeremiah 29:11

Do you worry about the future or if God really has a plan for your life? It can be easy to look at our situations with doubt in mind, thinking "Maybe God doesn't know what He is doing, or maybe He doesn't have a plan for me." We can't see the future, and we can't see what tomorrow looks like, but He has given us this hope that will never fade.

When we look to the future, a lot of things pop into our minds, like dreams, desires, and plans. Without hope, do any of these things really matter? We can't dream without some hope in the picture. We also often worry about what is to come, and in our anxieties, we can't find peace without the hope of knowing God is here.

When seeking hope for the future, we often look in the wrong places. We might look for our situations, our jobs, school, and even for people to change. If we desire hope then, we must look to God, for all else will fail us.

Hope doesn't just mean to wait and desire, but also to trust. We know God has a plan for our lives and for what is up ahead. We must learn to trust He is in control of our dreams, our worries, and our plans. There's nothing that is out of His reach.

God promises He has a plan for our lives, one to prosper not to harm. Our hope for the future is built on this promise. It's built on these words. We have this assurance in Jesus, that no matter what we go through, no matter what tomorrow looks like, He already knows we will be okay, and there is no reason to fear.

Daily Challenge

Write today's scripture out in your own words and journal about what it means to you.

Written by Danielle Nicole
[instagram.com/its.daniellenicole](https://www.instagram.com/its.daniellenicole)
herhopeisbuilt.wordpress.com

Friday, September 14

For the Moment You feel Left Behind

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

Read Isaiah 55:9

Sometimes, we can be excited for our friends and their accomplishments and then, in the back of our minds, we can also think "why not me?" Maybe you look at others your age, people at your church, in your workplace, or at your school and wonder why certain areas of your life haven't progressed in the way theirs have. Maybe everyone is getting married and having children, and you are still single. Perhaps your career or your business is just not taking off no matter how hard you work, and you can't help but notice how much your peers are progressing as they accomplish the same exact things you want to accomplish. Whether this is something you think about regularly or it only crosses your mind occasionally, remember this:

Whatever your thoughts are about your past, present, or future, God's thoughts are higher. He doesn't need everything to come together the way you planned it in order for His plan for you to prosper. This doesn't mean life will be perfect. It doesn't mean you won't face mountains, but what it does mean is God always has a plan that is so much greater than your "why me?" or "why not me?" moments in life. Continue to pray daily, and make the most of every day, God has given you. Don't let comparison steal the joy of the journey God has you on. It's okay to be inspired and motivated by others, but don't let them become the standard you measure yourself against. You can congratulate your friends and hope the best for them but know that an opportunity or accomplishment for them is not a loss for you. "God has something just for you" is not a cliché. Because of Jesus Christ, this is The Truth that is written all over your life. So, embrace it, and be excited about what God has in store for your future!

Daily Challenge

Listen to "The Best is Yet to Come" by Group 1 Crew. youtu.be/Alwwk625qjE

Saturday, September 15

For the Moment Your Faith Needs

Strengthened

Written by Diane Marie

Read Genesis 37 & 45

What moments have you seen God in this week?

Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Sometimes we find ourselves in a place where our faith is weak. Things look so hopeless we can't even imagine a positive outcome. God seems unreachable and far away. We can't seem send our prayers past the ceiling, if we can even pray at all. How do we place the situation in God's hands and simply trust Him?

Joseph was a man who trusted God. In Genesis 37 we read how Joseph was hated by his brothers because he was favored by his father. His brothers were so jealous that they threw him into a well and left him for dead. Later, they pulled him out only to sell him as a slave to traveling merchants. Many times, Joseph was in what seemed like a hopeless situation, but God was always with him. Finally, through a remarkable set of circumstances, he was able to save his family from the famine that plagued their land.

How did Joseph keep his faith during all these trials? He kept his eyes on what God could do through him. Consider how he responded to his brothers.

And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. Genesis 45:5 NIV

We can learn a lot about faith from Joseph. He saw the bigger picture. We can also look back on our own lives and see the good that has come from what we considered dire situations. Remembering God's faithfulness to others and in our own lives, we can confidently put our faith in Him even in our darkest moments. He is always with you!

Daily Challenge

Journal about a situation you had no control over that God got you through. How does that strengthen your faith now?

Written by Diane Marie

[instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie](https://www.instagram.com/crazymom2eight_dianemarie)

The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

Sunday, September 16

For the Moment You feel Unqualified
Written by Heather Golden Horton
Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

There will be seasons when being obedient to God's call for us leaves our hearts overwhelmed. The call God is revealing to our hearts may seem huge, even a bit beyond our ability. He may have impressed us to serve our neighbor, to make peace with a family member, to share our story with our Bible Study group, or God may have led our hearts to some other avenue of serving Him. There is a temptation to shrink in fear, hiding away from this call, feeling hopeless and inadequate but we could, instead, boldly choose to hope in God, the Strength of our heart.

There is comfort in knowing the God who called us to this task is the One who loves us, pouring out steadiness to complete it. We can find hope in knowing, though we may feel weak and unqualified, our Father God has unlimited ability. The God we serve already knows every outcome before He sets us on a path. He is able to provide each word we should speak and everything we might lack on this journey of surrender. He will always be present, equipping us for every good work that He lays in our path.

By sharing our fears and feelings with God in prayer, and choosing His hope rather than discouragement, we can begin to see the adventure in the opportunities He has laid before us. We can find confidence in the quiet times we spend with Him, pouring out our hearts and letting Him lead us in times of quiet study in His Word. We can press into His heart with hope and knowing we are heard and in His safe keeping as we step out into all He has planned for us.

Daily Challenge

Is there an area you are or want to serve in, but feel discouraged or nervous? Pray over it, and journal about what God speaks to you.

Written by Heather Golden Horton
[instagram.com/heatherghorton](https://www.instagram.com/heatherghorton)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Monday, September 17

For the Moment You Wander from God
Written by Morgan Harper Nichols
Read Luke 15:31-32

The Prodigal Son is a beautiful parable of being lost and found, a son who had gone away from his father and lived a reckless life. After he had gone through all of the money his father had given him, he found himself in a desperate place and eventually, he began to head back home. He was certain when he got there that he was no longer worthy of his father's love, but his father assured him with words in today's passage.

Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours... Like 15:31 NKJV

How many times have we wandered away from our Father and felt unworthy to come back home? Even if you've never run away or wandered from your faith, our flawed human nature itself is prone to wander away from God. Even within our faith walk, it is very possible for us to get into the routine of being a Christian by going to church and doing the right things but neglecting to truly worship in spirit and truth as servants of God.

In those moments when we have forgotten or overlooked the most important things, there is no hope found in simply looking at ourselves an imperfect woman who just can't get her life together. Instead, we must look at ourselves as imperfect women who are in need of perfect grace

So, whatever it is that has you drifting and wandering from God, remember you are never too unworthy to come back home. Because of Jesus, the lost will always be found.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Who You Love" by Jasmine Murray. youtu.be/yiB9sbJg8Gs

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols
[instagram.com/morganhnickols](https://www.instagram.com/morganhnickols)
morganharpernichols.com

Tuesday, September 18

For the Moment You can't Help Your Friend
Written by Emily Furda
Read Job 16:20-21

Even the strongest of your friends will have moments when she is weak and maybe even question if God can hear her. In those moments, she doesn't need a lecture; she needs a friend. Sometimes, we feel helpless because we can't do anything for our friends, but as Christians, we bring something unique to any relationship because we have a relationship with the Lord who loves our friends more than we do. We can pray.

Praying is the most powerful thing you can do because it brings our all-loving all-powerful God into any situation. Yes, when we can, tangible actions are important, but God wants us to always come to Him as well. He can heal your sister's heart in a way you can't. When it seems as if your sister in Christ has lost all hope, hope for her. When she feels too broken to pray, pray for her.

Never underestimate the healing power of praying with her. If you're talking, stop and pray. Even if you stumble over your words, your friend knows your heart and so does God. If you can't talk, then type a prayer, and text it to her. If the opportunity comes up, send a voice message or short video of you praying. It doesn't have to be fancy, and you don't even need makeup. Hearing you caring enough to pray, and sharing that prayer with her, can help your friend to hope and pray again. Your example of love reminds her of God's love for her. You may not be able to change anything for your friend, but you know the God who can, and you can lead her to Him.

Daily Challenge

Pray for a friend this week either in person, on a video chat, or phone call. If it's not possible, write a prayer for her and send it to her.

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Wednesday, September 19

For the Moment You're Surrounded by Enemies
Written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 86:17

When we hear the word "enemies" we often think of other people, but often our enemies are things we can't see. Daily it feels as if we're at war with situations beyond our control. Maybe it's health, finances, relationships, or school, that feels like a fight. Sometimes even what we think is a small situation causes us to feel as if hope is far away.

How do we keep going when we feel like a battle worn soldier? Sometimes we want to just quit the battle all together, but that's not an option. One of the best things we can do is ask God to show us His goodness. It may be something simple like a note from a friend at just the right time, hearing an encouraging song on the radio, or reading an encouraging post on social media.

Ask God to show you where He's been there in the past and where He is in your current situation. When we do that, we realize we're not alone because we can see Him in so many places. No matter how scary the situation you're facing is, God is here to comfort you. Soon we begin to realize our God is more powerful than any situation we face. No situation is too big for God. His love surrounds you on all sides. There is peace and hope in knowing God is fighting for you.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Battles" by The Afters.
youtu.be/MQJWt017Jwc

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Thursday, September 20

For the Moment Your Life Doesn't Look like You Planned
Written by Emily Furda
Read Romans 12:4-8

Have you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle? Full of excitement and optimism you pour the pieces out of the box. Then reality hits. This isn't a small puzzle. It's 2,000 pieces and most of them look the same. You can't even find 2 pieces to fit together. Gradually you sort the pieces out. Days, weeks, and maybe even months of trial and error eventually yield the beginning of a picture. Sometimes frustration hits. You complete an entire section thinking it's the ocean only to realize it's the sky. Your work wasn't wasted; it was simply rearranged.

Your life is like a puzzle. You may have every piece of your life planned out exactly where you think it should fit. You have the perfect picture in your head. When that puzzle is complete, you know you'll feel complete. What happens when your plans change, when you can't finish school, you have to move to a new town, your group of friends change, or you break up with the guy you thought you'd marry? Things don't fit like you thought they did, but your hard work hasn't been wasted. Just like a puzzle, you had the parts mixed up. It just needs to be rearranged because God has a better picture in mind.

As a jigsaw puzzle comes together you likely still have a pile of pieces you can't figure out where they go yet. When you put together a puzzle it takes patience. When you finally have that coral reef together, you celebrate it. It's not any less beautiful because the dolphin on the other side is still missing an eye and its tail. Keep your eyes open as each piece falls into place. You'll see pieces connect. Those oboe lessons, or the people you met when you took them, just may come to play a vital role in your life in the future. Each beautiful part of your life is meant to be celebrated as God puts together the pieces.

Daily Challenge

Is there something in your past that seemed out of place but now you see where it fits? How does that change your perspective about your life now?

Written by Emily Furda
[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

Friday, September 21

For the Moment You Need Hope
Written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Psalm 43:5

Our souls can easily become weighed down by life. Tricky relationships can be like trudging through deep snow. Heartbreaks or hurts can grab our attention. Quickly, we may realize that problem people have our entire focus and we may question this heaviness we feel.

In order to have our resilience restored, we can remind ourselves to simply refocus our hearts by realigning our hope. We need to ask ourselves an important question and seek God's help to correct our focus: whom do we place our hope?

Certainly not the people around us who will fail us, whether intentionally or unintentionally. They may temporarily steal our attention, but they should never be where our hope is set.

Instead of placing our hope in people, we should willfully place our hope in God. We must consciously choose again and again to place the entire focus of our hope in God, when our hurting hearts may attempt to dart aimlessly. This may look like moment by moment prayers asking God to remind us He is able to carry us through difficult seasons of our lives. Other times, it may mean speaking hope-filled truths from Scripture to refocus on the hope our God brings. Still other times, it may be sitting in silent tears as we praise God with hope, fully aware He is good, even though our hearts are hurting.

As we choose to continuously hope in God, we are choosing to focus on the character of God more than the character of those who surround us. We may even begin to feel the heaviness of our souls slowly lift as we raise our hopeful eyes to Him.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "I have this Hope" by Tenth Avenue North. youtu.be/cjetZn5lrBc

Written by Heather Golden Horton
[instagram.com/heatherghorton](https://www.instagram.com/heatherghorton)
partnershiptasmania.wordpress.com

Saturday, September 22

For the Moment You're Angry

Written by Emily Furda

Read James 1:19-20

What moments have you seen God in this week?

Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Friendships are beautiful, but they can also be difficult. We're all flawed people who will hurt each other at times. When we're hurting, we often act on emotion, not considering the long-term consequences. We can make an angry social media post, yell, gossip, or refuse to speak. We can even let our minds wander to the point of a panic attack or a sleepless night thinking our friend hates us.

What would happen if we stopped and prayed instead? If we want to have Godly intentional friendships, we must handle conflict in a Godly way. Instead of running to another person or letting your thoughts spiral, run to The Lord. Ask Him for wisdom. Sometimes we do need to distance ourselves from a friend who habitually hurts us, but often we just need a conversation. Reach out to your friend as soon as possible instead of waiting for her to come to you. Reach out even if it's awkward. Keep in mind today's verse. Ask questions without accusing so you can understand what happened. She may not have meant to hurt you, and you may not have been the only one in tears. She just may not have known how to reach out. Also, be willing to listen if she says you hurt her. Instead of fighting with your friend, fight for your friendship.

Beautiful things can happen when we're willing to set aside pride, listen to each other, and be honest in a gentle manner. We have an opportunity to show and receive love. When you know you can talk about hurt feelings, it builds your trust and makes your friendship a safe space. You just may come out of a hurtful situation closer friends than you were before.

Daily Challenge

Pray and journal about your friendships today. Ask God to show you if any need healing or let go of and ask Him to show you how and give you the strength.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

Sunday, September 23

For the Moment You're Lacking

Written by Emily Furda

Read Ephesians 3:20

When you look at your life do you see what you have or what you lack? Think for a minute about what you think you need to feel complete. What would it take for you to feel as if you are walking in the fullness of God's plan for your life? Do you want to be older, have a college degree, lose weight, have best friend, be married, or have children? Have you written yourself off because you don't see your value and you think you'll never grow into the person you hope you can be.

When you're a daughter of God, He gives you everything you need to not just succeed, but to do more than you could ever imagine! No degree, job, or person can fill what God alone can do. There is nothing wrong with wanting to accomplish something or have a relationship in your life. Growth and change are part of life, but true growth and change has nothing to do with accomplishments or social standing. It's about seeking after God, so His power can work within us.

Instead of looking at what you lack, ask God what He sees in you and what He wants to do in your life. Listen to the truth He says about you. If you're feeling empty or as if you are always coming up short, remember today's scripture. God's power is at work in you. God's power isn't something you tap into whenever you need an extra boost like a triple espresso after a late night. It's the source of everything you need to become someone even better than you could imagine.

Daily Challenge

Memorize today's Scripture.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

Monday, September 24

For the Moment You Have Nothing left to Give

Written by Emily Furda

Read 1 Kings 17:7-16

Do you ever feel as if God is asking you to give more than you have? In today's passage we see a woman who thought she was at her end. Then, God asked more from her. There had been a drought in the land, and her plan was to make one final meal with the little she had left for her and her son. Then, they would die. That's about as close to quitting as you can get.

Knowing what little she had, God sent Elijah to her. Elijah asked her for bread. She told him her plan, and he said to make him bread anyhow. He said to not be afraid and she wouldn't run out of oil and flour. Can you imagine what went through her mind? Did she believe him? Maybe she was too tired to think. Was she muttering to herself the entire way home about how crazy this was, or was she joyfully trusting God, knowing He was going to do a miracle? What would you be thinking if you were in her place? What if she had said no? She would've missed out on a lifesaving miracle. Can you imagine the wonder and amazement she felt as she made the bread, and there was still flour and oil? Was she smelling the fresh bread baking trying not to burn it as she stared in amazement at her jars?

When God asks you to give something and you feel like you have nothing to give, He will never leave you empty handed. He knows your needs, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He loves you and will never fail you. He has an answer before a problem even comes up. Next time you feel like God is asking you to do something that seems crazy, remember He may be getting ready to give you a crazy amazing miracle.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Miracles" by Hawk Nelson.

youtu.be/fNnbulojWcw

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

Tuesday, September 25

For the Moment You can't Forgive Yourself

Written by Emily Furda

Read Hebrews 4:16

Can you think of a time you made a mistake you knew would cost you dearly, but someone showed you mercy? Was it a large late fee on a bill that was forgiven? Was it a late paper a professor accepted anyway that made a drastic difference in your grade? Was it a traffic ticket you deserved but were given a warning instead? Did you approach the person in fear? Do you remember the anxiety you felt knowing you made a mistake? Now, do you remember what it felt like to suddenly have all that fear turn to relief and joy when you were shown mercy?

When we're shown that kind of mercy, sometimes it's hard to find words. Simply thanking the person doesn't seem like enough. We all make mistakes daily. They can paralyze us into thinking the only way we can approach God for forgiveness is with fear. Today's reading tells us to do the exact opposite. God wants us to come to Him with confidence. God's mercy, like a clear peaceful stream, is constantly flowing. He wants you to confidently come to Him so He can show you mercy.

So often we ask God for forgiveness, but we hang on to our shame even though His streams of mercy have washed us completely clean. Think of how relieved and happy you were to have a person show you mercy. You didn't pay the late fee, ask for a lower grade, or demand a ticket. You accepted the gift of mercy and you rejoiced. God wants you to do the same thing when it comes to His mercy. You can live freely. Don't be ashamed of your mistakes. Instead, rejoice in God's mercy.

Daily Challenge

Write out today's verse in your own words.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)

emilyfurda.com

The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

Wednesday, September 26

For the Moment You're Rejected

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

Read John 6:38

Rejection can feel like an ugly word, but it's a reality that many face. It is a reality that we will have to face even as followers of Christ. If Jesus faced rejection, then surely, we'll face it too. But rejection doesn't stop us from doing what we're called to do.

Jesus came to do the will of The Father, not the will of man. The will of man is ever changing, and even when we do the right things in their eyes, there is no guarantee that we will earn their approval. When we pursue the Will of the Father, we do not fail. All throughout Scripture we see that even though obeying God is not always the easiest choice, it is the most empowering and worthwhile choice because it has an Eternal impact on our lives and the lives of others. So, keep your head high, and keep your heart fixed on the Lord.

Make it a point to pray daily, multiple times a day, constantly talking to Him and asking Him for strength in whatever He asks. Even if you have a busy schedule today, pray when you're sitting in the drive-thru to get your morning coffee. Pray when you're getting dressed to go out for the evening. Pray when you're about to get out of the car and run an errand. Even in the smallest things, God wants us to be strengthened by Him as we seek to obey Him in every aspect of our lives. You might not know what's ahead of you, who will receive you, or how they will receive you, but you know Who goes with you, so why not trust that He knows what He's doing? Why not trust that if you've been rejected at work, at school, or even at church, that He will provide for you?

Rejection is not easy, but we cannot allow it to affect the way we trust and obey God. We cannot allow it to interrupt our prayer time and devotion to Him. We have to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on seeking after His Will, and not the will of man.

Daily Challenge

How does knowing Jesus was rejected change your view about when you have been/are rejected? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

[instagram.com/morganharnichols](https://www.instagram.com/morganharnichols)
morganharnichols.com

Thursday, September 27

For the Moment when Others don't Support

Your Dreams

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

Read Galatians 1:10

Have you ever found yourself getting excited about something only to be met with a lack of enthusiasm or support from someone you care about?

When this happens, we can easily start to lose the excitement or the joy we once had. Then, the next time we're excited about an opportunity or a possibility, we keep it to ourselves and automatically start to assume the negative.

If you've ever found yourself in that place, know that you are not alone. We all have people we care about and connect with, and we want them to be excited for us and with us. But we have to understand when that doesn't happen, and when we don't get the love and support that we long for, we can't let fear sink in. We can't let their lack of enthusiasm or support keep us from finding joy and peace in life.

Yes, it is very rewarding to have the support and love from our spouses, and our family, and close friends. But even when it comes to the people we know the most, we must remember we do not live for the approval of others. We live to be servants of Christ!

So, keep on being the kind of woman who is filled with joy and excitement about the opportunities that are presented to her. You don't have to wait around for others to be excited and joyful. Make what you do about bringing glory to the Lord as a servant of Christ. That's what matters!

Daily Challenge

Is there something God has called you to do, but you're afraid of what others will think? Journal and pray, asking God what He wants you to do and how to do it.

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

[instagram.com/morganharnichols](https://www.instagram.com/morganharnichols)
morganharnichols.com

Friday, September 28

For the Moment You're Overlooked

Written by Emily Furda

Read 1 Samuel 16: 1-13

We remember David as a mighty warrior, someone who killed Goliath, a psalmist, and the King of Israel. That's not how his family saw him. When Samuel came to David's father, Jesse, to choose the next king of Israel, Jesse didn't even think David was worth bringing out for him to see. Jesse thought his own son didn't have what it took to be king, so he left him out in the field with the sheep.

That had to hurt. Have you ever felt that way? You look at yourself and wonder what is wrong with you? You may think if only you looked differently, had a better education, a husband, or children you'd be worthy. You'd feel complete. If something changed then surely everyone would see your worth, including you.

That's the exact opposite of what God says. It didn't matter that Jesse tried to hide David from Samuel. God knew he was there, and Samuel wouldn't leave until he was anointed king. Even when no one else saw him, God saw David.

So often people look at only the outward appearance or things that can be measured. God isn't like that. He sees what's in your heart and knows your purpose. External appearances or lack of achievements doesn't change His mind. What He wants is your heart. Open your heart to Him and let Him make you into who He has called you to be. You're His daughter and are made complete because of Him. Don't wait another day to let God show you how He sees you. God knew a shepherd was really a king. He knows exactly who you are as well. You are never overlooked. You are royalty!

Daily Challenge

Journal about a time when you were overlooked. Ask God to show you what He wants you to know about that situation and how it impacts you now.

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

The Binder Co Devotionals September 2018: For the Moment

Saturday, September 29

For the Moment You want to Hide from God

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

Read James 5:13

God is not caught off guard by the things you're carrying around in your heart right now. No matter how hard your heart is, filled with things you know are not right, it's never too difficult for God to break through. God wants to clean your heart from whatever it is that shouldn't be there, but first, you have to be willing to admit it is there.

You have to be willing to talk to God about the feelings of jealousy, or inadequacy, or loneliness that lead you to those places where you know you shouldn't be. Be willing to be open with God and make it a part of your daily routine. Don't let things build up, telling yourself you'll deal with them later. Deal with them now. God is gracious enough to always be on call. He is loving, always willing to break through our hardened hearts. He is ready to forgive when we are willing to be open with Him and repent.

Let go of the things weighing your heart down today. It's time to be free. It's time to let God into your heart.

Daily Challenge

Write a prayer to God about what you're feeling today.

Written by Morgan Harper Nichols

[instagram.com/morganharnichols](https://www.instagram.com/morganharnichols)
morganharnichols.com

Sunday, September 30

For the Moment You don't Understand

Written by Emily Furda

Read 1 Corinthians 13:12

This month we've looked a number of moments we have in our lives. Sometimes we don't understand why we have to go through certain moments. It doesn't make sense to us. We may not understand now, but, as Christians, we are promised one day we will understand everything.

For now we see but a faint reflection of riddles and mysteries as though reflected in a mirror, but one day we will see face-to-face. My understanding is incomplete now, but one day I will understand everything, just as everything about me has been fully understood. 1 Corinthians 13:12 TPT

While the day we see Jesus face to face and finally understand everything may see far off, we are not left to our own devices. We may not understand everything about God and His ways, but He already understands everything about us. He knows every detail. He understands why we cry each tear and knows how to comfort us. He understands why our burdens seem so heavy and knows how to make them lighter. He understands why we can't find something we intentionally put away for safekeeping and knows how show us where it is. He understands why we're so overcome with panic that we can't see what is already in our hands, and He knows how to remind us of what we already have.

One day we will see Jesus face to face. In that moment, we will understand everything. Until then, keep spending time in His presence learning about Him and His ways. Remember, He will always give what you need, For the Moment.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Fact 2 Face" by Mandisa.

youtu.be/Wpfl7R7xHEs

Written by Emily Furda

[instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://www.instagram.com/emilyfurda)
emilyfurda.com

What moments have you seen God in this week?

Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.