



# *Faith, Hope, and Love*

*The Binder Co. Devotionals March 2019*

[www.emilyfurda.com/thebinderco](http://www.emilyfurda.com/thebinderco)

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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### 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. Even though she originally started writing and designing these for herself, she felt the Lord leading her to share it with others. It has grown more than anyone could imagine. You can learn more about Morgan at [morganharpernichols.com](https://morganharpernichols.com)

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 I am so grateful for each one of you!

-Emily Furda Director, Editor In Chief [emilyfurda.com](https://emilyfurda.com) [instagram.com/emilyfurda](https://instagram.com/emilyfurda)

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

*And now these three remain:  
faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:3 NKJV*

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1  
**1 Corinthians 13:8-13**  
Write down what you think faith, hope, and love are. Save it, so you can revisit it at the end of the month.

2  
**Numbers 23:19**  
Write out today's verse and place it where you'll see it often.

3  
**Mark 9:20-27**  
Listen to "Oh Me of Little Faith" by Matthew West.  
[youtu.be/RZhsQOcWgMY](https://youtu.be/RZhsQOcWgMY)

4  
**Luke 17:18-28, John 16:33**  
Write out John 16:33 in your own words.

5  
**Ephesians 6:10-18**  
Make a list of the pieces of God's armor in order. Journal about what each one means to you and how it fits with the other pieces. Also journal about why it's important to pray in every situation.

6  
**Judges 7**  
Journal how Gideon's story impacts how you'll view your situation when you feel as if you don't have what you need.

7  
**1 Corinthians 16:13**  
Are there areas in your life where you struggle to surrender to God or have doubts about what His plans are? Journal your thoughts and pray, asking God to show you how He is growing your faith.

8  
**Psalm 56:11**  
Listen to "Confidence" by Sanctus Real.  
[youtu.be/MEGGVmSSr-I](https://youtu.be/MEGGVmSSr-I)

9  
**Hebrews 11:1, Colossians 2:6-7**  
Find some quiet time this weekend to journal, pray, or listen to worship music. Sit in God's presence Him what He wants to show you.

10  
**1 Corinthians 1:26-29**  
How does today's reading and devotional impact how you see yourself when it comes to your insecurities? Journal your thoughts and pray over them. Then, write down 5 of your strengths.

11  
**Psalm 23:6**  
What does God's goodness look like? Journal your thoughts.

12  
**Romans 5:5**  
Memorize today's verse and/or write it out in your own words.

13  
**Jeremiah 29:11**  
Listen to "Hopes and Dreams" by 7eventh Time Down.  
[youtu.be/4tgUv9yNC0](https://youtu.be/4tgUv9yNC0)

14  
**Philippians 4:6-7**  
How would praying for God's peace before praying for the outcome you want change you? Journal your thoughts and listen to "Pray it Up" by Joel Vaughn.  
[youtu.be/MQoO46XFLSo](https://youtu.be/MQoO46XFLSo)

15  
**Psalm 86:17**  
Ask God to help you see His goodness wherever you are today. Keep your eyes and heart open. When you see it, write it down so you can remind yourself of it later.

16  
**Genesis 45**  
Journal about how Joseph's story impacts how you see your own life.

17  
**Psalm 43:5**  
Listen to "I Have This Hope" by Tenth Avenue North.  
[youtu.be/eBg9jHQrE44](https://youtu.be/eBg9jHQrE44)

18  
**Psalm 84:11**  
Listen to "So Good to Me" by Zach Williams.  
[youtu.be/3WfIVCCl6nA](https://youtu.be/3WfIVCCl6nA)

19  
**Psalm 42:5**  
Do you feel hopeless today about something? Pray, asking God to show you what steps to take to get to the bottom of it, and pray for a friend who may feel hopeless.

20  
**Romans 15:13**  
Listen to "Hope in Front of Me" by Danny Gokey.  
[youtu.be/9KIhYZOovw](https://youtu.be/9KIhYZOovw)

21  
**Isaiah 40:27-31**  
Memorize Isaiah 40:30-31.

22  
**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**  
Write down "God is Love" at the top of a piece of paper. Then, write down every characteristic of love you read about in today's passage.

23  
**John 17:26**  
Listen to "When We Love" by Love & The Outcome.  
[youtu.be/RgikilwUPiE](https://youtu.be/RgikilwUPiE)

24  
**Jeremiah 31:3**  
See today's devotional for today's challenge

25  
**Galatians 4:7**  
Listen to "Royalty" by Francesca Battistelli.  
[youtu.be/a\\_XLpnNkiWY](https://youtu.be/a_XLpnNkiWY)

26  
**Deuteronomy 32:10**  
What does it mean to you to be the apple of God's eye? Do something creative to express it. Do anything creative that you enjoy.

27  
**John 15:9**  
Listen to "Heart Won't Stop" by John Mark McMillan and Sarah McMillan.  
[youtu.be/03qPZu7qn00](https://youtu.be/03qPZu7qn00)

28  
**Matthew 5:44**  
Journal about how you can show love to your enemies and how to set healthy boundaries when necessary.

29  
**John 15:15**  
Write a letter to God the way you would write to a friend. Tell Him what's on your heart, what questions you have, or anything else you want.

30  
**John 3:1-21**  
Listen to "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury.  
[youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE](https://youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE)

**Nehemiah 9:17**  
See today's devotional for today's challenge

*And now these three  
remain: faith, hope  
and love.*

*But the greatest of  
these is love.*

*1 Corinthians 13:3  
NKJV*

*Friday, March 1*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 1 Corinthians 13:8-13*

There are times in all of our lives when we feel as if we're searching for an answer but can't find it, even when we're searching in godly places or asking advice from godly people. Books, sermons, music, and blogs no longer encourage us in the ways they usually do. It's in those moments when this month's verse is most important to hold on to.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:3 NIV

Faith. Hope. Love.

When all else is stripped away those three areas of our Christian walk remain. They're not actions or something tangible. Rather, they're a state of mind and an attitude of the heart. That's what makes them important. They're what we need to nurture and hold on to, even when it seems as if everything around us is falling apart.

This month we'll be studying each one of topics. Our study will be divided into three sections, one for each topic. We'll learn just what each of these mean and how we can grow in them and put them into action.

***Daily Challenge***

Write down what you think faith, hope, and love are. Save it, so you can revisit it at the end of the month.

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*Saturday, March 2*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Numbers 23:19*

Our first topic is faith. It's not faith in what we can see, hear, or know. It's faith in the Lord. It's the belief that He is who He says He is, and He is trustworthy. How do we know God trustworthy and worthy of our faith? One way is to remember his promises.

Promises are only as trustworthy as the one who makes them. If someone has a track record lying and breaking promises, you learn she can't be counted on. Sometimes we experience deep heartache because others have lied to us and broken promises. Those wounds can make it hard to trust God.

While humans will always break a promise, even if it's unintentional, we have to remember God isn't human. He is so much more. Today's sculpture highlights that. It tells us only does God keep His promises, but He is incapable of breaking them! He is incapable of lying.

How would your life change if you could truly believe He will keep every promise He makes? You are not an exception to the rule. It's impossible for Him to lie to you. He knows it can be hard to grasp with limited, human understanding. Let today's scripture be one you cling to when you're unsure if He will keep every promise He has made.

Because God cannot lie, He is trustworthy and worthy of our faith.

***Daily Challenge***

Write out today's verse and place it where you'll see it often.

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**Sunday, March 3**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Mark 9:20-27*

Sometimes, we want to believe God is who He says He is, but it's hard. When your faith feels too small to believe Him, God has an answer for that. He will give you the faith you need to believe in Him.

In today's passage, we see a father who was desperate for Jesus to help his son. He admitted he believed Jesus could help, but also knew he needed help to believe. His mind and heart were at war, just like ours often are. His lack of faith on his own didn't make Jesus turn away. Instead, Jesus answered him not with words, but with actions. Jesus performed a miracle.

We often need reminders of things God has done to keep our faith growing. There's no accident this story is in the Bible; it helps our faith to grow.

Think about good has God done in your life in the past or is doing right now. Did He provide something when it seemed impossible? Did an opportunity suddenly open up where you could use your gifts? Did you experience comfort in the middle of grief?

When we look back and remember the promises He has kept in the past, it reminds us He will keep fulfilling them. He will keep giving us faith to believe His promises. It's exciting to remember what God has done in the past and see what He is doing now. Everyday He brings new life to us, even when we think our faith is too small to believe in Him and what He promises.

Faith isn't something you have to manufacture on your own. It's safe to admit you don't have enough faith because God promises to give you faith.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Oh Me of Little Faith" by Matthew West. [youtu.be/RZhsQQcWgMY](https://youtu.be/RZhsQQcWgMY)

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**Monday, March 4**

*Devotional written by Christine Perry  
Read Luke 17:18-28, John 16:33*

Have you ever questioned God? Have you ever felt so heartbroken, so confused, so shattered that you can't fathom what God is doing and why He's doing it?

Life is full of heartbreak, disappointment, loss, the unexpected, and the unfathomable. We all eventually come to a point where we wonder if Jesus is who He says He is. Just like in any relationship, you go through bumps, and you will go through those bumps with Jesus.

In John 7:18-23, John the Baptist, after spending his life proclaiming Jesus as messiah, sent his disciples to question if Jesus was who He says He was. Why? Because John had spent his life preparing people for Jesus's arrival. And then, for speaking the truth, John was thrown in prison, facing beheading. After Jesus answered John's disciple with a resounding "Yes, I am the Messiah." Jesus said there was no greater man born of woman than John the Baptist.

In John 16:33, Jesus says, "...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." NIV

We will not have all the answers this side of eternity, but that's why Jesus asks us to walk by faith and not by sight. When we feel completely out of faith, just know that Jesus is still holding on to each one of us and He can handle the doubts we have.

**Daily Challenge**

Write out John 16:33 in your own words.

*Written by Christine Perry*  
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**Tuesday, March 5**

*Devotional written by Morgan Harper Nichols  
Read Ephesians 6:10-18*

God doesn't want you to stay right where you are. He wants you to grow stronger in your faith everyday. One way you can really began to focus on growing each day is by seeing your daily challenges as an opportunity to grow. When you have been inconvenienced or when your plans have been delayed, it can be all too easy to resort to complaining or worrying. Instead, allow yourself to say, "this is hard, but I know it is making me stronger."

This is true even when you've been dealing with the same things for years. God is not in heaven rolling His eyes because you are asking for help once again. Instead He is right here with you now, gracefully strengthening you in everything. You may feel at times like your situation has been going on for a lifetime, or maybe that it is just too much to bear, but God wants you to know it was never in your strength that you were supposed to make it through this.

It was never your strength that you were supposed to be able to start that ministry or that business, or to mend that broken relationship, or to be more intentional about spending time with your family. Whatever things have been difficult to do, you have to remember you cannot do that without Him.

So, put on the full armor of God today. Don't try to accomplish anything by wearing your own armor. It will not be enough. Pray and ask the Lord to strengthen you no matter how big or small the task you are faced with today.

**Daily Challenge**

Make a list of the pieces of God's armor in order. Journal about what each one means to you and how it fits with the other pieces. Also journal about why it's important to pray in every situation.

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**Wednesday, March 6**

*Devotional written by Morgan Harper Nichols  
Read Judges 7*

In today's passage, God wanted Gideon to trust Him. He did this by instructing him to take his army of over 30,000 and downsize it to 300, even though they were about to face an army of 100,000. Gideon could have easily doubted God in this situation and questioned if he could put His faith in Him.

In the eyes of man, it didn't make sense to downsize an army before a battle; however, Gideon chose to listen, and obey. Gideon would come to find God had a much bigger plan for how the battle would be won. As a result, it wasn't the might of the 300 men that won the battle, it was God performing a miracle that made the victory possible. Even though God's instruction left him with much less than he originally had, Gideon's immediate obedience to God led to a miraculous victory.

God wants you to be obedient with the little you have too. Just because the number in your bank account is trickling downward, or you barely have enough energy or patience to get through the day, it doesn't mean God in His awesome might can't perform miraculous victories in your daily life. God wants to take your small amount and do more with it, but you have to have faith and be willing to be obedient first. Don't turn away from Him when you're having to downsize or wait to see how things are going to work out. Continue to be obedient to Him, and trust that He is capable of far more than you could ever imagine.

**Daily Challenge**

Journal how Gideon's story impacts how you'll view your situation when you feel as if you don't have what you need.

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**Thursday, March 7**

*Devotional written by Danielle Nicole  
Read 1 Corinthians 16:13*

When we choose to put our faith in God, we need to begin growing in our faith as well. There are many ways He helps us grow in our faith, He doesn't just leave us to figure it out on our own.

When growing our faith, we need to learn to follow His ways and commands for our lives. When we do this, we begin to stop doubting if God knows best or if He knows what He is doing. When we do this, we will be able to trust Him, which is another way to build up our faith. God is going to not only use these things to grow our faith, but He will also use situations in our lives

Surrendering our hearts, thoughts, and plans is also part of growing our faith in Christ. It allows God to become first in our lives and makes us able to lean on Him for everything. It can help us get rid of any doubt we may have in Him and put all our worries and concerns in His hands.

Last of all, when our faith begins to grow, so will our relationship with God. We will be able to trust Him with everything, and our doubt will no longer hold us back.

Our faith is something that just continue to grow, we may have times when our faith doesn't feel as strong but know He will always help us come back to Him.

Your faith journey is not something you have to do alone.

**Daily Challenge**

Are there areas in your life where you struggle to surrender to God or have doubts about what His plans are? Journal your thoughts and pray, asking God to show you how He is growing your faith.

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**Friday, March 8**

*Devotional written by Morgan Harper Nichols  
Read Psalm 56:11*

Today's passage is a psalm written by David when he was captured by the Philistines in Gath. Even though he didn't know the outcome, David knew his captors did not have control over his life and He was still in God's hands.

Put your faith in God when you feel like you're being held in captivity by other people or things. Perhaps you feel like you're in financial captivity and your lack of resources directly affects how you're able to live on a daily basis. Maybe you have found yourself captivated by someone's love and affection and even though that person hasn't made a commitment to honor and respect your time and your body, you find yourself struggling to let it go.

Whatever happens to be a captor in your life, know that that captor has nothing on God! He wants to set you free through Jesus Christ and it doesn't matter how who or what the captor is in your life, don't be afraid! He will set you free! Even if it's something as seemingly small as constantly checking your phone waiting for that text message from that certain person or being disappointed in the way you look, don't let that captor have any power over you. Through Jesus Christ, you are in God's hands, and He's the One in control.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Confidence" by Sanctus Real.  
[youtu.be/MEGGVmSSr-I](https://youtu.be/MEGGVmSSr-I)

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*Saturday, March 9*

*Devotional written by Morgan Harper Nichols*

*Read Hebrews 11:1, Colossians 2:6-7*

What stood out to you the most this week?

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

Like the roots of the tree resting miles beneath our feet, there are so many intricate details in nature that matter, but we do not see. As we look at a growing tree filled with hopeful, green leaves, we appreciate it for what it is in that stage. Perhaps we could think of our lives in this way.

In this very season, we can see our faith, like roots, growing deep into the earth beneath our feet. We can see it as the evidence of things not seen and the foundation of absolutely everything. Our faith in Christ is the foundation of everything we do. The more time we spend praying, serving, worshipping, and listening to Him, the more we will begin to see that our faith, like roots, is strengthened in our time with Him. Even when God is doing mighty things we cannot see with our own eyes, we will not be discouraged, because we have confidence in those firm roots growing deep beneath our feet.

Like a tree planted by the water, God has given us firm roots, and we will not be moved, even when we are doubted by loved ones or friends, and even when those we thought we could talk to are skeptical of what it means to “trust” and “wait” on the Lord. Being firmly rooted faith allows us to have peace beyond understanding and still extend love to those who do not understand. Even when the critic or the skeptic is our self, God remains faithful. He still remains true to who He is. That’s how good He is. That’s how much He Loves us.

No matter what comes your way today, cling to deeply rooted faith. Spend more time with God than you did the day before and watch how He begins to prepare your heart and shape you for the things He has in store. Let your faith find its roots in Him, for He is the root of everything.

***Daily Challenge***

Find some quiet time this weekend to journal, pray, or listen to worship music. Sit in God’s presence Him what He wants to show you.

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*Sunday, March 10*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29*

Have you ever been with a group of Christian friends and feel as if your faith is weaker than theirs? Has it shaken your confidence? You hear of the mission trips they've gone on, the scriptures they can quote from memory, or the books they've read and all you can think of is your inadequacies. You feel as if you have no place with these people and no business ministering alongside with them. It's intimidating.

The truth is, there will always be times when you feel inadequate. There will always be someone who knows something or has done something you haven't. That doesn't give them more freedom to serve the Lord or mean their faith in God is better than yours. It just means they've done something different.

Don't be intimidated or embarrassed. God doesn't base our worthiness and freedom to serve Him on what we have or haven't done. We are saved and transformed by the power of God. In fact, God delights working through us when we don't feel like we have enough. He takes who we are, and by His power, works through us. He does it for a good reason. It's so we don't think we have something to brag about.

There is a freedom that comes when you know who you are is all you will ever need to be. Yes, we should be growing in our walk with Christ every day, but no matter where you are on your own personal journey, you have freedom to serve Him now. God wants to shine His light through you.

**Daily Challenge**

How does today's reading and devotional impact how you see yourself when it comes to your insecurities? Journal your thoughts and pray over them. Then, write down 5 of your strengths.

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*Monday, March 11*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 23:6*

As we wrap up our section on faith, let's talk about one more thing. How can we keep our faith growing when we want to quit? At some point in our lives, we will all go through something difficult. We can feel as if we're at war with situations beyond our control. It makes it hard to trust God and put our faith in Him. Maybe it's health, finances, relationships, or school that feels like a fight. Sometimes even what we think is a small situation, like breaking our phone charger, causes us to feel worn down. When we do, it is important to acknowledge how hard it is, but it's also important to look for God's goodness in the middle of the pain.

Ask God to show you His goodness. Ask God to show you where He's been there for you in the past and where He is in your current situation. Ask Him to show you something good where you are right now. When we ask God to show us His goodness, He will. If we truly believe God is good, then having faith in Him and His ways becomes easier because we know He's not out to harm us.

Keep your eyes open for what is good because He promises to show you His goodness. It will strengthen your faith.

**Daily Challenge**

What does God's goodness look like? Journal your thoughts.

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*Tuesday, March 12*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Romans 5:5*

Have you ever seen a child run to her parents with tears streaming down her face because her favorite toy was broken? She's both crushed and hopeful at the same time, crushed because her toy is broken but hopeful because she knows her parents might be able to help. As soon as she hears the words "It can be fixed," the tears stop, and a huge grin appears. (Often, the toy just needs new batteries.) As we get older, we begin to realize some things can't be fixed. What do we do then? How do we hold on to hope, especially when it's more important than a toy that needs new batteries?

Today, we start our section on hope. When we hope, we're anticipating something good will happen. Even if we only have a shred of hope left, it's enough to keep us going in the darkest of moments.

When we're going through a tough, emotional time all we want to do is fix it, but sometimes we just have to go through it. Relationships change, jobs are lost, and loved ones pass away. Sometimes it's desperately wanting a cure for an illness. When we finally come to terms with the fact that no human can truly fix what is wrong, we can lose all hope, or we can put our hope in God. Today's verse tells us:

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. Romans 5:5 NLT

When we place our hope in God, we will never be let down. We can trust Him because He loves us. It doesn't mean we don't get scared at times or don't want it fixed. It means even if it's not fixed this side of heaven in the way we want, we can rest knowing God will carry us through everything. He will take our fears, restore our hope, and mend our hearts with His love.

**Daily Challenge**

Memorize today's verse and/or write it out in your own words.

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**Wednesday, March 13**

Devotional 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**

Listen to “Hopes and Dreams” by 7eventh Time Down. [youtu.be/4tgUv9yNC0](https://youtu.be/4tgUv9yNC0)

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**Thursday, March 14**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Philippians 4:6-7

When we pray for something we want to happen, it’s easy to put our hope in the outcome we want instead of God’s sovereign love even though He promises to lovingly care for us no matter what happens. So, how do we put our hope in God and His will instead of outcomes?

We can pray for peace no matter what happens. We can still pray for what we hope to happen. If we first ask God to give us His peace no matter what happens, it shifts our focus from circumstances we can’t control to the God who lovingly cares for us.

When we lay down our will and pray for peace no matter what happens, our hope will be secure because it’s in the God who never changes instead of circumstances that can blow us over and fill us with dread. We can pour out our hearts to God knowing He hears our desperate cries. He may not always answer our prayer for circumstances to change the way we’d like them to, but He always answers our prayers for peace.

When we put our hope in outcomes, we’re ruled by circumstances and our emotions. If we put our hope in our loving God’s supernatural peace, we will be able to withstand anything that comes our way.

**Daily Challenge**

How would praying for God’s peace before praying for the outcome you want change you? Journal your thoughts and listen to “Pray it Up” by Joel Vaughn.

[youtu.be/MQoO46XFLSo](https://youtu.be/MQoO46XFLSo)

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**Friday, March 15**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 86:17

When we hear the word “enemies” we usually 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. There is peace and hope in knowing God is fighting for you.

**Daily Challenge**

Ask God to help you see His goodness wherever you are today. Keep your eyes and heart open. When you see it, write it down so you can remind yourself of it later.

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***Saturday, March 16***

*Devotional written by Diane Marie*

*Read Genesis 45*

What stood out to you the most 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 that we can't even imagine a positive outcome. God seems unreachable and far away. We can't seem to 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

He saw the bigger picture. We can learn a lot about faith from Joseph. 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 how Joseph's story impacts how you see your own life.

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**Sunday, March 17**

*Devotional 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.

<https://youtu.be/eBg9jHQeE44>

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**Monday, March 18**

*Devotional written by Christine Perry  
Read Psalm 84:11*

Have you ever prayed so hard for something only to hear crickets? Have you ever hoped beyond hope for something that didn't turn out as you planned? Maybe it was for a relationship to blossom into a marriage. Maybe it was a job interview you prayed would turn into a permanent job. Maybe it was healing of a much-desired baby.

Today's verse says, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." NKJV

This is a hard verse to read especially, when you thought what you wanted was good. It's also hard to understand this verse when you can't see good in your situation. What do you do then? What do you do when you don't see how your hopeless situation could be good?

When you find yourself here, try to think in a different perspective. Remember that God's time frame is not our time frame. The good you so long to see in your life may not come, but God promises that if it's His good for you, He won't withhold it. Sometimes, the good means heartbreak because in the long run, He's going to use that. It's such a hard concept to understand, but if we understood everything God did and everything God is, He would not be God.

This week, try and remember that sometimes the good we long to see may not be in this moment, but years down the road or even into eternity. Also know there is no good God withholds from those who walk uprightly. That is the hope we can hold onto.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "So Good to Me" by Zach Williams.  
[youtu.be/3WfIVCCl6nA](https://youtu.be/3WfIVCCl6nA)

*Written by Christine Perry*  
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**Tuesday, March 19**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 42:5*

Have you ever been in a place where you've felt hopeless, and you couldn't move past it? Maybe you're there now. You pray and worship, but still it drags on, and nothing seems to lift the cloud in your soul.

When we find ourselves in that place, we can even begin to wonder if something is wrong with us as Christians because we can't seem to find hope. Sometimes, it's because we skip one important step. We never ask ourselves why we feel hopeless.

In today's reading, before the psalmist tells himself to put his hope in God, he asks himself why he feels so upset. He takes time to examine his heart and mind. So many times, when we feel a pervasive hopelessness we don't even know why because we skip right over this. When we take time to think and journal or talk with a friend about what we're going through, things become clear.

We often don't realize we're facing something huge that would threaten anyone's ability to hope when we're in the middle of it. Sometimes, it may be something from our past. Other times, we're holding onto a belief that holds us back. When we know why we feel hopeless, then we can address it. That might mean we need to spend some time journaling, pray, give ourselves some self-care time, need support from friends, or even consider counseling with a licensed counselor to help us understand why we feel the way we do.

Once we know why we feel the way we do, we can bring our pain to God and let Him heal our hearts. Sometimes it's a process that takes a while, and that's okay. Hoping in Him becomes much easier when we no longer have some mysterious "why" hanging over us because we've faced it and given it to the One who can heal it.

**Daily Challenge**

Do you feel hopeless today about something? Pray, asking God to show you what steps to take to get to the bottom of it, and pray for a friend who may feel hopeless.

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**Wednesday, March 20**

*Devotional written by Danielle Nicole  
Read Romans 15:13*

When we feel hopeless, we can run to a lot of different things, but only one will satisfy our souls. When we put our hope in God, we are surrendering our control and having complete faith and confidence in God. We are putting aside our plans for our lives and choosing to find real peace. Hope allows us to trust Him with all of who we are, leaning on Him to take care of our futures, fears, worries, and dreams.

Having hope may sound easier said than done, but in Romans 15:13 it says: "so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." NIV

It isn't through us, other people, or things, but the power of the Holy Spirit where we find hope. Hope was created by God, so to find it, we have to look to Him. God gives us joy and peace when we are trusting Him because He wants us to be filled with hope. He is showing us that when we put our trust into Him, we have true joy within us and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

This shows us we can put our hope in Him, because He is surely capable of taking care of us, even in the trusting process. Storms of life come, and darkness falls over us, but through Jesus we have hope. Uncertainty can seem to overtake us, but there is real peace when we seek Him. Our hope is based on the power of the Holy Spirit, so no matter what we may be facing, the Holy Spirit will carry us through.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Hope in Front of Me" by Danny Gokey. [youtu.be/9KIhYZQ\\_ovw](https://youtu.be/9KIhYZQ_ovw)

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**Thursday, March 21**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 40:27-31*

As we've studied about hope, one of the most prevalent themes is our hope must be in God, not circumstances, if we want hope to last. Today's verse is one we can cling to when we're feeling empty and tempted to put our hope into someplace other than God.

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:30-31 NIV

God promises when you hope in Him, He will renew your strength. Not only will He renew you. He will take you to places you never even dared to hope you could go.

**Daily Challenge**

Memorize Isaiah 40:30-31.

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**Friday, March 22**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

Today we begin the last section of our study, love. For most of us there has been at least one time when we've wondered if God loved us. Sometimes we've been taught things that make Him seem more demanding and overbearing than loving. Other times, we're worried our mistakes may have pushed Him to the limit, and maybe He's run out of love for us.

Neither of those are remotely true. 1 John 4:16 says:

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. NIV

It doesn't just say God loves us. It says God is love. Love isn't something He does. It's the very essence of who He is and dictates everything He does. No matter what you think, feel, or have been through, His love for you won't change. You can rely on His love for you. It never changes, because He is love.

Because of His love for us, we are able to love Him and others. As followers of Jesus, God lives in us. That means His love is in us. When we fully embrace the love God has for us, we naturally allow His love to be what is the driving force behind everything we do. We're able to love God, love others, and love ourselves. Love is the foundation on which everything else is built upon. Perhaps that is why our monthly theme verse tells us "...but the greatest of these is love" 1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV

**Daily Challenge**

Write down "God is Love" at the top of a piece of paper. Then, write down every characteristic of love you read about in today's passage.

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*Saturday, March 23*

*Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton*

*Read John 17:26*

What stood out to you the most this week?

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

Love can seem distant. Extending love to a shouting world can seem daunting. We may wonder if we have enough love to forgive, bless, encourage, or try again in the face of difficult people. We may begin to believe the lie that our love could never resemble God's love; however, we can be positive that as Christ-followers this powerful love that comes from God resides inside us.

God was revealed to us, and our eyes were opened to who He is so that we could be filled with His love. Amazingly, it's the same love with which God loved Jesus. This love that fills up all of our emptiness is not a passive love. It is a love that sacrifices for others, extends a hand to those who are in need, and takes action on behalf of those who may be considered less valuable by society's standards.

This active love is the same kind of love that God extended to us while we were living in our disobedience. The love that originated from our Creator and Father, God, is the same love that is present within us. It gives us the ability to love beyond our feelings, and to behave with love despite our circumstances.

We do not have to live uncertain that there is enough love within us to share with a wounded world in the midst of angst. With God as our supply, we can be assured that God's love in us is more than adequate to equal the tasks He has set before our hands. His love is present in us in every place that we set our feet, because He is in us no matter where we may go.

***Daily Challenge***

Listen to "When We Love" by Love & The Outcome.

[youtu.be/RgikilwUPiE](https://youtu.be/RgikilwUPiE)

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**Sunday, March 24**

*Devotional written by Emily Williams  
Read Jeremiah 31:3*

The way God loves His daughters is endless. It is beyond human comprehension of how deep His love is! A love so deep allows us to draw closer as we try to understand the awe-inspiring God. We often see our flaws first, making it hard to see the Lord's everlasting love. Or at times we do not feel His love when it has always been there for us. You may have been asked or asked yourself on how God shows His love. The simple answer is, Jesus, and what He has done for us on the cross, but there is so much more to this answer that many of us might miss.

Day to day God can show His love in the simplest ways. A cup of coffee with a close friend, a song you hear on the radio that lifts your spirits, someone opening the door for you, the list could go on. Then to even bigger things like the opportunity to have a relationship with Him and have an honest conversation with Him throughout your day. The blessing of His Word, giving us space to learn about Him. Being able to spend eternity with Jesus face to face! Along with God gifting you with many talents and abilities. The Lord genuinely wants and desires to use us to advance His kingdom, what a huge stamp of love!

We always get second chances everyday, showered in mercy by the Creator. So loved, so seen by Him. We have nothing to prove to God, He already knows. The good Father chose you and His faithfulness to you never fails. God whispers 'I love you' in many different ways, are you listening?

**Daily Challenge**

Think over the last several days, and make a list of at least 5 ways God showed you His love.

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**Monday, March 25**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Galatians 4:7*

Wouldn't it be nice to be a carefree little girl? Wouldn't it be amazing to have a father who has paved the way, one who has done great things and passes his legacy on to you? What if you could be a daughter who is a royal heiress? What if you already are?

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12 NIV

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, you are the daughter of the King of Kings. Yet, this is something we often spend our entire lives trying to grasp. Even a good parental figure is a far cry from who God is. It's even harder if you didn't have a good or any parental figure in your life.

What if, just for a minute, you could stop, and believe you are the royal daughter of The King? What would it change? How would you feel if you embraced even a tiny part of your identity as God's daughter? Take some time to really let this reach your heart. The Creator of the Universe, the One true God, and King of Kings chose you! He made you so He could love you. He is proud to call you His royal daughter.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Royalty" by Francesca Battistelli.  
[youtu.be/a\\_XLpnNkiWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLpnNkiWY)

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**Tuesday, March 26**

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Deuteronomy 32:10*

The term "apple of my eye" is often used as a term of endearment, meaning someone loves you so much that you're the only person he can focus on. Have you ever wondered where that phrase came from? No matter long you stare into the mirror, shine a flashlight, and pull at your eyelids, you'll never see an apple in the middle of your eye. Instead of seeing a Red Delicious apple, you'll end up with a red and swollen eye. (It's something a curious but misguided five-year-old may have done.)

It turns out the apple of your eye refers to the pupil, the most sensitive part of your eye. Our eyes are so precious that God gave us reflexes to automatically protect them. Think about how quickly blink your eyes if something is flying towards your face. It happens fast and without you thinking about it. Your eyes are so precious that even a speck of dust is guarded against.

In Deuteronomy 32:10 it says: "He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye." NIV

God guards you with even greater care than our bodies guard our eyes. He knows you're fragile yet extremely important. He also knows on your own you're defenseless, and you need protected. He cares for you in so many ways you don't even realize. God is omnipresent, capable of being everywhere at all times. His love for you is great, and His sight is set always set on you. He is always there for you, in the blink of an eye.

**Daily Challenge**

What does it mean to you to be the apple of God's eye? Do something creative to express it. Journal, draw, write a poem or song, paint, create a dance. Do anything you enjoy. Don't worry about being good enough. Just enjoy it.

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*Wednesday, March 27*

*Devotional written by Danielle Nicole  
Read John 15:9*

It's easy to have the thought of being unloved by God develop in our minds. We might feel imperfect, and unworthy of Him, and though that's true, these things don't make us unloved by Him. There is nothing in the world that could make God stop loving us. His love is unconditional, it makes us worthy of Him, and there is no way for us to change that.

One of the ways we can remind ourselves of His love is by looking back at our lives and seeing all the times He's held us. We can see God never let us down in any way. How could a God who doesn't love us desire to help us through every season of our lives the way He has and does.

We also have the bible to continuously remind us of God's love for us. When we make habit of reading God's word and holding to His promises, and words we won't find it as easy to forget who is. We won't find ourselves feeling unloved as often if we are always reading about how much God loves us.

Lastly, we can always remember what God did for us. He sent His only Son to earth to die for us. If that isn't the perfect example of love, then what is? This is how we can never forget about God's love for us. These are the things we need to be holding on to.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Heart Won't Stop" by John Mark McMillan and Sarah McMillan.

[youtu.be/03qPZu7qn00](https://youtu.be/03qPZu7qn00)

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*Thursday, March 28*

*Devotional written by Diane Marie  
Read Matthew 5:44*

Love is a beautiful word. It makes us think of hearts and flowers, kisses and hugs, happiness and joy. We love our family, friends, and maybe even our favorite dessert. This is all well and good, but what are we to do about our enemies? Jesus makes this very clear. We are to love them!

At first, we might think we don't even have enemies. But think about it, we all have people in our lives who challenge us, hurt us, or just plain rub us the wrong way. There might be a coworker who takes credit for our hard work. There might be someone at school who likes to spread nasty rumors about us. There might even be someone at church with whom we just can't seem to get along. We might not see them as enemies, but when it comes down to it, we have to admit we don't exactly have the most loving feelings towards them.

Then there are those in our lives who have seriously wronged us. Perhaps our father walked out on our family when we were young, or a drunk driver killed someone we loved. It doesn't matter the offense, we are always called to love. Jesus didn't make any exceptions to the rule. We are to love our enemies. Period. He is our perfect example, and He loved each and every one of us enough to die for us and take the punishment for our sins.

The first step to loving our enemies is to forgive them. Then, pray for them. Remember Jesus loves them and try to treat them as He would. Will it be easy? No. Will it be worth it? Yes. Jesus calls us to love our enemies, and we can never go wrong when we follow the perfect example of Christ.

**Daily Challenge**

Journal about how you can show love to your enemies and how to set healthy boundaries when necessary.

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*Friday, March 29*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
John 15:15*

Think for a minute about your closest friends. They know what you're saying even when you're silent. They can tell you your outfit isn't flattering without hurting your self-esteem. You have very few boundaries with each other because you trust each other. You can ask what could be embarrassing questions. You can have awkward conversations knowing your motives won't be questioned. Friends need each other.

Have you ever thought about having a relationship like that with God? Today's passage Jesus called His disciples friends, and the same is true for you. He loves you so much that He wants to be your friend. He wants you to confide in Him, to tell Him everything, even the things you feel embarrassed about. He knows what you're thinking when you're too overcome with emotions to even find words. He wants to lovingly correct you, not crush you. He wants you to share your joy and your pain with Him.

Friendship isn't one sided. God has so many things to reveal to you. He wants you to take time to listen to Him. He has things to tell you when you listen in prayer and read His Word. He has so many joys to show you in this world He created. He also has a plan for you and longs to tell you about it.

You don't just need Him, He needs you. He created you because He wanted a friendship with you. Friends enjoy spending time together. So, take some time to spend just with Him. Ask Him questions. Read about His character. Listen to some worship music. There is joy when two friends spend time together, and it's the same with God because He loves you as a friend.

**Daily Challenge**

Write a letter to God the way you would write to a friend. Tell Him what's on your heart, what questions you have, or anything else you want.

*Written by Emily Furda*

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## The Binder Co Devotionals March 2019 Faith, Hope, and Love

### *Saturday, March 30*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read John 3:1-21*

Have you ever tried to hang on to your personal achievements thinking they make you good enough in the eyes of God? When we try to do or be something special to earn God's love, we only find ourselves farther away from Him and frustrated because on our own we are never good enough.

Nicodemus was a man who could relate to that. He was a Pharisee, a member of the pious religious rulers who believed they could be saved by doing the right things. When Jesus came, He turned their teaching upside down by saying salvation wasn't something to be earned. Most were enraged to the point of wanting Jesus's dead, but Nicodemus wanted to know more. He sought out Jesus at night, possibly out of fear of what others would think.

Jesus could've turned him away for not being willing to seek Him in front of others, but He knew where Nicodemus came from. Jesus knew meeting him at night, in the dark, was what he needed. He couldn't earn salvation. It was a gift. Jesus told Nicodemus this:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 NIV

This verse can become so familiar that it often doesn't feel personal. Jesus gave His life specifically for you. Whenever you're tempted to think you have to earn God's love, remember today's verse. Before you were born, He loved you so much that died for you so He could give you the free gift of salvation.

#### Daily Challenge

Listen to "Reckless Love" by Cory Asbury.  
[youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE](https://youtu.be/Sc6SSHuZvQE)

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### *Sunday, March 31*

*Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Nehemiah 9:17*

Somedays, no matter how hard we try, we feel weary. It seems impossible to cling to our faith in God, hold on to hope, or receive or give love. Somedays, it's just too much. We feel as if we're going to be consumed by the weight on our shoulders. Other times, we feel as if we've messed up too many times and there is no point in even trying again. Today's Scripture lifts the weight from our shoulders. God knows we are human and can't do this on our own. Even when we sin, He still loves us and has compassion on us. He will never abandon us.

As we close out this month, remember, faith, hope, and love are what remain when all else is stripped away. You can take off the weight of trying to control circumstances or doing things in your own strength because it was never meant for you to carry in the first place. God created this world and is more than capable of caring for everything and everyone in it, including you. His love is what gives you the ability to hope and put your faith in Him. Your loving Heavenly Father has great compassion for you and is here to help you every single day. God's love for you is the greatest gift of all.

#### Daily Challenge

On the same paper you used at the beginning of the month, write down what you think faith, hope, and love are now that you've completed this month. Also, listed to "Hope Now" by Addison Road.

[youtu.be/FDXEvkS0iPA](https://youtu.be/FDXEvkS0iPA)

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What stood out to you the most this month? Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.