

Guided by Grace

A 14-Day Journey of Faith and Trust



A devotional companion to
Tomorrow's First Light

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Day 1: Trusting God's Provision

Philippians 4:19 - "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

God promises to meet all our needs—not always how we expect but through His rich glory in Christ. Ellie, facing the daunting task of caring for her siblings after losing her parents, embodies this struggle to trust in God's provision. As Ellie journeys to meet Sam, doubts creep in: has God abandoned her family, or is He working in ways she cannot yet see? Her faith is tested, but by releasing control and trusting God, she finds a peace that grows beyond her immediate circumstances.

When we face uncertainty, especially in areas of provision or safety, it can be easy to believe we're alone. But *Philippians 4:19* assures us that God meets our needs from a place of abundant love and power. Like Ellie, we can ask God for the strength to trust Him to provide, even if His methods are beyond our understanding. God's provision doesn't just include physical needs, but emotional and spiritual needs as well. He knows what we need and cares for us tenderly, even when the road seems overwhelming.

Take a few minutes to reflect on God's faithfulness in your life. Think about areas where you feel uncertain about provision or future needs. How might trusting God more deeply help bring peace?

Questions

1. What specific needs are you facing today, and how can you trust God to meet them?

2. When was a time you saw God provide in a way you didn't expect? How did that impact your faith?

3. What can you do today to remind yourself of God's promise to care for you?

Day 2: The Sacrifice of Love

John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Love often calls us to sacrifice our comfort, desires, or resources for the sake of others. Sam’s willingness to take in Ellie and her siblings is a powerful example of this love. He’s not just taking a wife; he’s embracing a family. This commitment reflects God’s sacrificial love for us—He gave His only Son so we might have life.

In our lives, loving others sacrificially often requires us to give up our own wants and plans. Whether it’s offering time to a friend or supporting a family member in need, love is often found in the moments we give without expecting anything in return. This sacrificial love is a mirror of God’s love for us, who gave his son Jesus in our place, and who now calls us to follow His example.

Take a few minutes to reflect on areas where God may be calling you to show sacrificial love to others. What would it look like to prioritize another’s needs as Jesus did for us?

Questions

1. How might God be calling you to sacrifice for someone else in love?

2. What can you learn from Sam's decision to embrace a family despite the personal cost to him?

3. When have you experienced someone's sacrificial love? How did it affect you?

Day 3: Strength in Unity

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - "Two are better than one... For if they fall, one will lift up his companion."

Together, Ellie and Sam demonstrate the strength that comes from partnership. They work closely to provide for the family, each bringing unique strengths to support the other. This verse in Ecclesiastes reminds us that relationships founded on faith make us stronger and help us persevere.

We may face unique challenges in our own lives, but when we walk alongside others, we can uplift and support each other. Strengthening our bonds with loved ones, mentors, or friends allows us to build a community that honors God and reflects his love.

Consider the relationships you have with those God has placed around you. It could be a coworker or a friend from church, family, or someone you know from volunteering in your community. How can you be a blessing to them this week?

Questions

1. Who are the people God has placed in your life to support you? How can you be a blessing to them in return?

2. What does it mean to build a foundation of unity in your family or friendships?

3. How might God be calling you to strengthen your community of support?

Day 4: Patience in Trials

James 1:2-4 - "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

James teaches that trials build patience, leading us to spiritual maturity. In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Ellie faces relentless challenges, yet she learns that each struggle strengthens her faith, and she discovers that patience often leads to unexpected blessings and growth.

Trials aren't easy, and they often come when we least expect them. But when we learn to see them as opportunities for growth, we can begin to understand that God uses these situations to refine us. Patience grows our character, teaching us to rely on God's strength rather than our own.

Take a few minutes to reflect on your response to trials. How can you find joy even in challenges, trusting that God is working for your good?

Questions

1. What challenges are you currently facing?

2. How might God be using these trials to build your character?

3. How does Ellie's example encourage you to have patience in your own life?

4. In what ways does knowing that God is with you in every trial bring you comfort?

Day 5: Generosity Amidst Hardship

2 Corinthians 9:7 - “God loves a cheerful giver.”

Generosity isn't about wealth; it's about the heart. In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam's willingness to open his home and share his limited resources with Ellie's siblings shows a generous heart rooted in faith. Though his resources are limited, Sam demonstrates that giving, even when it's costly, can be a beautiful act of trust in God. Like Sam, we're called to give, trusting that God sees and honors our willingness to bless others, especially during difficult times.

The Bible is full of examples of people who gave generously even when they didn't have much. One of the most famous is the story of the widow's offering in *Mark 12:41-44*. Jesus observes a poor widow putting two small copper coins essentially all she had—into the temple treasury. While others gave out of their abundance, this widow gave out of her poverty, trusting that God would care for her. Jesus honors her faith, saying she gave more than anyone else. This story reminds us that true generosity is not about the size of the gift but the sacrifice and trust behind it. Even when we feel we have little to give, God values our heart and our trust in Him to meet our needs.

Generosity often challenges us to release our hold on what we have and to trust in God's abundant love. Even when resources feel scarce, cheerful giving helps us see God's blessings rather than focusing on our lack. When we trust God to supply our needs, we can experience the joy of giving with a free and open heart.

Think of ways to be generous in your own life. How might you give joyfully to others, even when resources feel scarce?

Questions

1. What does generosity look like for you, even in challenging times?

2. In what ways does Sam give to Ellie and her siblings during the story?

3. How does Sam's example inspire you to personally give with joy?

Day 6: The Power of Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14 - "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Forgiveness is essential to a life of faith. In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam and Ellie experience the need for forgiveness as they confront each other's doubts and fears while building a life together. Their willingness to forgive allows them to move forward, letting go of past hurts to build a foundation of love and grace. Their story reminds us that forgiveness, while sometimes difficult, is the gateway to peace and unity.

Forgiveness can be challenging because it requires us to release resentment and trust God with the outcome. One of the most powerful examples of forgiveness in the Bible is the story of Joseph, who, after being sold into slavery by his brothers, later rose to a position of authority in Egypt. When his brothers come to him in need, Joseph chooses forgiveness instead of revenge. In *Genesis 50:20*, he tells them, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Joseph's willingness to forgive and recognize God's hand in his suffering demonstrates that forgiveness is often a means for God to bring healing and blessing, both to us and to those who have wronged us.

Forgiveness allows us to experience the healing God desires for us, a healing that brings peace not only to ourselves but to our relationships. When we forgive, we make room for God's peace to fill the spaces that were once occupied by bitterness or anger. Forgiveness invites God to work in our hearts, transforming our pain into a testament of His grace. Like Sam and Ellie, we are called to release past hurts and make room for God's love, allowing His peace to bring healing and unity.

Questions

1. How does the example of Joseph inspire you to forgive, even when it feels undeserved?

2. Are there people in your life that God is calling you to forgive? How can you begin the process of letting go of resentment?

3. What specific steps can you take today to start down the path of forgiveness?

Day 7: Faith Over Fear

Psalm 56:3 - "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you."

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Ellie faces an uncertain future as she takes on the responsibilities of a new life. Despite her natural fears, she chooses to place her trust in God, finding the courage to move forward. This verse from *Psalm 56* reminds us that, while fear is a normal human experience, God invites us to place our trust in Him for strength and peace. Through faith, we learn that God's love is greater than our fears, allowing us to confront challenges with courage and hope.

The Bible offers many examples of people who faced fear but chose to trust God. One such example is David, who wrote *Psalm 56* during a time of great danger. He was being pursued by Saul and surrounded by enemies, yet he continually turned to God, affirming his trust even in terrifying circumstances. David's choice to trust God allowed him to focus not on his fear, but on God's faithfulness. His example reminds us that trusting God in fearful moments is an active choice, one that shifts our gaze from our situation to His power and love.

Trusting God instead of giving in to fear doesn't mean our fears disappear; it means they don't control us. When we choose to put our faith in God, we are inviting His strength and peace into our hearts, allowing us to approach challenges with a steady, hopeful spirit. Like Ellie, we can find strength in God's love, knowing that He walks with us through the unknown and gives us the courage to face whatever lies ahead.

Questions

1. What fears are you currently facing, and how might placing your trust in God give you strength?

2. How does David's example inspire you to choose faith over fear?

3. What steps can you take to remind yourself of God's presence and power when fear arises?

Day 8: Compassion for Others

James 1:27 - "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

James calls us to care for others, especially the vulnerable, as a vital expression of true faith. In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam's compassion for Ellie's siblings embodies this mandate, showing his commitment to caring for others beyond his own needs. By choosing to take in Ellie's family, Sam reflects the heart of God, who continually reaches out to those who are overlooked or vulnerable. His actions remind us that compassion is a way we actively live out our faith, showing God's love to a world that desperately needs it.

The Bible is full of examples of God's concern for the vulnerable. One powerful instance is in Ruth 2, where Boaz cares for Ruth, a foreign widow. Ruth was in a desperate situation with only her aging mother-in-law Naomi for family support, and no means to survive. Boaz goes beyond the required kindness, allowing Ruth to glean in his fields, ensuring her safety, and ultimately redeeming her through marriage. Boaz's compassion goes on to change Ruth's life by securing her future and placing her in the lineage of Jesus. Boaz's example illustrates that true compassion doesn't just meet immediate needs; it has a lasting impact on others.

In a world that often prioritizes power and self-interest, God calls us to reflect His heart by caring for the vulnerable. Our compassion for others is a tangible way to demonstrate His love, and each act of kindness becomes an offering that brings Him joy. Just as Sam's generosity extends hope to Ellie's family, our acts of compassion allow us to serve as God's hands and feet, bringing His love and mercy to those who may otherwise be overlooked.

Questions

1. Who in your life might God be calling you to serve or support, particularly among those who are vulnerable or overlooked?

2. How does Boaz's example of compassion challenge you to show greater mercy and kindness?

3. What steps can you take today to reflect God's love for the vulnerable, offering support in both big and small ways?

Day 9: Faithfulness in Little Things

Luke 16:10 - “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam and Ellie demonstrate faithfulness in small things as they diligently care for their family and home, even when resources are limited. Their commitment to their daily responsibilities reflects a deep sense of stewardship, showing that they are trustworthy in the little things. This faithfulness builds trust between them and strengthens their family foundation, and their example reminds us that faithfulness often starts with simple acts, done consistently, and can lead to greater blessings over time.

The Bible teaches the value of being faithful with what we are given. In the parable of the talents (*Matthew 25:14-30*), Jesus tells of three servants entrusted with their master's resources. The servants who managed their portions wisely were rewarded, while the one who did nothing with his was rebuked. Being faithful in small things is a way to honor God and show our trustworthiness in all circumstances. When we handle our responsibilities with care, we reflect our love for God and our commitment to serve Him well, whether or not others notice. Our faithfulness in the little things prepares us for the greater plans He has in store.

Consider the small areas of responsibility in your own life. Where is God inviting you to be more faithful, knowing that even small acts of diligence are seen and valued by Him?

Questions

1. What small responsibilities in your life can you approach with greater faithfulness?

2. How does the parable of the talents encourage you to honor God in daily tasks?

3. How might God be using your faithfulness in little things to prepare you for greater things?

Day 10: God's Plan Over Our Own

Proverbs 19:21 - "There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."

Back in Michigan, Ellie had many plans for her life, but her journey takes unexpected turns that challenge her trust in God. In *Tomorrow's First Light*, she discovers that God's plans sometimes differ from her own but are ultimately for her good. This shift from personal plans to God's purpose allows Ellie to embrace a life she had not imagined but that leads to greater blessings and spiritual growth. Her story reminds us that surrendering to God's plans, especially when they differ from our own, can lead to a life filled with His grace and purpose.

The Bible illustrates this principle in the life of Joseph, whose life journey also took him far from his original plans. Sold into slavery by his brothers and later imprisoned unfairly, Joseph's life seemed full of setbacks. However, in *Genesis 50:20*, when the very brothers who sold him into slavery come to him in Egypt asking for food, he reveals his true identity to them and declares, "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good."

Despite the detours and hardships, God used each part of Joseph's life to accomplish a purpose so great that no one but God could have seen it coming. Surrendering our own plans to God can be challenging, especially when His path doesn't align with our expectations. But when we trust His purpose, we can find peace in knowing He is in control. God's plans are for our good, even when we don't understand them in the moment.

Think about areas in your life where God may be redirecting your plans. How can you trust His purpose, even when it's different from your own?

Questions

1. What plans or dreams are you holding onto, and how might God be leading you to surrender them to Him?

2. How does Joseph's story encourage you to trust God's purpose in your life?

3. What can you do today to release control of your plans and trust God's direction?

Day 11: Hope in God's Promises

Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Ellie and Sam face numerous challenges that test their hope. They find strength by trusting in God's promises and believing that He is at work in their lives even in uncertain times. This trust in God's goodness helps them persevere, reminding us that, while life may bring hardship, God's promises are sure. Their faith in God's faithfulness is a powerful example of how we, too, can hold fast to hope when facing difficulties.

The Bible offers many examples of hope in God's promises, but perhaps one of the most inspiring is the story of Abraham. In *Genesis 12:1-3*, God promises Abraham that He will make him a great nation and bless all the families of the earth through him. Though Abraham faced numerous obstacles and delays, he clung to God's promise, trusting that God would fulfill it. Abraham was 75 when God promised to make him a great nation, but he ended up waiting twenty-five years until Isaac was born. Yet his story shows us that hope in God's promises is not based on circumstances but on our faith in Him.

Take a few minutes to think about whatever current struggles you or those you love might be facing. How can holding onto God's promises bring hope and strength to your heart?

Questions

1. How do Sam and Ellie's faith inspire you to trust in God's faithfulness?

2. How does Abraham's example inspire you to trust in God's faithfulness?

3. What challenges are you currently facing, and how can you remind yourself of God's promise to work for your good?

Day 12: Courage to Stand for What is Right

Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam and Ellie stand firm in their commitment to family, even though they face some pretty big obstacles (one of which involves Sam losing the thing he values most in his life). They also face a series of difficult choices, but in spite of everything working against them, Sam and Ellie both uphold their commitment to each other and their family, showing courage by putting their faith into action. Their example demonstrates that courage often means choosing to do what is right in God's eyes, regardless of opposition.

The Bible illustrates the courage to stand for what is right through the story of Daniel. When King Darius issued a decree forbidding prayer to any god but himself, Daniel continued his daily prayers to the true God, despite knowing the consequences. As a result, he was thrown into the lions' den, but God protected him, honoring Daniel's courage and faithfulness (*Daniel 6:10-23*). Daniel's story shows us that God is with those who courageously stand for what is right, and He provides strength and protection in times of trial.

Think about situations in your own life that require courage to do right. How can you stand firm in faith, even when it may be difficult?

Questions

1. Are there areas in your life where you need courage to stand for what is right?

2. How does Daniel's example encourage you to remain faithful to God's truth?

3. What steps can you take to trust in God's presence and strength when facing challenges?

Day 13: Renewal Through Prayer

*1 Thessalonians 5:17 -
“Pray without ceasing.”*

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Ellie draws strength from her constant prayers, seeking God's guidance and peace. Her reliance on prayer reflects the importance of continual communication with God, especially in uncertain times. Just as Ellie's life is renewed through prayer, we, too, can find strength, comfort, and clarity by turning to God in all things, trusting Him to be our source of wisdom and peace.

The Bible illustrates the power of continual prayer through the story of Hannah. In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah persistently prayed for a child, pouring out her heart before God despite her years of barrenness and sorrow. God heard her prayers and blessed her with a son, Samuel, who would go on to become a great prophet. Hannah's story shows us that God values our prayers and that our faith can be renewed through persistent, heartfelt communication with Him.

Think about situations in your own life that require courage to do right. How can you stand firm in faith, even when it may be difficult?

Questions

1. Are there areas in your life where you need courage to stand for what is right?

2. How does Daniel's example encourage you to remain faithful to God's truth?

3. What steps can you take to trust in God's presence and strength when facing challenges?

Day 14: Building a Legacy of Faith

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 - “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...”

In *Tomorrow's First Light*, Sam and Ellie are both committed to building a family rooted in faith, which we see in their desire to pass on a legacy of faith that will guide the next generation. Their example reminds us that building a spiritual legacy starts with the choices we make today to honor and live by God's Word.

The Bible underscores the importance of a spiritual legacy in the story of Timothy, whose faith was shaped by his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois (*2 Timothy 1:5*). Paul commends Timothy's strong faith, noting that it was passed down through the faithful example of these women. Eunice and Lois's dedication to teaching Timothy about God laid the foundation for his ministry, showing how a legacy of faith can impact generations.

Take a few minutes to reflect on the legacy of faith you are building. How can your actions and choices today influence those around you, especially those who look up to you? By living a life grounded in God's Word and faithfully teaching His truth to those around you, you can impact not only your own family but future generations as well.

Questions

1. What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind you?

2. In what ways can you model a life of faith for the next generation, like Eunice and Lois did for Timothy?

3. What steps can you take today to start building a legacy of faith that honors God and His Word?
