



# Seeking Peace

The Binder Co. Devotionals July 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](http://emilyfurda.com/thebinderco) and in our Facebook Group.

### Get Involved

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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 [morganharpnichols.com](https://morganharpnichols.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](https://emilyfurda.com)  
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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p><b>Psalm 37:37</b> Write down this month's theme verse, and place it where you'll see it frequently. Also, write it out in your own words.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 103:10-14</b> Journal your thoughts about how today's scripture impacts how you see yourself, especially when you've sinned.</p>	<p><b>Philippians 4:6-7</b> Listen to "You Got This" by Love &amp; The Outcome. <a href="https://youtu.be/n0kNQ3e7n98">youtu.be/n0kNQ3e7n98</a></p>	<p><b>Isaiah 9:6</b> Write down each of the names Jesus is called in today's Scripture. What do they mean to you when you think about your life right now? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 43:5</b> Write a prayer to God telling Him what's weighing you down. Then, ask Him to show you His character and what He wants to say about it.</p>	<p><b>Philippians 4:8-9</b> Journal about something painful that recently happened. Then, ask yourself what the "yes, but yes" is. Journal about it and how this impacted what you feel.</p>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p><b>Matthew 14:13-36</b> What is your favorite way to spend time with God? Make time to do it this week.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 73:26</b> Listen to "I Look to You" by Joel Vaughn. <a href="https://youtu.be/c0AvebPfNpA">youtu.be/c0AvebPfNpA</a></p>	<p><b>Job 1</b> Do you think God is good? Journal your thoughts, and journal about how your view of Him affects your peace.</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 55:8-9</b> When was the last time things seemed to happen at the wrong time? What was your attitude? Journal about it and how today's reading will impact future days like those.</p>	<p><b>Job 16:20-21</b> Take some time to pray for your friends today. Also, sometime this month, look for an opportunity to pray with a friend or send her a prayer and do it.</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 26:3</b> Listen to "Our Hope Endures" by Natalie Grant. <a href="https://youtu.be/_c6Je49Ygdo">youtu.be/_c6Je49Ygdo</a></p>	<p><b>1 John 4:16-18</b> Do you feel like you can trust God? Why or why not? How does today's reading impact what you believe? Journal your thoughts and feelings, being completely honest.</p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p><b>1 Kings 19:1-9</b> Listen to "I Will Rest" by City Harbor, <a href="https://youtu.be/U_hGhmycrfk">youtu.be/U_hGhmycrfk</a> and set aside some time this week to let God refresh and restore you.</p>	<p><b>Romans 12:18</b> What happened when you asked for forgiveness from someone in the past? How does it still affect you? What impact does today's reading impact what you think now? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>Proverbs 11:25</b> Make a list of what takes up your time and energy. Is there something draining the life from you? Pray and ask God to show you His will for you and how to follow it.</p>	<p><b>Deuteronomy 29:18</b> Listen to "Committed" by Newsboys. <a href="https://youtu.be/WUubT3UCjdz0">youtu.be/WUubT3UCjdz0</a></p>	<p><b>Jeremiah 29:4-14</b> Is there a circumstance in your life you feel is holding you captive? What can you do to make your life or the places around you peaceful or better? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>Proverbs 3:6</b> Are there any areas in your life where you wonder if you're on the right path or are considering a change? Journal your thoughts and pray over these areas.</p>	<p><b>James 3:18</b> Make a list of 10 things you can do to show love and be a peacemaker in a world of outrage this coming week. Then, do them.</p>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p><b>Psalm 86:17</b> Every day for the next week, write down one good thing that happens during the day. At the end of the week, journal about how looking for good things changed you.</p>	<p><b>Romans 15:13</b> Why does trusting in God give us joy and peace? Why do joy and peace give us hope? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>James 1:17</b> Listen to "Faithful God" by Travis Cottrell. <a href="https://youtu.be/43QAczHY3CA">youtu.be/43QAczHY3CA</a></p>	<p><b>Isaiah 62:1-4</b> Write our today's scripture in your own words, and do something creative to make it come to life. You can draw, write a poem or song, create a dance, make a collage, or anything you want.</p>	<p><b>Luke 7:18-28, John 16:33</b> Why did Jesus say there was no one born of a woman greater than John, even though He doubted Jesus? How does that impact the way you feel about having doubts? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>Psalm 29:10-11</b> Listen to "Wind and Waves" by Kellie &amp; Kristen. <a href="https://youtu.be/mn3sRHITliA">youtu.be/mn3sRHITliA</a></p>	<p><b>Colossians 3:13</b> Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Journal about what happened that hurt you, and about how you feel knowing God will help you to not just forgive but also want to forgive?</p>
28	29	30	31			
<p><b>Psalm 94:19</b> Listen to "Control" by Jasmine Murray. <a href="https://youtu.be/UhIR5ABjhn8">youtu.be/UhIR5ABjhn8</a></p>	<p><b>Isaiah 30:21</b> Write today's Scripture in your own words.</p>	<p><b>John 4:1-42</b> What do you think you need to feel at peace? What are the feelings that make you think you need it? Journal your thoughts.</p>	<p><b>2 Thessalonians 3:16</b> How has learning about peace impacted you? What doubts do you still have? Journal your thoughts and pray over them. Also, listen to "Peace" by Josh Baldwin. <a href="https://youtu.be/mO9NNVoyO3k">youtu.be/mO9NNVoyO3k</a></p>			



*Consider the  
blameless, observe  
the upright;  
a future awaits  
those who seek  
peace.  
Psalm 37:37 NIV*

**Monday, July 1 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 37:37

Peace. When we hear that word, we often think of either calm circumstances or a quiet settledness inside our hearts. It's something we long for but often have a difficult time finding.

Sometimes, it feels like peace is playing a game of hide and seek with us. We're the seeker, and it's playing unfairly by changing where it's hidden before we can find it. Sometimes, we're so close to finding peace, but don't know where to look. It's as if peace climbed to the top of a tall tree, and we're right underneath it oblivious to where it is. Even when we do find peace, it seems fragile and frail, slipping through our fingers before we can even begin to grasp it. Sometimes, we try so frantically to hold on to peace that we grasp it tightly, with desperation, only to feel it shatter in our hands.

How do we find peace? What is real peace? Is it forced smiles for the sake of not causing a problem, or is it something deeper? Can you have peace when relationships around you are in a constant state of turmoil? Is peace possible when our lives are crumbling around us? Can we feel peace and sadness at the same time?

Peace isn't reserved for those who are perfect. God sees us as upright when we turn our hearts to Him and His forgiveness. It's about our heart's attitude, not doing everything right.

Experiencing real, lasting peace is possible. When we have real peace, it gives us hope for our futures. This month, we'll be studying different aspects of peace including peace in relationships, peace between us and God when we've sinned, and our personal, inner peace.

Our theme verse tells us to seek peace. When we seek peace that comes from God, we will find it.

**Daily Challenge**

Write down this month's theme verse, and place it where you'll see it frequently. Also, write it out in your own words.

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**Tuesday, July 2 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 103:10-14

Have you made a mistake, and you just couldn't couldn't forgive yourself, even after you asked God for forgiveness? Sometimes, it's seems too hard to grasp how a holy God could still love you. Maybe you have felt as if others could be forgiven but not you. It's hard to feel at peace about who you are when you don't think you can be forgiven. Sometimes we can be so hard on ourselves that we feel as if we're no better than the dust and dirt we walk on. We often think of dust and dirt as something bad that needs washed away, but what if dust and dirt have a different meaning? What if it's a good thing?

Psalm 103:14 tells us: "for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust." NIV

This verse isn't an insult about our worth; it's a reminder of our humanness and how loving God is. While we are called to live a life of righteousness, God also knows we're going to make mistakes. He remembers He created us from the dust and dirt of the earth. He took something we often think of as worthless and gave priceless life to it. He chose to love us enough to send Jesus to die for our sins and bring new life to our hearts.

The next time you're tempted to hang on to the shame you feel, kick off the dust from your shoes, and remember God knows you're fragile. He knows you're prone to fail, but He also loves you enough to remove your sins so far away from you that they can no longer be seen the moment you ask for forgiveness. You can feel peace about who you are, even when you've made a mistake, because in His eyes, you're not dirty or worthless. You're His creation. That makes you priceless and worthy of love.

**Daily Challenge**

Is there something in your life you struggle with feeling as if you're truly forgiven, or have you felt that way in the past? Journal your thoughts about how today's scripture impacts how you see yourself, especially when you've sinned.

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**Wednesday, July 3 2019**

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

Have you ever seen a child run to a grown up with tears streaming down her face because her favorite toy was broken? 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, especially when it's more important than a toy that needs new batteries? Is it hopeless?

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. Have you ever found yourself in that place? When we finally come to terms with the fact that no human can truly fix what is wrong, we can feel hopeless, or we can be filled with peace.

Peace may seem like an odd reaction, but when we surrender control to God, the only one who has all power, we will find peace. We wear ourselves out with worry because we're trying to do a job we weren't created to do. 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 and mend our hearts, if we let Him. That is something we can cling to when hope seems to be fading

Whatever you're trying to fix today, take it to God in prayer. Give Him not just what needs fixed, but also your hurting heart. When you do, He will hold you close and give you His peace.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "You Got This" by Love & The Outcome. [youtu.be/n0kNQ3e7n98](https://youtu.be/n0kNQ3e7n98)

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**Thursday, July 4 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 9:6

When you hear your closest friend's name, what comes to mind? Is it just a name, or do you think of memories and feel emotions because of who she is to you? People are often known for their actions and reputations, not just their names. The same is true for Jesus, but we often forget.

In Isaiah 9:6 we see four of the names Jesus is called. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace NIV

Those aren't just names, they're descriptions of who He is.

What is it you need today? Is it wisdom, power to change the unchangeable, love, or peace? It's so easy to get caught up in what we need or simply going through a scripture we've heard many times that we forget who God is. We forget about the power behind His name.

Long before you ever had a need, God was there ready to meet it. It might not always look like you expected. Sometimes the answer you need may be in the least likely of places, like how a stable is where Jesus was born, but God is there waiting for you to come to Him.

Set aside the worry, the fears, and trying to do it on your own. You were never meant to carry what's weighing on you, but you do know the One who is waiting to carry not just what is weighing you down but to also carry you. The Prince of Peace is waiting for you today.

**Daily Challenge**

Write down each of the names Jesus is called in today's Scripture. What do they mean to you when you think about your life right now? Journal your thoughts.

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**Friday, July 5 2019**

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton  
Read Psalm 43:5

Our souls can easily become weighed down by life, and we can find ourselves lacking peace. 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 and peace 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: In 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. When our hurting hearts attempt to dart aimlessly, we must consciously choose again and again to place the entire focus of our hope in God. 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, and He fills us with peace.

**Daily Challenge**

Write a prayer to God telling Him what's weighing you down. Then, ask Him to show you His character and what He wants to say about it.

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**Saturday, July 6 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Philippians 4:8-9

What have you learned about peace this week?  
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer  
about it below.

Have you ever struggled with thinking only about negative things and it makes you depressed or anxious? Or maybe you try to focus on good things, but it feels superficial. Apparently, the apostle Paul realized the church in Philippi needed some help with this.

Today's Scripture is one that tells us how to focus our minds on the things God wants us to think about so we can have peace. It's about more than just thinking happy thoughts and hoping everything we're worried about will go away.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.  
Philippians 4:8-9 NIV

Let's look at that very first line. "Whatever is true".

When we look at what is true, we often think of what's going on that's bad in our lives, or we try to only focus on the good things. What if we allowed ourselves to see both? It's called "Yes but yes thinking". It doesn't minimize the pain we feel, and it doesn't keep us stuck there.

Think for a minute about something bad that happened recently. One example is a friend said something hurtful but your friend sincerely apologized. You're not minimizing the pain, but you're not focused solely on how much it hurt. You see the resolution.

Sometimes it's a little harder. What if the situation is having an incurable illness? We may not always have the resolution we want, but there are two parts to this. It could be "Yes, I'm sick with an incurable illness, but yes, God promises I will see His goodness in my life. Psalm 27:13 tells me that".

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.  
Psalm 27:13 NIV

God doesn't want us to minimize our hurts. He wants us to see the truth. The truth is sometimes we're hurting so deeply we're physically struggling to breathe because of the tears streaming down our face. If we don't face the pain we're feeling, we won't be able to receive God's comfort for us. Also, if all we do is focus on the pain, God can't comfort us because we won't let Him. We need to ask Him to show us the good things that are happening. That is part of healing from things that wound our soul, crippling us in pain.

Once we've admitted we're hurting and also see the what God is doing or promised in the situation, we can move to focusing our minds on the good that surrounds us. The hurting is healed, and it makes way for us to see all the good things God is doing around us every day. You don't have to learn this alone. God is here to help you change how you think.

Yes, it takes practice to learn to think this way, but yes, the peace God will wrap around your heart is more than worth it.

**Daily Challenge**

Journal about something painful that recently happened. Then, ask yourself what the "yes, but yes" is. Journal about it and how this impacted what you feel.

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

### Sunday, July 7 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Matthew 14:13-36

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

How we are refreshed will look different for each of us. For some singing songs filled with scriptural truths is refreshing, for others it may mean drawing or Bible lettering, sometimes it's journaling, and other times it's simply reading and praying. Even though it's vital, we often feel selfish when we take time for ourselves, even when it's to spend time with the Lord, but it's not something we need to feel guilty about, because even Jesus did it.

In fact, in Matthew 14 we see just what can happen after some alone time with God. After Jesus miraculously fed over 5,000 people, He sent the crowd and His disciples away so He could pray. After He spent time being refreshed, He did something amazing. He could've taken a boat to catch up to His disciples who were in the middle of the sea, but He just walked there instead. He walked on water.

Don't feel guilty about taking time away to spend with God. The refreshment is what you need to sustain you. It's where you'll find peace in the middle of the crazy things in life.

Who knows, after some time spent with God in a way that touches you most, you may just feel as if you can walk on water.

#### **Daily Challenge**

What is your favorite way to spend time with God? Is it music, reading scripture, painting, taking a walk? It could be anything. What refreshes you the most? Make time to do it this week.

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### Monday, July 8 2019

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton  
Read Psalm 73:26

When we start something new in our lives, we often greet it full of hope and camera ready. We celebrate grand visions for success and productivity. These new plans filled with earnest resolve bring us some hope that things will be different in the coming year as we attempt to fix the broken things in our lives.

Preparation can be an intense task, adding pressure to lives that are already overflowing with activity. We can soon feel we are sinking beneath these grand goals we set for our lives just a few days before. Large looming plans that were intended to make us feel powerful often leave us feeling more powerless and lacking in peace.

It is often helpful to step away from the challenges we have set for ourselves and focus on the truths of God. We can be encouraged as we contrast our own frailty and imperfection with God's vast strength and capability. Assurance can be found in the simple truth that success through God's lens is embodied in a heart totally dependent on Him for power and provision.

We may feel weak, lacking peace, and without hope, yet only His mighty hand brings us any victory and sustains us through any defeat. No number of wins or losses will define the might placed within us by our Maker. Success cannot be measured on a scale or tally marks on a calendar, but by the strength in our hearts. It is God who gives us energy and peace to face and reface the challenges of each day of each season with courage.

#### **Daily Challenge**

Listen to "I Look to You" by Joel Vaughn.  
[youtu.be/c0AvebPfNpA](https://youtu.be/c0AvebPfNpA)

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### Tuesday, July 9 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Job 1

Job was a man who, through no fault of his own, endured suffering beyond comprehension. Satan wanted to see if this righteous man would turn his back on God. Job was given so much bad news in such a short time, that one messenger couldn't even finish speaking before the next arrived. His livestock and servants were stolen or killed, his children were killed, and finally illness plagued his body.

Does any of that sound familiar to you? Maybe you haven't had your camels stolen, but perhaps your reputation was damaged, your finances seem hopeless, relationships seem broken beyond repair, your body is plagued with illness, or you have lost a child. When horrible things happen, it's easy to question if God is good. Peace can feel elusive when the foundation of your life is shaken. While God allowed horrible things to happen to Job, He also had clear boundaries. Satan wasn't allowed to take Job's life (Job 2:6). It might not have seemed like it, but God was in control and had a plan. In spite of everything Job went through, he was still able to truly enjoy life again.

So the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning." Job 42:12 NLT

No matter what you're facing, remember God has a plan and will always rescue you so you can enjoy the good things in life. Pour out your heart to God when pain beyond comprehension fills your heart. Let Him speak to you and give you His peace that transcends circumstances. Healing can only happen when you're open with Him about your feelings, even if you're angry with Him. Let Him strengthen you and guide you for all the good things He has planned for you.

#### **Daily Challenge**

Do you think God is good? Journal your thoughts, and journal about how your view of Him affects your peace. You can be completely honest with God about how you feel.

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**Wednesday, July 10 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 55:8-9

Have you ever had a day when everything happened at the wrong time and completely threw off your plans? You want to get to the store before it's crowded, and you realize you can't find your wallet. You're in the middle of a project for work, and the internet goes out. Maybe your GPS's idea of "fastest route" takes you through the middle of a corn field. You're running late for lunch, and your child accidentally gives you a new hair accessory made of chewing gum.

It's in those moments we often find ourselves without any peace, complaining, and feeling defeated. It's generally human nature to assume our plans are the best plans, but what if they aren't? In fact, today's reading reminds us God's plans are better than ours. What if those delays are actually God working behind the scenes because there is something better He has in mind? Perhaps getting to the store late meant the stranger you smiled at was shown kindness for the first time in weeks. You would've missed her if you had been there an hour earlier. The downed internet meant you had time to get a cup of much needed coffee and a chat with a friend. Maybe the incorrect fastest route provided some interesting scenery and a funny memory that will last forever. Perhaps the chewing gum hair accessory led you to get a new haircut you adore but wouldn't have tried otherwise.

God has a way of showing up in not just unusual places but also at unusual times. The next time something seems to be happening at the absolute worst time, stop for a second, and ask God to show you the bigger picture. His peace will come as you realize things are happening at just the right time.

**Daily Challenge**

Journal about a time when things seemed to be happening at a bad time. What was your attitude and what happened? How does today's reading impact how you see that and future days like those?

When was the last time things seemed to be going wrong at the wrong time and what was your attitude? Journal your thoughts and how today's reading will impact future days like those.

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**Thursday, July 11 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Job 16:20-21

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

Praying is the most powerful thing we can do because it brings our all-loving, all-powerful, peace-giving God into any situation. Yes, when we can, tangible actions are important, but God also wants us to always come to Him as well. He can heal your friend's heart in a way you can't. What she may need most is someone to simply be by her side while she's hurting. She needs a friend to lean on, listen to her, and pray for her, a friend who validates her pain and accepts her, even if her situation doesn't change. It's not your job to fix her circumstances or her anxious heart. Only God can do that. Never underestimate the healing power of praying with her. If you're talking, ask her if you can pray for her. Even if you stumble over your words, your friend knows your heart and so does God. There is such power in hearing someone praying over you. If you can't talk, then type a prayer and text it to her. If the opportunity comes up, send a voice message or short video of you praying. It doesn't have to be fancy and you don't even need makeup. Knowing you caring enough to pray, and sharing that prayer with her, can help your friend to hope again. Your example of love can remind her of God's loving care for her.

You may not be able to change anything for your friend, but you know the God who can restore her hope and give her peace.

**Daily Challenge**

Take some time to pray for your friends today. Also, sometime this month, look for an opportunity to pray with a friend or send her a prayer and do it.

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**Friday, July 12 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 26:3

When we're praying for something, especially when we want something to change, it's hard to not focus on a specific outcome. We want to be healed. We want to be financially stable. We want a family of our own. We want broken relationships to be mended. It's good to pray and ask God for what we hope for, but if we let our hopes rest on a specific outcome, we'll never feel safe and secure. We'll be at the mercy of the storm around us feeling as if we're a small boat in a stormy ocean about to go under at any moment. God asks us to come to Him and pray for what we want, so how do we pray for things to change without letting our hopes rest on the outcome?

We can pray for peace no matter what happens. We can still pray for what we want to come to pass, but 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.

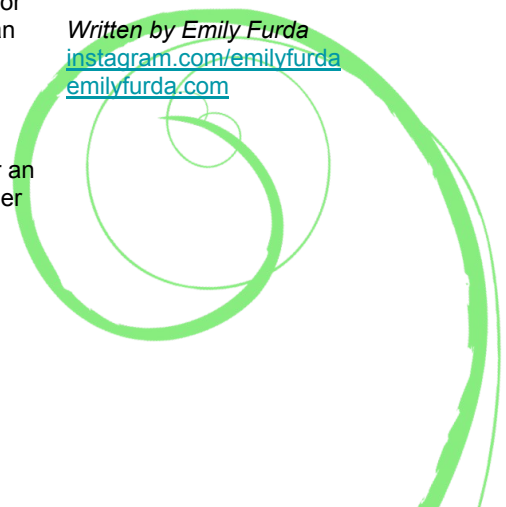
When we lay down our will and pray for peace no matter what happens, we will be secure because we're trusting the God who never changes instead of circumstances that can blow us over and fill us with dread. We can pour out our hearts to God knowing He hears our desperate cries. He may not always answer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

If we put our hope in our loving God's supernatural peace, instead of the outcomes we hope will happen, we will be able to withstand anything that comes our way.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Our Hope Endures" by Natalie Grant. [youtu.be/c6Je49Yqdo](https://youtu.be/c6Je49Yqdo)

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

**Saturday, July 13 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 1 John 4:16-18

What have you learned about peace this week?  
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

When we find ourselves in situations beyond our control, it's hard to feel at peace. We can panic and frantically try to find even one little thing we can control, often hurting ourselves and others in the process. Other times, we just want to stay under our favorite blanket and hide.

When we're afraid, there is often something we think but are scared to admit: we're afraid of God.

If we're afraid of God, we will always be striving on our own and peace will be out of reach. We know we should trust God, but when it comes down to it, fully relying on God is hard at times. Today's Scripture tells us in verse 16 "we know and rely on the love God has for us," NIV It also goes on to say in verse 18 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." NIV

God knows when we're afraid of Him. He also knows, apart from Him, we haven't experienced perfect love. Even the best people will let us down and hurt us at times. Experiencing His love means we have to rely on God's love, but what does relying on God's love mean?

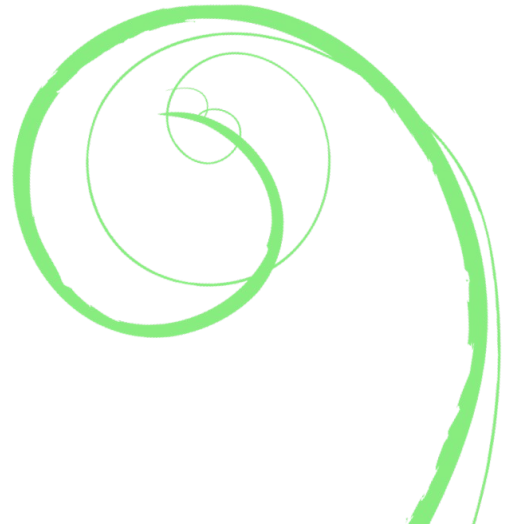
Think for a moment about a child afraid who is afraid. She instinctively hides behind the nearest safe person. Because that person loves her, looks for them to provide comfort. She relies on their love.

It's the same for us in our relationship with God. He wants us to run to Him when we're scared, but it can be hard to trust in a God we can't see, especially if we didn't have someone safe to run to as a little girl. God understands our tendency to not trust Him, but His love is big enough to can handle our fear and mistrust. Our view of Him, even when it's skepticism or anger, doesn't change who He is or how much He loves us. God longs for each of us to come running to Him so He can show us His love and calm our anxious hearts with His peace.

### **Daily Challenge**

Do you feel like you can trust God? Why or why not? How does today's reading impact what you believe? Journal your thoughts and feelings being completely honest.

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

### Sunday, July 14 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 1 Kings 19:1-9

Have you ever achieved something you worked hard for and then felt overwhelmed? Maybe it was a tight deadline for work, finally breaking a bad habit, or the end of a semester of school. It doesn't seem to make sense because achieving your goal should make you happy, but just when you think peace will replace the stress you were under you realize the rest of life doesn't stop. You still have battles to fight. You're emotionally and physically exhausted from your fight and another battle is the last thing you want. That feeling is something the prophet Elijah knew well.

In today's scripture, we see after Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal (that seems like a pretty big victory), Jezebel decided she wanted his life. Winning one battle was enough. Having his life threatened again was too much for him. In that moment, God didn't remind Elijah of his successes or tell him to get it together. Instead, in verse 7 He told Elijah "the journey is too much for you." (NIV) Then, He gave Elijah the physical rest and nourishment he needed.

We often underestimate the toll a personal battle has on our minds and bodies. When we're tired and under stress, our emotions often get the better of us. It's easy to feel unsettled. Giving up may seem like the only option, but God knows our frailties just like He knew Elijah's.

In the end, the journey God had for Elijah wasn't too much. It was just too much for the moment. He needed to eat and sleep before he could continue. Is your journey too much, or is it just too much right now? God sees you and wants to give you exactly what you need to accomplish all the plans He has for your life. Let Him refresh you, and you'll experience His peace.

#### Daily Challenge

Listen to "I Will Rest" by City Harbor, [youtu.be/U\\_hGhmvcfrk](https://youtu.be/U_hGhmvcfrk) and set aside some time this week to let God refresh and restore you. Take a nap, listen to some good music, read a book for fun, color, or anything do anything else that makes you feel refreshed.

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### Monday, July 15 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Romans 12:18

In any close relationship we will inevitably make mistakes. Peace between two people, even the best of friends, will be difficult sometimes. When we've wounded someone, asking for forgiveness can sometimes be even harder than giving forgiveness. If you realize you have hurt your friend, go to her as soon as possible. If you're the friend who has been wounded, don't be afraid to tell your friend. She can't apologize if she doesn't realize she hurt you. No matter which side you find yourself on, the longer you wait, the harder it will be to mend your relationship. Before you send a text message, ask yourself if this is something that can really be said via text. Text messages leave a lot up to interpretation that's often misunderstood. Often, a phone call is better. Sometimes, it's best to meet in person, if it's possible. We have to realize sometimes we may not receive the forgiveness we seek, but we can't allow that to stop us from seeking to make peace with our friends. Today's verse tells us we're to do what we can to have peace in our relationships. We can't control what our friends will do. Asking for forgiveness may lead to a heartfelt conversation making our relationships stronger. If it doesn't, then we have still been obedient by doing all we can to seek peace.

Keep in mind seeking peace still means having healthy boundaries. Letting someone hurt you over and over isn't healthy, and neither is making someone beg for your love. Peace between two people means both people need to have peace. If the other person is harming you, you're not at peace. Whether or not you have the outcome you desire when you ask for forgiveness, know God honors your faithfulness when you follow His commands, and He will always forgive you when you sincerely ask. Don't let the fear of a bad outcome stop you from going to your friend when you need forgiveness.

#### Daily Challenge

What happened when you asked for forgiveness from someone in the past? How does it still affect you? What impact does today's reading impact what you think now? Journal your thoughts.

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### Tuesday, July 16 2019

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Proverbs 11:25

Sometimes we find ourselves in a place where we're weary and anxious because our schedule is full. We feel in over our heads, Somehow, we keep saying "yes" to things to do without realizing we need a break. How do know what God wants us to do and what we need to let go of? When trying to decide, consider today's Scripture:

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. Proverbs 11:25 NIV

When we give of ourselves, we too will be refreshed. When the things we do for others that we once loved no longer offer refreshment in the depths of our souls or we no longer have the peace we once did while doing them, we can be sure it's time for a change. Maybe it's a change of attitude or a change in what we do.

What would happen if you stepped away from the thing pulling you down? If you stopped leading the women's ministry, volunteering as the mom who gives everyone else's kids a ride, or stopped posting encouraging messages every day on your blog? Would you feel lighter and able to devote time to something else you desperately long to do, more time with your family, a new project, or a time to rest and enjoy life? It's easy to worry what will happen to fill the void if you let something go. Maybe there is someone else meant to fulfill that role who doesn't even know it because there hasn't been an opportunity. It may become a joy to someone else. Maybe it is time for something to end. Your job isn't to fulfill that role because you can't see how it will work out. Your job is to follow God's plan for your life. Let God be the one to orchestrate how something will continue without you. You have permission to serve with all your heart, and you have permission to step aside for a new season in your life. You have permission to be refreshed and be at peace.

#### Daily Challenge

Make a list of what takes up your time and energy. Is there something draining the life from you? Pray and ask God to show you His will for you and how to follow it.

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

**Wednesday, July 17 2019**

Devotional written by Diane Marie  
Read Deuteronomy 29:18

If you were to ask ten Christians to define worship, you'd probably get ten different answers. While there are many scriptures that mention worship, we are never given step by step instructions to tell us exactly what to do. This doesn't mean that we can't glean a lot from the Bible though, and it serves us well to dig in and learn as much as we can, so we can worship our Lord more fully.

In Deuteronomy, Moses called together the Israelites and spoke to them about the covenant God had made with them, reminding them of their forty-year journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. On that journey, they passed through many countries that worshipped other gods. Of course, there was a temptation among those people to break their covenant with God and turn their hearts away from the Lord to worship those false gods. We are also often tempted by the false gods of this world.

What can we glean from this scripture? Simply put, to turn our hearts away from the Lord leads us to worship other gods, so to turn our hearts toward God, leads us to worship Him. The more we turn our hearts to Him, the more we love Him, and the more we love Him, the more everything we feel, think, and do will be an act of worship. As we see in this month's theme Scripture, when we keep our hearts focused on the Lord, He will give us peace.

Give God your whole heart, and worship Him with your life.

### **Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Committed" by Newsboys.  
[youtu.be/WubT3UCjdzo](https://youtu.be/WubT3UCjdzo)

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**Thursday, July 18 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Jeremiah 29:4-14

Do you ever feel stuck in a place you don't want to be? At times it can feel as if your life is being held captive by circumstances beyond your control. It's in those moments when it feels the most frustrating. In Jeremiah 29, the people of Israel were being held captive in Babylon. God gave them specific things to do while they were there. One seemingly odd instruction comes in verse 7.

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. NIV

They had been forced to live in Babylon, the country that destroyed their homeland, but God told them to seek peace and prosperity for Babylon anyhow. That seems counter intuitive and the last thing a captive would want to do.

If Babylon was a peaceful place, it would be peaceful for everyone living there, including the people of Israel. He knew the better things were in that country, the better it would be even for those being held captive. There's nothing wrong with wanting our circumstances to change, but if all we focus on is how unhappy we are, we'll be miserable. What would happen if we sought to make a good life no matter where we find ourselves? If you feel stuck and held captive, look around and see what you can do to change the environment. Maybe it's by being the one who encourages the people around her, even if it's the staff at your doctor's office. Look for opportunities to serve that may go unnoticed. Did someone leave their sandwich in the refrigerator at work until it looked like penicillin? Instead of seeing if it will grow eyes, toss it in the garbage and out of site. Be the woman who walks with her head held high knowing her circumstances don't render her helpless to do good. If, with God's help, you change the world you live in, you'll begin to change. You will see peace you grow. You will see good things, even in the middle of the most difficult circumstances.

### **Daily Challenge**

Is there a circumstance in your life you feel is holding you captive? What can you do to make your life or the places around you peaceful or better? Journal your thoughts.

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**Friday, July 19 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Proverbs 3:6

Sometimes, it can be so hard to know if we're walking in God's will. We want to, but we know our own desires get in the way. Sometimes when things go well, we wonder if it's too easy and think we're not where He wants us. Then, when it's hard, lonely, and scary, we wonder if we've missed His plan all together.

Proverbs 3:6 tells us "In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." NIV

That makes it sound so simple, so why do we find it so hard? Perhaps we give ourselves too much credit when it comes to how much we can mess up God's plans? That doesn't mean we should deliberately sin or walk around without seeking Him. On the contrary, we need to always be asking Him to guide our hearts and our steps and show us when we're on the right or wrong path.

God hears our prayers, and the attitude of our hearts is more important than actions. So, if we're praying with every step we take and asking Him to guide us, we can trust He will show us to change our path when we're not walking where He wants us. He will guide us, no matter how far off the path we find ourselves. He'll also show us when we are in the right path. When we committed to do things God's way, we can relax. A sure way to know we're following God's plans, is when we experience His peace. God will give us peace when we're following His plans for us. God in charge, not us, and that's a good thing. He won't mess it up when it comes to guiding our lives.

### **Daily Challenge**

Are there any areas in your life where you wonder if you're on the right path or are considering a change? Journal your thoughts and pray over these areas.

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

**Saturday, July 20 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read James 3:18

What have you learned about peace this week?  
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

There are so many things that make us outraged, many of them rightfully so. Outrage isn't necessarily a bad thing. It can be a dangerous thing if we become numb to the pain of others. Feeling outraged means something painful has happened and we feel it. We may not even have any direct connection to the event or cause, but it ignites something in us. We want to see change. It's what happens after the initial hit of outrage that matters most. Are we going to just live our lives in rage, yelling both out loud and by actions about how outraged we are, or are we going to do something?

What if we let our inward rage become outward acts of peace?

Stepping out to do something can feel intimidating. We can feel like we're lost little lambs among packs of wolves. Acting on outrage often feels more powerful, but it's not. It's just angrier and fuels hate. James 3:18 tells us:

Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.  
NIV

What would happen if we let our outrage fuel a fire of kindness and love? What if we let our anger lead to acts of peace? How many lives could we change? How would our lives change? We don't need to do or say something we think is gigantic. What about sending one message letting someone know you care? Why not hold a door open for someone and not be upset if she doesn't say thank you? What if when you're waiting for the coveted close parking spot at the grocery store, you let someone else have it instead? Compliment a stranger. Smile at someone. Instead of being angry at the customer service agent who answers the phone, be understanding that she isn't the one who shipped your package to Antarctica and give her a chance to help you. Help brush the snow off of someone else's car or cut their grass.

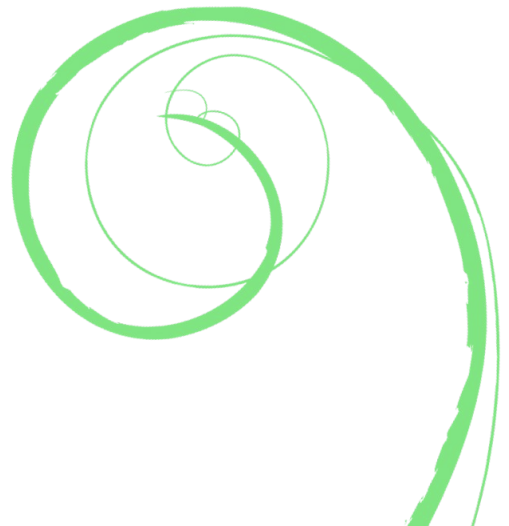
We all have opportunities every single day to let kindness shout louder than rage and bring God's peace to this world. Jesus did speak to the masses, but some of the most life changing stories we read are of His one on one interactions. Maybe changing the world isn't as hard as we think.

When our kindness shouts, our outrage will be silenced. We have the power to be peacemakers.

Daily Challenge

Make a list of 10 things you can do to show love and be a peacemaker in a world of outrage this coming week. Then, do them.

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**Sunday, July 21 2019**

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 void of all peace.

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. When we see God's goodness, we experience His peace because we know we are not alone, and we're reminded He only has good plans for us. His goodness often found in simple things such as 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.

As we intentionally look for His presence, our focus will shift to the goodness of God, and we will find peace. No matter how scary the situation is that we're facing, God is with us. His goodness is all around us.

**Daily Challenge**

Every day for the next week, write down one good thing that happens during the day. At the end of the week, journal about how looking for good things changed you.

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**Monday, July 22 2019**

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole  
Read Romans 15:13

When we feel hopeless and without peace, 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, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, 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 with His peace.

**Daily Challenge**

Why does trusting in God give us joy and peace? Why do joy and peace give us hope? Journal your thoughts.

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**Tuesday, July 23 2019**

Devotional written by Heather Golden Horton  
Read James 1:17

Swirling torrents of trouble often grab our attention and threaten to stir up anxiety in the hearts of even the most committed Christ-followers. During these stormy seasons, we must rely heavily on the faithful nature of God to bring peace to our souls. Directing our gaze to our unchanging God can be essential for our survival through momentary shifts in our environment.

God has not changed over time. He has been eternally solid and true. He does what He says He will do, despite changes in culture and political climate. World events do not shake Him. His heart does not waver in the face of our uncertainties. In fact, His faithfulness is often even more dazzling in the presence of life's inconsistencies. We have a Father who is with us throughout the struggle. Simply knowing He is a God of unending stability can bring our hearts to overflowing peace.

The faithfulness of God is wrapped in the fact that God's nature is unchanging in the midst of ever-changing circumstances. We can lean into our ever-present God when a fast-paced life gives us whiplash. We can whisper His name in prayer, assured of His nearness. We can sing in the darkness to our faithful God, confident He is the constant we need in the middle of turmoil.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Faithful God" by Travis Cottrell.  
[youtu.be/43QAaczHY3CA](https://youtu.be/43QAaczHY3CA)

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**Wednesday, July 24 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 62:1-4

Sometimes, you just can't figure out how to keep going. Many times, difficult situations you face aren't your fault. A friend you shared your hopes and dreams with suddenly betrayed you. The guy you thought you would marry ended the relationship even though you did everything "right". You were the perfect candidate but didn't get the job. You took care of your body but ended up with a serious illness. These situations and others like them are enough to shatter anyone. Feeling at peace during times like these seems impossible. You may even feel as if your name might as well be "Deserted" or Desolate."

Keep in mind today's scripture the next time you feel this way.

No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord will take delight in you, and your land will be married. Isaiah 62:4 NIV

It says God will give you a new name, Hephzibah. Your name is part of your identity. you a new name. Hephzibah means "My delight is in her." It's specifically referring to God's delight in you. It also says He will call you "Beulah", which means "married". That doesn't necessarily mean an earthly marriage. He says your land, or your life, will be married, put back together into one whole piece. He will put together all the shattered pieces of your life in the most beautiful of ways. You can't do it alone. Your true peace comes from God. It isn't dependent on circumstances. It's His presence in your heart, His reassurance, and His love.

When you let God delight over you and put the pieces of your life together, it won't look like you imagined. It will be better than your wildest dreams.

**Daily Challenge**

Write our today's scripture in your own words. and do something creative to make it come to life. You can draw, write a poem or song, create a dance, make a collage, or anything you want.

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**Thursday, July 25 2019**

Devotional written by Christine Perry  
Read Luke 7:18-28, John 16:33

Have you ever questioned God? Have you ever felt so heartbroken, so confused, and so shattered 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, we go through bumps, and we will go through those bumps with Jesus.

In Luke 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 "I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John..." Luke 7:23 NIV

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 and give us His peace.

**Daily Challenge**

Why did Jesus say there was no one born of a woman greater than John, even though He doubted Jesus? How does that impact the way you feel about having doubts? Journal your thoughts.

Written by Christine Perry  
[learningtobefearless.org](http://learningtobefearless.org)

**Friday, July 26 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Psalm 29:10-11

Do you ever feel as if life is too much, as if a flood of problems and responsibilities are coming at you? It can be overwhelming, and it's easy to feel as if you'll be swept away. Peace feels elusive.

Psalm 29:10 tells us: "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever." NIV

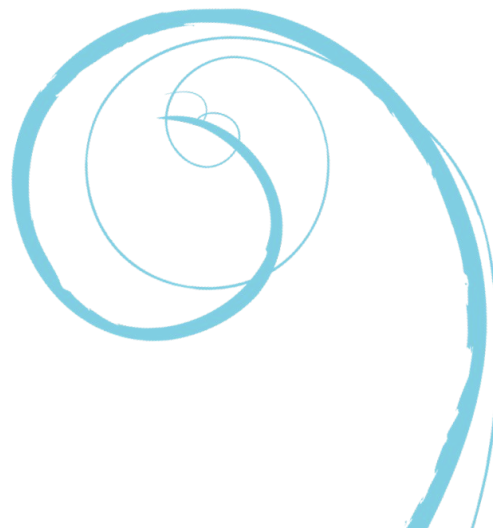
When we're in the middle of a raging storm, sometimes all we can see is problems, and God feels distant. It feels like hurricane force winds are swirling around us and as if the overwhelming flood of problems will never end. Even then, even when we feel as if we're overtaken, God sees us and knows us. Even though the flood waters may try to engulf us, God is greater than whatever situations we find ourselves in. His powerful peace is no match for any storm, no matter how strong and big it is.

Now is not the time to quit. Reach out to Him and let Him calm the storm inside you. Let us peace-giving love find you. He will find you, even in the storm of your soul.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Wind and Waves" by Kellie & Kristen. [youtu.be/mn3sRHiTliA](https://youtu.be/mn3sRHiTliA)

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**Saturday, July 27 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Colossians 3:13

What have you learned about peace this week?  
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

Relationships can be beautiful and messy. At some point, in all relationships, there will be situations that are anything but peaceful. There will come a point when we have to forgive those who hurt us. Sometimes forgiveness is harder to give than others. When people wound us deeply, we don't feel like forgiving, yet we know God calls us to forgive. The good news is we don't have to forgive in our own strength. The forgiveness we give to others comes from the forgiveness we receive from God.

You may be thinking "But you have no idea what happened to me!" That's true. Only you and God know the depth of your pain. In order to truly forgive, you have to face the pain and fully acknowledge what it is you're forgiving. When you're hurting beyond belief, forgiveness is the last thing we want to do.

In Psalm 52:12 we see David knew what it was like to not want to surrender to God. This was part of his prayer. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." NIV

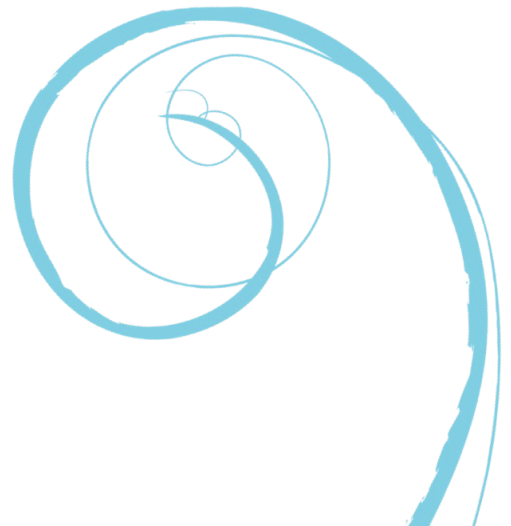
When forgiveness is hard to give, consider praying like David did. Ask God to change your heart. Author and speaker Marilyn Meberg suggested to pray this prayer when you want to follow God, but you also don't want to forgive: "Lord, make me willing to be willing to forgive."

When we acknowledge we want to honor God and we need help to even want to forgive, God can change us. It likely won't happen overnight, but as we begin to allow God to change our hearts, we'll see others differently. Our hearts will be at peace with others. Forgiveness doesn't always mean reconciliation. Sometimes, we need to maintain healthy boundaries if a person repeatedly hurts us or refuses to change, but we can still forgive. God can change our hearts to love like He does and see people the way He wants us to see them. It takes courage to ask God to help you to want to forgive, but choosing to ask God to make you willing to forgive can lead to healing and peace for your hurting heart.

**Daily Challenge**

Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Journal about what happened that hurt you. and about how you feel knowing God will help you to not just forgive but also want to forgive?

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**Sunday, July 28 2019**

Devotional written by Danielle Nicole  
Read Psalm 94:19

When the world is weighing heavy on us, and everything feels out of our control, it can be hard to have peace. We can feel like we should be able to take hold of all the things that are falling out of our reach and bring change the situations ourselves. Even when we feel like this, we need to know who is in control, and who will bring us peace. It's not up to us to hold the world on our shoulders, and when we feel like we are, His peace can rule our hearts.

To find peace in these moments, we need to learn to let go of what we feel we should be carrying, and in control of. We need to surrender it to Him and allow Him to take over. We can't find peace in a situation when we are still trying to fix on our own or trying to handle by ourselves. We were never created to do this alone.

When we have allowed God to take over for us, we need to trust His peace is enough to allow us to rest. This will mean putting our faith into Him and believing He has the power to calm our weary hearts.

Lastly, when we have allowed God to take over the situation, and provide us with peace, we need to trust He will handle everything for us in the exact way it needs to be dealt with. He may not always do exactly what we desired, but He will do what He knows needs to be done.

We can always trust that even as we go through all of this, He won't leave us feeling concerned about it. Instead, He will come, and comfort us. His peace isn't only reserved for the good times but will hold us even when all things feel out of our hands.

**Daily Challenge**

Listen to "Control" by Jasmine Murray.  
[youtu.be/UHIR5ABjhn8](https://youtu.be/UHIR5ABjhn8)

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**Monday, July 29 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read Isaiah 30:21

When we go on the adventure of a hike, we usually have two choices: take a path others have traveled before or set off on our own and blaze a new trail.

Sometimes, when God calling us to do something new it feels exciting, but when it comes time to step away from the well-worn and easy to see path, we talk ourselves out of it before we even begin. We look ahead, and all we see is wildness. We don't just wonder if we'll get lost, we assume it will happen and wonder how it will take to get lost. The excitement quickly turns to fear leave our hearts anxious and void of any peace. That's just talking about where to go. Besides that, we don't know what's lurking out there. The noise coming from the brush could be a mouse that will run away or something waiting to eat us.

When we head in a direction without a clear path, we also don't know if we'll have what we need. Will we have food and water? What if what we think is a grassy area is actually dangerous desolate place? People take the safe path for a reason. It's safe!

What happens if you set out and follow God's plan for you and only know the first step? What happens if you run out of money? What happens if you move and have no support system? What if you change jobs and realize you hate the new one more than your old one? What if you change schools or your major and you lose your scholarship? What if a new relationship turns out to be a disaster? What if your life changes for the best, beyond your wildest dreams?

Making a change can be scary, but God promises in today's Scripture that we will hear His voice telling us which way to go. He already knows the way. His leading is better than following any map or what seems like a reliable route. When we allow ourselves to truly believe God will tell us exactly what path to take, and care for us on our journey, His peace about the path ahead will flood our hearts.

**Daily Challenge**

Write today's Scripture in your own words.

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**Tuesday, July 30 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read John 4:1-42

When we meet the woman at the well in John 4, she has something important with her, a water jar. When you need to get water from a well every day, having a container to carry it in is vital for your survival. It's not something you want to leave behind. Yet, that's exactly what she did.

In verse 28, she left her jar behind and went to tell everyone what happened. She left what she thought she needed because she found something better.

She had to carry that heavy, burdensome jar every day. When Jesus first offered her living water, no wonder her focus was on her immediate physical need. Never needing water again meant no more carrying her heavy physical burden. Jesus had something much more for her, but she had to be willing to let go of her idea of what she needed, because even if she was free from a carrying a heavy jar full of water, she wouldn't be satisfied. He wanted her to leave the burdens of her heart with Him. Those were much heavier than any water jar could ever be.

How often are we like her? We think we know what will bring us peace and life our heavy burdens: more money, better health, a relationship, and so many other things. We often come to Jesus, telling Him what we think our needs are. Then, when we don't get what we want, we wonder why we feel empty and don't have peace. What if instead telling Jesus what we want, we tell Him how we feel? What if we took our eyes off of what we think we need and focus on the voids we're trying to fill? It could be loneliness, shame, anger, fear, or any number of things.

When we leave behind what we're carrying, Jesus won't just give us a temporary fix. He'll satisfy us in a way we never thought possible. Jesus will fill us with His comforting, peace-filled, living water.

**Daily Challenge**

What do you think you need to feel at peace? What are the feelings that make you think you need it? Journal your thoughts.

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## Seeking Peace: The Binder Co Devotionals July 2019

**Wednesday, July 31 2019**

Devotional written by Emily Furda  
Read 2 Thessalonians 3:16

What have you learned about peace this month?  
Journal, draw, write a poem, or write a prayer about it below.

This month, we have learned about peace and how to have and keep peace in a number of situations. We do have a responsibility to surrender our will and our thoughts to God if we want peace, but we must remember, peace isn't something we can earn or manufacture on our own.

We don't have to worry if we can have peace sometimes but not others. God will give us peace when we need it and in every way we need it. Whether it's peace in relationships, peace with God as He forgives our sins, or inner peace in our hearts, God promises to give us peace at all times and in every situation.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:17 NIV

### **Daily Challenge**

How has learning about peace impacted you? What doubts do you still have? Journal your thoughts and pray over them. Also, listen to "Peace" by Josh Baldwin. [youtu.be/mO9NNVoyO3k](https://youtu.be/mO9NNVoyO3k)

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