

My Dwelling Place
The Binder Co. Devotionals May 2019



Welcome to The Binder Co. Devotionals, a free, monthly, printable eBook for women of all ages who desire to grow deeper in God's Word on a daily basis.

About The Binder Co. Devotionals

Every aspect of The Binder Co. is run by volunteers. Once a month, we release a free printable eBook with daily devotionals, corresponding scriptures, and daily challenges to help you put your faith into action. These daily devotionals are free to read, download, and print. You can print each eBook and place it in a three ring binder or use an eReader. If you use a digital copy, be sure to have a journal or notebook handy. You can use them for yourself, your small group, friend group, or church group! You can access the free archives of eBooks at emilyfurda.com/thebinderco and in our Facebook Group.

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Write for us: Most months we accept submissions from guest writers. To learn how you can be a guest writer, visit our Facebook Group. You don't need to be a blogger or author to submit. It's open to any woman from teenagers and up.

A Note From the Director

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.

The Binder Co. Devotionals (originally called Her Binder Project) was started in 2014 by Morgan Harper Nichols. It has grown more than anyone could imagine. You can learn more about Morgan at morganharpernichols.com I started as a writer in 2016. 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 my heart.

In 2018, Morgan asked me if she could give me The Binder Co. Devotionals. I was speechless, which rarely happens. It was not an easy decision for either of us or one made lightly. My joy comes when I see women come alive as they study. I'm 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 instagram.com/emilyfurda

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
Psalm 84:1 NIV

5
Romans 15:13
Write out today's scripture in your own words and/or memorize it.

6
James 1:17
How does knowing God never changes impact you when you're longing for stability? Journal your thoughts.

7
Psalm 46:7
Journal about what it means to you to have the God of Angel Armies fighting for you, and listen to "Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)" by Chris Tomlin
youtu.be/qOkImV2cJDg

12
Psalm 1
Listen to "In the River" by Seth and Nirva.
youtu.be/H24h4wzzUgk

13
Revelation 21:3-5
What are some of the ways God speaks to you in addition to the Bible? What are things you do to speak with God aside from prayer? Make a list of both.

14
1 John 2:15-17
Listen to "My First Love" by Mandisa featuring Jeremy Camp.
youtu.be/qCaHlkVigks

19
Isaiah 41:10
Set aside time this week to spend time doing something you enjoy while letting God speak to you.

20
Psalm 63:3
Listen to "Can't Get Enough" by Grayson Reed,
youtu.be/90wjmKBAoDM

21
Psalm 91
How does knowing penguins are kept safe by their father's refuge impact how you see Psalm 91:4? Journal your thoughts

26
James 1:5
Do you believe God will give you wisdom if you ask? Why or why not? Journal your thoughts, and memorize today's Scripture.

27
Exodus 17:10-15
What would be written on God's banner for you when He cheers you on? Create or draw a banner with the words on it.

28
Psalm 127:1-2
Listen to "Find Rest" by Francesca Battistelli.
youtu.be/tVvqug14IOg

1
Psalm 84:1
Listen to "Dwelling Place" by Greg and Rebecca Sparks.
youtu.be/idQnm41oudY

8
Micah 7:18-20
What is the difference between asking for forgiveness and living in forgiveness? Journal your thoughts.

15
1 John 4:13-18
What is God's perfect love, and why does it drive away fear? Journal your thoughts.

22
Hosea 6:6
Listen to "The God I Know" by Love & the Outcome.
youtu.be/Px_aCjR5ZFA

29
Matthew 6:5-6
Write a prayer telling God whatever is on your mind right now. Then, take time to sit quietly in His presence.

2
Colossians 3:15
How what is the difference between God's dwelling place and other places you may be tempted to dwell? Where do you find yourself dwelling most? Journal your thoughts

9
John 1:3
Listen to "Everything" by TobyMac.
youtu.be/QurQEiOAOqIA

16
Psalm 22:1-5
Listen to "Even Louder" by Steven Malcolm featuring Natalie Grant.
youtu.be/REKLpji64hA

23
Proverbs 13:20
Do your closest friends push you away or pull you towards God Journal and pray about if your friendships need to change. Also pray for your friends.

30
Psalm 18:32-33
Listen to "Steady On" by Point of Grace.
youtu.be/-d11QbY6CXk

3
Psalm 90:1
Listen to "Finally Home" by Natalie Grant.
youtu.be/QYWIDoLbG9U

10
Hebrews 10:22-23
How does knowing God wants you to come to Him no matter what impact you? Journal your thoughts and/or write a prayer.

17
John 15:4-5
What does being fruitful look like to you? Journal your thoughts.

24
Psalm 71:20-21
Listen to "You're not Alone" by Owl City with Britt Nicole.
youtu.be/DavJ9UKS2ps

31
Psalm 84
What makes God's dwelling place so special? Journal about what living in God's dwelling place means to you.

4
Isaiah 26:3
When do you find your mind most prone to wander? What's one thing you can do to help yourself stay focused on God? Journal your thoughts, and put it into action.

11
Philippians 4:12-13
How would praying by asking God to give you peace no matter what happens before you ask for what you want you change you? Journal your thoughts.

18
John 10:1-5
Daily Challenge Listen to "Speak to Me" by Kari Jobe.
youtu.be/aFxOGd4P4JA

25
Psalm 23:6
Write out today's Scripture in your own words or draw, paint, or create something visual showing what it means to you.



Wednesday, May 1 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 84:1

Have you ever wondered what it means when we refer to God as our dwelling place? In a physical sense, a dwelling place is where we live. In a spiritual sense, a dwelling place is where our hearts call home.

Throughout scripture we often see verses that refer to remaining in God's presence or His dwelling place. What does that mean? How does it feel? What does it look like? Often, we reduce these words to Christian cliches without thinking of the meaning. We even give it as advice to others without understanding it ourselves.

So, that's what this month is about. We're going to learn about the amazing dwelling place God has for us. When our hearts take up residence in God's dwelling place, we soon discover it's a place like no other.

Come on in, make yourself at home, and experience God's dwelling place. There's a spot waiting just for you.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Dwelling Place" by Greg and Rebecca Sparks.
youtu.be/idQnm41oudY

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Thursday, May 2 2019

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Colossians 3:15

When our worlds get flipped upside down and our lives messed up, we need somewhere to go or be that will give us peace, a place where we can surrender and find rest.

God offers us a dwelling place with Him. We may wonder how we know God's dwelling place is true. How do we know it won't let us down? What differs in His dwelling place from a worldly one?

While there are many different places we could dwell in hard times and good, there is only one that will sustain us. There's only one with such a firm foundation we could never be let down by it. If our dwelling place can't hold us through the roughest of times, how steady is it? If it can't bring us peace when our hearts hurts, does it really bring true peace? If it only lasts for some seasons or can heal only certain hurts, does it hold any power at all?

This is how we know our God's dwelling place is a true and real dwelling place. It doesn't matter how dark the place we're in when we get there, He stands with open arms ready to embrace us. He provides us with a peace that surpasses all we know and understand. He brings healing and truth to our hurts and carries a freedom like no other.

This is how God's dwelling place is different from ones we may find in our world. It brings us peace. We can truly see He can and will sustain us, no matter our circumstances.

Daily Challenge

How what is the difference between God's dwelling place and other places your may be tempted to dwell? Where do you find yourself dwelling most? Journal your thoughts.

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Friday, May 3 2019

Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Psalm 90:1

Has life ever made you feel weary? Has your life ever felt like an extended trip where everything keeps going wrong: the kind of trip where the car breaks down, the GPS sends you in circles, and your planned schedule gets thrown out the window? Can you relate? Life is full: full of ups and downs, full of twists and turns, and full of joy and sorrow.

Where do you go when you feel too weary to go on?

Psalm 90:1 says: Lord, through all the generations you have been our home! (NLT)

Isn't that exactly where everyone wants to be when they're weary and tired? Home! Or the idea of a place to retreat. God intended home to be a place where you can rest, a place where you're reminded who you are, a place where you belong.

So, remember, whether you have a good physical home or not, you have a home in Christ. And it's in Him that you live, and breath, and have your being. It's in Him where you find breath for your soul. It's in Him where you find He is all that you will ever need.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Finally Home" by Natalie Grant.
youtu.be/QYWIDoLbG9U

Written by Christine Perry
learningtobefearless.org



Saturday, May 4 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Isaiah 26:3

When we keep our focus on God and allow Him to be the dwelling place for our thoughts and emotions, He promises to give us peace. Sometimes, keeping our mind focused on Him can be harder than it sounds. Our minds seem to never stop racing. Even when we're falling asleep at night, we can't quiet our whirling minds. It can feel like another area we're failing at and make us not even want to try to keep our hearts tuned to God, but even when we fail to keep our hearts and minds on Him, he is lovingly waiting for us, longing to be our peaceful dwelling place without judgment or punishment.

It takes practice to be intentional about keeping our hearts and minds focused on Him, but the peace He has for us is worth it. There are some practical things we can do. We can write down some scriptures and put them inside a cupboard door, on the refrigerator, or even in our slip them in a pocket or purse. When we're digging for the elusive hair tie in the bottom of the purse, we'll likely stumble on a scripture. We can have some scriptures typed out in an app on our phones or written out in a small notebook. It's also a good idea to be mindful about what we're hearing, reading, and watching. Try switching to some Christian music at times. Making playlists for different situations or moods can help us stay focused. It can also be wise to limit social media. Sometimes, it's not necessarily the amount of time we spend online but what we're reading. We start off checking on a close friend's status and before we realize it, we've spent an hour reading articles about everything about the latest celebrity gossip, to diet tips that make us feel inferior, and even a possible encounter someone had with a unicorn in 1842.

When it comes to setting spending alone time with God, it doesn't have to be at a specific time of day. For some of us, our brains and schedule make it hard for us to spend as much time as we'd like in the morning. If that's the case, why not spend time alone with God in the afternoon or evening? We can bookmark what we read or write down our thoughts. Then, in the morning pray and have a quick review before we start the day. If mornings work best for alone time, then, try the opposite. It may vary from day to day. Time of day isn't nearly as important as simply spending time with God.

The more we're intentional about spending time alone with God and turning our thoughts to Him throughout the day, the more we'll find our hearts and minds dwelling in the peace of His presence.

Daily Challenge

When do you find your mind most prone to wander away from God's presence? What's one thing you can do to help yourself stay focused on God? Journal your thoughts, and put it into action.

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What have you learned about God's dwelling place this week?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.



Sunday, May 5 2019

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Romans 15:13

Disappointment is not something that often creeps quietly into our lives. It most often pops up forcefully and slaps our resolve unexpectedly when our harsh reality is not what our heart had envisioned. Disappointing situations may leave in their wake weary, hopeless hearts. Our tired hearts can feel too jaded to reach with any hope to dream again. We may feel weighed down by thoughts of powerlessness or loss of control.

Amidst swirling disappointments, we can be thankful that we intimately know the God who gives hope and power. Our God is able to fill us with beautiful things like joy and peace in the face of weariness and discouragement. Our setbacks and obstacles are no match for our huge God. We can call on His name in honest prayer and trust that He can empower us to face the bleakest disappointment. Choosing to make God our dwelling place by parking our minds on His promises found in the Bible can help hope slowly returns to our lives. Connecting to God, the source of our power, is key to moving through these trying days. His Word is vital in moving our hearts along a journey from weary hopelessness to a place of renewed resolve and vision.

We can choose to hope in Him, being confident that He cares for our fragile hearts. We are seen. We are known. We have One who walks with us, carrying all the necessities for this road. We are never powerless in our soul grief or empty dreams. He is our dwelling place through disappointing seasons, bringing an abundance of joy, peace, and hope.

Daily Challenge

Write out today's scripture in your own words and/or memorize it.

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Monday, May 6 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read James 1:17

Change is inevitable. It can also be scary. Even good things like graduating, starting a new job, or getting married can be both happy and scary at the same time. Sometimes it feels like too much change all at once. Friends you were close with now seem distant. New policies at work are stressful. Change can pile up to the point that even a tiny change, like a new pair of shoes, pushes you over the edge. All you want is something that feels safe and secure.

In a world where everything changes, God will never change. Your dwelling place in Him is secure. He will never change His mind about wanting you to find your stability in His loving embrace found in His dwelling place.

When it feels as if everything is changing and out of control, spend some time alone with God. Ask Him to show you how He helped you in the past, where He was, and what His plan is for you now. Let His dwelling place be your safe place. Let Him be your constant in a world of change.

Daily Challenge

How does knowing God never changes impact you when you're longing for stability? Journal your thoughts.

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Tuesday, May 7 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 46:7

When was the last time you felt afraid? Is there something weighing heavily on your mind, draining your energy and testing your resolve? Some days the battles just feel too much. In fact, they are too much for us, but they are no match for the Lord of Angel Armies!

Pause for a minute and think about what that name means. Some translations also say, "Lord Almighty" or "Lord of Hosts." They all mean "Jehovah Sabaoth" which refers to God being in charge of armies of angels. It's a powerful meaning.

The Passion Translation puts it this way:

Here he comes! The Commander! The mighty Lord of Angel Armies is on our side. The God of Jacob fights for us! Pause in his presence. Psalm 46:7 TPT

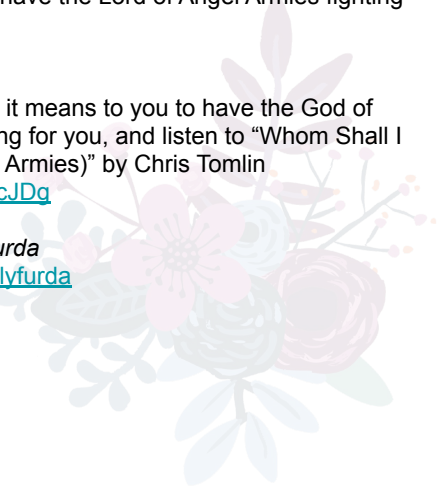
Sometimes, when we're afraid we try to take matters into our own hands. but when we remember the God of Angel Armies is our dwelling place, we can let go. One or two angels are more powerful than we can even comprehend. God isn't just lord of one or two angels, or one or two armies of angels. He is the Lord of many armies of angles.

If the God who is your dwelling place also commands legions of angels is on your side, there is no need to be afraid. Yes, life will still be difficult at times, but you are not fighting alone. You have the Lord of Angel Armies fighting for you.

Daily Challenge

Journal about what it means to you to have the God of Angel Armies fighting for you, and listen to "Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)" by Chris Tomlin
youtu.be/qOkImV2cJDg

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Wednesday, May 8 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Micah 7:18-20

How deep is the ocean? The answer probably depends on what exact spot you're talking about, but it's fairly safe to say if you throw something overboard during an ocean cruise, you're never going to see it again. A tiny pebble can sink so fast no human can recover it. Even in shallow water things get lost. Maybe you're still missing the shoe that was tossed out of a canoe at summer camp when you were 15. If you've ever tried to skip rocks into a lake, you realized even though they felt big in your hand, they were small compared to the vastness of water. They quickly disappeared beneath the surface never to be seen again.

How often do we carry weights with us that feel like those rocks? For some reason, even when we ask for forgiveness, we have a hard time believing we have received it from Jesus. We hold onto shame like rocks. One by one, those rocks, both small and big, we hold on to cause us to sink. Instead of swimming in the dwelling place of God's love for us, we're drowning in self-loathing.

Today's reading tells us God takes our sins and throws them into the sea. He wants to be the living water that washes away all the dead weight we're carrying. You're not meant to hold onto those rocks weighing you down. You're meant to let Him love you and to love yourself. God is calling to you today, asking you to hand Him not just your sin, but also the shame you're carrying. No matter how big or small the weight of your shame seems, God wants to throw it so far away that it can never be found again. He wants His love and forgiveness to be where your heart dwells.

Daily Challenge

What is the difference between asking for forgiveness and living in forgiveness? Journal your thoughts.

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Thursday, May 9 2019

Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read John 1:3

Consider the universe; it stretches far beyond what we can see. God has placed every planet, moon, and star exactly where He wants it to be. Consider the earth and all that comes from it. He made copper and iron, silver and gold, diamonds and rubies, water, and air. He made every living thing, from single-celled amoebas to His most beloved creation, you. The evidence of His presence is everywhere.

Of course, we know God made everything, but how often do we take it for granted? How often do we look around us but fail to see the wonder of all that He has made? If you take a few minutes every day just to think about God's wondrous creation, worshiping Him as you do, you will find that you start to see things differently.

Every time you take notice of His glorious work, you will find that you are drawn even closer to Him and His dwelling place. Consider, even, the miracle that is you, for you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Nothing exists apart from Him. His fingerprints are everywhere. Reminders of His dwelling place is evident everywhere you look.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Everything" by TobyMac.
youtu.be/QuRQEiOAOqjA

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Friday, May 10 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Hebrews 10:22-23

What do you do when the pain feels too much? You know God promises a life of abundance, but it never seems to happen for you. Something always seems to be missing. Hope seems impossible. You desperately try to hold it all together hoping to feel complete, but eventually it all falls apart and so do you.

It's easy to feel embarrassed and even want to hide from God. Sometimes it feels as if you need to have it all together before you can go to God, but that's not the case. He loves you now, just as you are. He longs for His unconditional love for you to be the place where your heart and mind dwell.

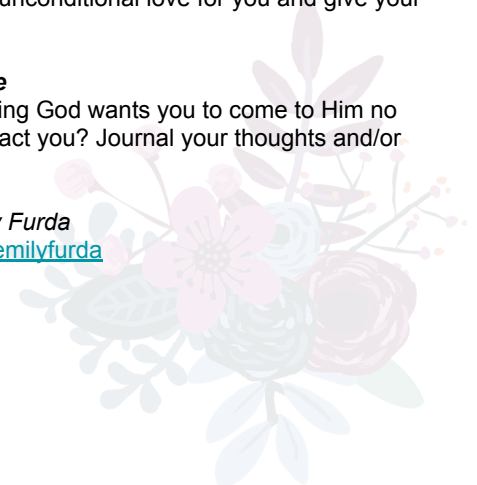
In today's passage it says to come to Him with a sincere heart. So, go to Him with all of your doubts and pain. Be completely honest. Have an ugly cry if you need to. Let Him know if you're angry with Him or feel as if He's not being faithful to you. He can't restore your hope if you don't give Him a chance, and that starts with telling how you feel. Often, it's easier to go to friends or family when you feel as if God isn't listening to you, but they can't hear from God for you. Only you can hear Him whisper to your heart.

Bring your brokenness to the only one who can heal it. Ask Him to fill you. He knows no person, achievement, or material thing can fill the void, only He can. He's waiting for you to let Him be your dwelling place so He can show you His faithful, unconditional love for you and give your hope.

Daily Challenge

How does knowing God wants you to come to Him no matter what impact you? Journal your thoughts and/or write a prayer.

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Saturday, May 11 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Philippians 4:12-13

Contentment and peace are things we long for but often we don't have. When things are going all wrong, it seems impossible to feel that way. Even when things are going well, it can be hard to feel contented and at peace. Often, we wonder if the good things we're experiencing will last. It's not that we don't enjoy the good things or we're not thankful for God's blessings, it's that we've experienced heartbreak before and know it can happen again. Our minds race, longing for a place to rest our frazzled souls. Not feeling at ease with where we are in life quickly drains us and leaves us weary.

So, how do we be content and find peace in both the difficult times and even in the good ones? We see in today's reading that Paul knew both a life of abundance and a life living in chains in prison. The secret was knowing Jesus would be the one who would give him strength.

While we can pray asking God to change our circumstances, it's even more powerful to also ask Him to give us peace no matter what happens. Asking God to give us peace before we ask for what we want, allows us to find rest in His dwelling place no matter the outcome. When our minds are anchored to the peace found in His dwelling place, we'll be able to withstand anything that comes our way.

Daily Challenge

How would praying by asking God to give you peace no matter what happens before you ask for what you want you change you? Journal your thoughts.

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What have you learned about God's dwelling place this week?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.



Sunday, May 12 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 1

Did you ever suddenly realize you're an adult but you didn't know when it happened, how it happened, or how to make it stop? Suddenly, the "perks" you looked forward to, like setting your own bedtime and the occasional ice cream for dinner, aren't worth it. There are some days you'd gladly have someone telling you to go to bed instead of having to stay up late studying, working, or finishing laundry. Your late-night thoughts often turn to dread of the present and future. There are so many decisions to make. You feel drained and weary. No amount of ice cream for dinner is going to make it better. What can you do to not just be okay, but to live a full life?

The biggest decision you'll ever make has nothing to do with school, your career, or even relationships. The biggest decision you'll make is whether or not you'll seek wholeheartedly after God. When you seek after Him with your whole heart, He will be your dwelling place, and the source of everything in your life.

God promises if you seek after Him and dive into His word, you'll be like a tree planted next to a flowing stream. A tree planted near water has an endless supply of everything it needs. It is constantly being restored by the water. When you immerse yourself in His word and seek Him in every decision you make, He promises you will flourish just like that tree.

Take some time to let God refresh you. Let Him speak to you and show you His love. Let Him bring life to the dead parts of your soul. His dwelling place is where you'll find true life.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "In the River" by Seth and Nirva.
youtu.be/H24h4wzzUgk

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Monday, May 13 2019

Devotional written by Christine Perry
Read Revelation 21:3-5

Have you ever said, "That's a face to face conversation"? We all communicate, but there are several ways to communicate: verbal, nonverbal, written, audible, and face to face.

The most important conversations should always take place face to face. Unfortunately, that's not always possible. When it comes to our relationship with Christ, communication is key, but unfortunately, it can't happen face to face. The main reason for this is for our protection. God is a holy, blameless and perfect God. When Moses asked to see God, God only allowed him to see a glimpse of Himself. God says to Moses that no one can see Him and live (Exodus 33:18-20).

Our relationship with God is built on faith and trust. Those two things don't always follow our finite logic. But, when we get to heaven, we will finally be able to see God face to face. Revelation 3:5 says, that God's dwelling place will be among His people. He will dwell among us. And, not only will He be face to face with us, He will also wipe every tear from our eyes. The God we have served here, is waiting for us there. He is our dwelling place now and will be our dwelling place in heaven.

Daily Challenge

What are some of the ways God speaks personally to you in addition to the Bible? What are things you do to speak with God aside from prayer? (Think about actions, such as serving others, artwork, or worship dance.) Make a list of both.

Written by Christine Perry
learningtobefearless.org

Tuesday, May 14 2019

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read 1 John 2:15-17

Who we love and what we love affects our lives. We can choose to love God more than anything else, or we can choose to love the things of this world. We can easily get into the habit of putting things or people in His place. With all of the distractions that our world brings, we need to remember to keep God our focus and our first love. We need to keep Him as our dwelling place.

Some of the biggest distractions our world puts in front of us are money, jobs, clothes, people, relationships, and other people's opinions. These easily take our focus away from God. We might worry about not having enough of these things or fear what other people are thinking about us. When these thoughts come to our minds, we shouldn't allow them to be our main concerns. God has already told us that He will provide all we need.

Choosing to make God your focus requires you to love Him above the things of this world. It means to love Him with all of who you are and to desire to make Him first. It may mean pushing aside many distractions, but we will never be satisfied with the world. We will only be satisfied with Him.

This world is only temporary. It will pass away, along with everything in it, but God lives forever. If you choose to love God above all other things, then you will live in His dwelling place. Making God your first love changes your life, for He will become first in everything you do.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "My First Love" by Mandisa featuring Jeremy Camp. youtu.be/qCaHlkVigks

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Wednesday, May 15 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read 1 John 4:13-18

Fear is something all of us are well acquainted with, fear our pasts will catch up with us, fear of the present, and fear of things in the future. Everywhere we turn we see reasons to be afraid, from a fear of electric eels or carousels to fear about our health or relationships. Sometimes, we're even afraid of God. The list is never ending.

God knows we're humans who are prone to fear. He also has provided an answer to our fear— His love.

Today's Scripture tells us:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...
1 John 4:18 NIV

Just a few verses earlier we're told God is love. It doesn't say God loves us. It says God is love. Love isn't something He does, it's who He is. Love dictates everything He does.

When we choose to dwell in God's presence, learn about who He is, and allow ourselves to open up our hearts to Him, we will experience God's love. When we experience God's overwhelming, compassionate, gentle love, we'll see our fears begin to slip away. We will still have problems, but they won't have control over our hearts and emotions because we're held by God's loving embrace in His dwelling place.

Daily Challenge

What is God's perfect love, and why does it drive away fear? Journal your thoughts.

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Thursday, May 16 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 22:1-5

When we're facing what seem like impossible situations, hopelessness, fear, and feeling overwhelmed can take a stranglehold on our souls. God feels far away, and His dwelling place of peace and security feels like a myth.

It's in those moments, we need to remember who God is. We need to remind ourselves of His unmatched power, endless love, and freeing hope. We have to be determined to seek Him more than anything, especially in those moments.

One of the best ways we can focus on the safety, security, and peace found in God's dwelling place is to worship. Worship may be the last thing we feel like doing, but it's vital. Worship lets us lay down our soul crushing burdens in exchange for God's presence. Psalm 22:3 tells us God lives in our worship.

God's dwelling place is made real when we worship Him. The more we open our hearts to Him and declare who He is, the more our hearts are strengthened.

When we worship, hopelessness is exchanged for hope, fear is exchanged for security, and feeling overwhelmed is exchanged for strength.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Even Louder" by Steven Malcolm featuring Natalie Grant. youtu.be/REKLpji64hA

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Friday, May 17 2019

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read John 15:4-5

In the barren wilderness seasons of life, it can be difficult for us to set our eyes on hope. When our calendar app is overfilled and we are on busyness overload, we may be looking for a glimpse of purpose. Jesus's words about our connection to Him as the vine can give us the hope and the purpose we desire. When we stay connected to Jesus by making Him our dwelling place, He brings into focus that God does not see His children as simply hopeless or without direction. When connected to Him correctly, we are fruitful.

You may find yourself surprised that being fruitful could look like a bank account with barely enough funds to make it to the end of the month. You may be wondering if someone who is fruitful could be facing cancer or a long-term illness. You may be struggling with your singleness, grieving a deep loss of someone precious, or fighting the impatience of delayed dreams. In any of these moments, being fruitful may seem far beyond your grasp; however, when we look through the Spirit's lens, we see things from a different perspective. The fruit we bear comes from being in a continual state of abiding in the dwelling place Christ's presence. This fruit is spiritual and overflows from a life in close communion with Jesus. A fruitful life is not defined by circumstance, rather defined by a Savior.

A close relationship with Christ and seeing Him as our dwelling place brings a connectivity in the ebb and flow of life. Through this connectedness and utter dependence on Christ, we will begin to see our fruitfulness in action. Out of our deep love for Christ, we yield to His way. We are fruitful and will see fruit develop both within us and through us. It will last far beyond today's circumstances and make an eternal impact.

Daily Challenge

What does being fruitful look like to you? Journal your thoughts.

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Saturday, May 18 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read John 10:1-5

Do you have any idea what these words mean: yinz, youse, ya'll? All of them simply mean "you all" and are common in certain parts of the United States. You likely have some sayings unique to your region or town as well. You know what words are said and how they sound when spoken by someone from your hometown. There's a difference between saying a word and saying it with the familiarity of someone who makes their home in that place.

In today's scripture, Jesus talks about how a sheep know the unique voice of their shepherd. Sheep won't listen to just anyone. In fact, when approached by a stranger, they may run the other way, but when they hear their shepherd's voice, they come running. They know the unique way His voice sounds. They know the sound of their loving shepherd's voice means they're safe. Even if they're far from familiar pastures, they're at home when their shepherd is near. Their dwelling place isn't about where they live; it's about who they're with.

Learning to hear God's voice begins by spending time with Him. That includes prayer, worship, and reading Scripture. Sometimes, God can seem far away, like we're in a strange city full of noise, but listen for His voice. It might not be audible, but we may feel a little nudge inside. We may be worried about something, but then a familiar song comes on the radio putting a smile on our face. When we're praying about a decision, often something just seems to feel right in our spirits about making a certain choice. It takes time and practice to learn God's voice. Remembering how He's spoken to us in the past is a reminder of how He will speak to us now, even if we feel far from home. Even when our surroundings seem strange and scary, we're safe because our dwelling place is with our shepherd. He is speaking to us. He loves us and will gently care for us. When we make the presence of Jesus our dwelling place, we learn what His voice sounds like. We will hear His unmistakable voice whispering comfort, guidance, and love.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Speak to Me" by Kari Jobe. youtu.be/aFxOGd4P4JA

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What have you learned about God's dwelling place this week?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.



Sunday, May 19 2019

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Isaiah 41:10

The stress of everyday life can become a lot to carry at times. It builds up so high, and we struggle to find ways to rest and feel at peace once again. This is why we need a place to just be still and breathe, a place where we can remember why we do what we do, and a place to remember why we work hard at what we work hard at.

While we can find relief from stress in things such as staying extra busy or just avoiding the feeling completely, through God we can have something better. We don't have to live in mindset of always having to just push the idea of stress into the back of our head. We shouldn't just excuse it by saying it's a part of life. It's not something we should cover up by working longer and harder. We can have true rest. We can enter into a place where our spirits can be renewed.

In God's dwelling place, we find true restoration. We can feel His love hold us close and be reminded of how important it is to rest. It may take letting go of some things, maybe even plans we have for that day, but rest should come first.

In any moment we feel overwhelmed by something, we should just take a moment with God. Dwell in His presence. We should never feel like finding rest in Him is making us weak, for it is making us stronger. Taking time with God will also improve the things we do, so there isn't really a reason to not spend time with God.

Daily Challenge

Set aside time this week to spend time doing something you enjoy while letting God speak to you. It could be going for a walk, drawing, painting, making a craft, photography, anything you can think of.

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Monday, May 20 2019

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Psalm 63:3

You wake up, grab your favorite morning drink, and sleepily begin your day. You may feel a little numb as you flip the calendar or watch the seasons change. There are times when many of us who, for various reasons, have patches of life when the never ending to do lists or the monotony of daily routines make it difficult to decipher one day from the next.

It is the faithful love of God and His daily grace that can truly turn your journey of life into joy. When you embrace the truth that God's abundant love and grace lasts throughout generations, and reaches out to grab you even today, you are able to see what the author of Psalm 63 might have meant when he referred to God's love being better than life.

God's faithful love is ever-present because God is ever-present. Each morning as you wake and inhale the fresh day, God's love is there with you. On days when you aren't feeling God's love, you can still depend on it. You can trust as you walk through your daily grind, that His love and grace are totally accessible.

Today, with God's love is your dwelling place, you will never have to wonder if you are loved. As you interact in a world full of opportunities and personalities, regardless of the outcome, you will never have to wonder if you can be forgiven. Not only is God's love and grace better than even the best moments in life, they are far better than this temporary time you spend chasing things on this planet. God's signature love and grace can help you endure every life hiccup you might face, even before you hit the snooze button or before grab your first cup of coffee.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Can't Get Enough" by Grayson Reed.
youtu.be/90wjmKBAoDM

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Tuesday, May 21 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 91

When you hear baby birds chirping, it's a sure sign of springtime. Winter storms are over, and there is warmth perfect for nurturing new life. Baby birds are safely tucked away in their nest under the wings of their parents.

What if the storms aren't over? What if it's so cold that even a minute without the protection from their parents means death for those baby birds? That's exactly what the weather is like when emperor penguins are born. Their chicks hatch in the middle of winter in Antarctica, the coldest time of the year at the coldest place on earth. There is no soft, warm nest or warmth from the sun. The chicks are nestled on top of their fathers' feet and protected by a layer of his warm feathers. Their fathers' feet are all that separate them from the ice, and their fathers' feathers are all that protects them from the swirling winds and cold, harsh weather.

What about you? Where do you go when it feels like a never-ending winter storm in your soul? Psalm 91:4 says:

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. NIV

God knows just how harsh life can be. When the unthinkable is happening, He is here to be your refuge. He doesn't just want to guide you where to go. Just like a father penguin, God invites you to rest on His feet and let Him protect you as He carries you and shelters you from the storm. He knows your life depends on Him, and He is faithful to care for you, His beloved daughter. When you feel as if life is just too hard and survival seems impossible, let God lovingly carry you. Let Him be your warm, safe place of refuge, so you can rest in His dwelling place, even in the most perilous circumstances.

Daily Challenge

How does knowing penguins are kept safe by their father's refuge impact how you see Psalm 91:4? Journal your thoughts.

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Wednesday, May 22 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Hosea 6:6

Sometimes we think living a Christian life is about rules and what we should and shouldn't do, but it's not. God is after our hearts. On one hand that's easier, but it's also harder. If it was about saying the right prayers, singing the right songs, and serving a specific number of hours, there would be pressure to do everything perfectly so God would accept us. As impossible as it is to attain perfection, someday, it's easier to simply go through the motions without giving of ourselves. Allowing God to be the place where our hearts dwell requires us to give Him everything we are, not just what we do.

Like everything else, God doesn't ask something from us because He's on a power trip. He also wants to give us something. Today's verse tells us:

I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings. Hosea 6:6 (NLT)

Our almighty, all powerful God, who created the universe, wants you to know Him. He wants a personal relationship with you. He wants to spend time with you just like you'd spend time with a friend. Even in a crowd of people, even when you feel unseen and unheard, God sees you as an individual and longs to be your dwelling place.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "The God I Know" by Love & the Outcome.
youtu.be/Px_aCiR5ZFA

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Thursday, May 23 2019

Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read Proverbs 13:20

What are your friends like? Do they love and serve the Lord? Do they encourage you to love and serve the Lord? Where do they like to go? What do they like to do? These questions are more important than they may seem. Let's look at Proverbs 13:20.

He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

That's pretty black and white, isn't it? Assuming you want to be wise and want to stay out of harm's way, you need to take a good look at the company you keep.

You might be wondering how this fits in with evangelism. Didn't Jesus spend time with sinners? Didn't He dine with tax collectors and prostitutes? Of course He did, but what was His intention? Was He just with them to hang out and have fun, or was He there to love on them and draw them to Him? It's not an easy distinction to make; however, we need to be as prayerful and intentional about the friends we have. It's a big deal.

The Bible tells us we are to be in the world but not of it. We can spend time with people who are in the world, but we can't become one of them. Part of making God our dwelling place means making sure we have a few close friends who are solid in their relationship with Christ.

Sometimes, you have to really seek them out. If you don't have friends like that, ask the Lord to help you find them. Yes, you can still spend time with your unsaved friends. Just make sure your intention is not just to have fun but to love on them and lead them to Jesus. Yes, you might lose a few friends, but you may lead some to the Lord. That is the most important relationship of all!

Daily Challenge

Do your closest friends push you away or pull you towards God Journal and pray about if your friendships need to change. Also pray for your friends.

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Friday, May 24 2019

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole
Read Psalm 71:20-21

It can be so hard to understand why God allows us to go through such terrible and difficult things, why our heart must be stirred up and our joy and peace stolen by hurt. How are we supposed to find rest in these times? How are we to feel okay?

While God doesn't always take us out of painful situations, He doesn't just leave us alone in these times. He doesn't ever just leave us hanging to defend for ourselves. He still provides us with what we need. He welcomes us to sit with Him in His dwelling place. There we can find His peace and His love. We can see our circumstances through a new perspective and how He is still in control.

In His dwelling place, we are reminded He will restore what is broken. He will make all that is wrong, right. We see He has the power to make everything beautiful, and though we may be hurting, we can trust His word.

Whenever hard times come our way, we shouldn't forget where we can stand. God's dwelling place can change how we feel and view things. We can find a peace we won't be able to find anywhere else.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "You're not Alone" by Owl City with Britt Nicole.
youtu.be/DavJ9UKS2ps

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Saturday, May 25 2019

Devotional written by Victoria Carrington
Read Psalm 23:6

David has had quite a life by the time he wrote Psalm 23. He states: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... NKJV

With all the hardship, betrayals, and his own sin with its painful consequences how could David say that goodness and mercy shall follow him all the days of his life?

He could make such a bold statement because he knew the presence of God. He knew that it was due to the presence of God in his life that he was not utterly destroyed. Yes, he was knocked down, but the Lord picked him up. Why? Not because of who David was but because of who God is.

God is goodness and mercy, and it was His presence in David's life that preserved him. David further goes on with godly confidence to say that he will dwell with the Lord forever. Once his earthly ministry was finished, God was not done with him. He dwells with his precious Lord and Savior into all eternity.

God was David's dwelling place because David knew that no matter the obstacle, sin or enemy, he could run to God for refuge and strength to overcome. You have the same dwelling place. Jesus promised His presence will be with you always. You can always turn to him in any situation.

You will dwell with Jesus forever, into eternity, because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for you. God never leaves your presence, but you can get distracted and forget you are in His presence. How can you maintain a remembrance of God's presence? Bible reading, prayer and fellowship with other believers are the best places to start.

May you dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

Daily Challenge

Write out today's Scripture in your own words or draw, paint, or create something visual showing what it means to you.

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What have you learned about God's dwelling place this week?
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.



Sunday, May 26 2019

Devotional written by Diane Marie
Read James 1:5

One of the most difficult challenges in our Christian walk is knowing the will of God. Most of us, at one time or another, have wished God would just send us a letter, text, or email to tell us exactly what to do. Of course, we know that's not going to happen; however, He has promised if we ask, He will give us wisdom.

What a wonderful promise. Wisdom is available to us all, male or female, young or old, rich or poor. God is the source of all wisdom, and He does not withhold it from us as long as we ask and believe. Even when we mess up over and over, God still wants us to come to Him and ask. When we seek God and His dwelling place, we will find wisdom.

Of course, much of His wisdom is already written down for us in the Bible, but when we need more specific direction, we must go to Him in prayer and ask Him to help us make wise decisions. He will never let us down.

In His dwelling place is wisdom. We can ask God for wisdom in all areas of our life, and He will give it to us generously. God Himself, the God who knows everything, wants to guide us in all we do! Think about that for a minute. That's absolutely incredible! There is not a problem or situation in our lives that He doesn't have an answer for. All we have to do is ask and believe!

Daily Challenge

Do you believe God will give you wisdom if you ask? Why or why not? Journal your thoughts, and memorize today's Scripture.

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Monday, May 27 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Exodus 17:10-15

Calling God our Banner seems a little strange at first. Yet that's exactly what Moses did in today's Scripture.

Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner.
Exodus 17:15 NIV

Images of a flag or banner proudly displaying your favorite school or sports team doesn't easily translate to an image of God, does it? Maybe it should.

In Old Testament times when nations were at war, some soldiers would carry flags with symbols on them to proudly show who they were fighting for. As the battle raged on, those flags were held high profile displaying the country they were willing to give their lives for. In today's passage the Israelites were being attacked. When Moses held his hands towards heaven, they were winning. As soon as he dropped them, they were quickly losing the battle. It required some help to keep holding his hands up, but eventually the battle was won. His hands were raised in victory long before the battle ended. God was their banner. They fought on His side, and He ensured the victory.

Today, the flags and banners you see people passionately waving at a sporting event can remind you of that kind of banner. When a team sees a stadium or arena filled with banners cheering them on, they know they're home. It a home field advantage that makes it easier to win because they're in a familiar place with their fans cheering them on. Even the intensity of the most passionate of fans can't match the intensity of how much God is cheering for you. When God is your dwelling place, He becomes your home. You always have a home field advantage. Even when you feel drained and the battle is long, He never stops cheering for you. He proudly looks at you and says, "She's My daughter!" He's on your side.

Daily Challenge

What would be written on God's banner for you when He cheers you on? Create or draw a banner with the words on it. It's not about your artistic skill. It's about what it means.

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Tuesday, May 28 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 127:1-2

We all have things we want to accomplish in life, things we dream of. Goals and plans are wise, but so often they go from joys to burdens within seconds. Instead of giving life, they drain it. When we know God has placed hopes and dreams inside of us, they should bring joy, not panic attacks. When they cause anxiety, step back and remember this verse.

If God doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks. If God doesn't guard the city, the night watchman might as well nap. It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know he enjoys giving rest to those he loves?
Psalm 127:1-2 The Message

If we're filled with dread and fear when we think of pursuing our dreams, that's not a sign to work harder or stay up later. It's usually a sign we've lost sight of God being our dwelling place, and we're trying to make things happen on our own.

We were created with a need for rest not relentless, soul deadening striving. You have permission to lay down the pressure that says you must accomplish something. You don't have to earn it. God's peaceful dwelling place is for you. When you allow God to set your schedule, both daily and long term, you'll experience His dwelling place. You'll see your anxious heart calmed and will feel the security found only in Him

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Find Rest" by Francesca Battistelli.
youtu.be/tVvqug14jOg

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Wednesday, May 29 2019

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton
Read Matthew 6:5-6

The majority of our lives are played out on the public stage: our workplaces, our places of ministry, our social media accounts, or our homes. These stages can make our relationship with God more hurried and can condition these hearts of ours to multitask. However, an important aspect of dwelling in the presence of God is focused time alone with our Father. There are distinct benefits to stepping away from distractions and leaning in close to God.

Jesus Himself spoke of the importance of going into a secret place or a quiet area, not visible to the public, to communicate with the Father. This solitary time of prayer is meant to be a consistent practice, drawing us away from the motivation of performing for others and deepening the level of our communication with God. When we step into a quiet place, we remove much of the temptation to impress others with our fancy words. We also free ourselves to unveil the innermost details of our hearts. Jesus assures us that when we privately meet with God, we are never out of God's line of vision. He is known to reward those who seek him in secret places.

Our moments with God are meant to be vibrant and vital. We can run to a place of quiet contemplation or a place where we feel freedom to express ourselves to meet with God. Though Holy Spirit abides in us, there is something special about finding a specific time and place for intentional times of prayer. We may discover these sweet, holy moments far from the gaze of a crowd may be divine rewards themselves.

Daily Challenge

Write a prayer telling God whatever is on your mind right now. Then, take time to sit quietly in His presence.

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Thursday, May 30 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 18:32-33

Have you ever watched a deer quickly dash across a road or up a hillside? Her feet are so small and legs so tiny, but her balance and speed is amazing. It looks like she's rock climbing in stilettos. Yet, she does it, and she does it with grace.

Deer are often running for survival: to escape the oncoming car, flee a predator, or simply reach a safe place to sleep for the night. Do you feel like that, as if you're constantly on the run, only unlike that deer, you're not so graceful or surefooted? You try to run ahead of God's plans for you, or your dragging your feet, hesitating to walk in His path for you. On the outside you try to look the part, right down to the cute shoes, but instead of climbing mountains, you break a heel and fall headfirst into the mud.

In those moments, remember God's dwelling place isn't something you run back and forth from. God's dwelling place is a spiritual one that guides your heart and mind. It's always with you because He is always with you. His power, strength, guidance, and love for you go wherever you go.

God alone knows what you need, and only He can give it. He promises to give you strength to climb over the mountains in your life. God wants to guide your every step and equip you to walk sure-footedly. If you let Him, He will make your feet like the feet of a deer. Let God be the one who not only chooses your path but also your shoes.

Daily Challenge

Listen to "Steady On" by Point of Grace.
youtu.be/-d11QbY6CXk

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Friday, May 31 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda
Read Psalm 84

This month, we've talked about God's amazing dwelling place for us. We've learned it's not about what we do or don't do. It's about where our heart calls home.

When we walk out the door of our home, it's doesn't stop being our dwelling place. It's where we've taken up permanent residence. At the end of a long day, you can't wait to get home, put on some comfortable clothes, and just relax.

When we make God's presence our dwelling place, we don't have to wait until the end of the day for our weary hearts to find rest. No matter where we are, no matter what's weighing on our mind, God's dwelling place is always with us. We can lay down what's on our anxious hearts. We can find safety when the world feels like a scary place. We can experience love when we feel alone.

All this and more is found in God's dwelling place, and it's waiting just for you.

Daily Challenge

What makes God's dwelling place so special? Journal about what living in God's dwelling place means to you.

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