

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Big Picture

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## WEEK 4

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, TRUST THAT GOD IS WORKING FOR YOUR GOOD.

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“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

PSALM 126:3 NIV

### DAY 1

Joy can be a hard feeling to find sometimes. In difficult circumstances, when painful things happen, when life gets hard—joy is one of the last things we think we’ll ever possibly feel! But remember the bigger picture: The Lord has done great things for us. No matter what is happening in our lives right now, we can look back and remember the great things God has done for us in the past. That will help us believe He can and will do great things, both now and in the future. Make a list of the great things you think God has done for you. Look back at that list the next time you feel like joy is hard to find.

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

ECCLESIASTES 3:1 NIV

### DAY 2

We can be quick to question why difficult things happen to us, but one thing that Jesus promises us in the Bible is that we will have trouble. We’ll all experience hard times. But there is also another side to it. As this verse puts it, there is a time for *everything*. That means that even though we’ll have the bad, difficult, hard to understand moments, we’ll also have the good, joyful, wonderful moments along with them. And through both, God will walk with us until we can see the bigger picture of it all. Today, pray that God would remind you that He is with you through everything you might experience.

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“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

1 JOHN 5:4 NIV

### DAY 3

Have you ever experienced a great victory? Won a big game, beat a rival team, set a record, gotten the top spot? If you have, then you know just how good it feels to win. To overcome the obstacles that may seem like they're against you. With God, this same kind of victory is possible to us every single day. When we believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him with our lives, we become victorious—people who can overcome anything with God because He has already overcome it for us. Is there a struggle you're walking through in your life right now? Ask God to show you this week that He is not only with you, but that you have power and victory because of Him.

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“Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago.”

ISAIAH 25:1 NIV

### DAY 4

Isn't it easy to remember bad things that happen in life? The harsh words spoken to us, the painful things done to us, the hurts we've experienced, the difficult moments we've walked through. The prophet Isaiah reminds us there is something else we should try to remember: God has done and will keep doing wonderful things for us. He's planned them long before we'll even experience them. And because of that, we can not only look forward with hope that good things are coming, we can look back and remember the good that's already been done. Talk with your Small Group Leader about some of the good and wonderful things you've seen God do in your life and share a few you hope are still to come.

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“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

EPHESIANS 2:10 NIV

### DAY 5

When we're struggling through something, one of the best things we can do is remember what is true, both about who we are and the God who made us. What exactly is the truth? That we are God's handiwork! We're created by Him uniquely to do amazing and wonderful things in this world. Write the first part of this verse—*We are God's handiwork*—on your mirror, a sticky note in your room, or somewhere else you can see it. Let it be a reminder of the bigger picture of who you are in Christ.

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