



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## **Series Title: At the Movies: Where Stories Meet the Spirit**

### **Series Big Idea:**

The Holy Spirit is at work in every human story, and the stories we love echo the deeper story God is telling in us.

### **Week 1: Wicked (Parts 1 & 2)**

#### **“Defying Gravity: Life in the Spirit”**

**Date:** Sunday, May 24

**Primary Scriptures:** Acts 2:1–4, Acts 1:8, Romans 8:14

**Big Idea:** The Holy Spirit lifts us beyond fear, labels, and limitation into God’s calling.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday**

#### **Defying the Labels**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:14

#### **Reflection:**

One of the deepest wounds people carry is the weight of labels. Some labels are spoken by others. Some are inherited from childhood. Some come from shame, failure, fear, or rejection. Over time, those labels begin to feel permanent. We stop asking who God says we are because we become consumed with who the world told us to be.

That is part of what makes the story of *Wicked* so compelling. Elphaba spends much of her life being defined before she is ever understood. People decide who she is based on appearance, rumor, and fear. But the deeper story beneath the musical is about identity and liberation. It is about refusing to let fear and judgment define your future.

Pentecost tells a similar story. The disciples had spent much of their lives overlooked, uncertain, and afraid. But when the Spirit comes, everything changes. The Spirit interrupts the old narratives. Fear no longer gets the final word. Shame no longer determines identity. The disciples step into a calling larger than their insecurity.

The Spirit still works this way. God calls people beyond the labels that once confined them. Beyond failure. Beyond fear. Beyond the stories others wrote about them.

Resurrection life and Spirit-filled life both begin with this truth: your identity is not determined by the loudest voice around you. It is shaped by the God who calls you beloved.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me release the labels that keep me small. Remind me who I am in You and give me courage to live from that identity. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Write down one label you have carried for too long. Then write beside it: "This is not the whole story."

---

**Day 2 – Monday, May 25****Fear Keeps Us Grounded**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8

**Reflection:**

Fear has a way of shrinking life. It convinces us to stay quiet, stay hidden, stay safe. Fear tells us not to risk too much hope, too much honesty, or too much vulnerability.

Before Pentecost, the disciples lived inside that fear. Even after resurrection, they stayed behind locked doors. They believed in Jesus, but they still struggled to believe in themselves. They could not yet imagine becoming bold witnesses.

Fear works the same way in us. We may believe God loves us, but still doubt that we are capable of courage, leadership, healing, or transformation. We may know truth intellectually while still living cautiously emotionally.

But Acts promises that the Spirit gives power. Not power as domination or control, but power as courage. Power to speak. Power to act. Power to become.

The Spirit does not remove fear instantly. Instead, the Spirit helps us move faithfully despite fear. Courage is not the absence of fear. It is trust that God is greater than what frightens us.

The invitation of Pentecost is not to become fearless people. It is to become Spirit-led people.

**Prayer:**

God of courage, help me stop allowing fear to define the boundaries of my life. Fill me with the courage to trust You beyond my comfort. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one fear that has been limiting you spiritually or emotionally. Pray honestly about it instead of avoiding it.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, May 26**

### **The Spirit Lifts What Shame Tries to Bury**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1–4

**Reflection:**

Pentecost begins with wind and fire, but underneath the dramatic imagery is something deeply personal: people who once felt small begin to rise.

The Spirit lifts people. That is what happens throughout Scripture. The overlooked become leaders. The afraid become courageous. The wounded become healers. The excluded become witnesses.

Shame does the opposite. Shame pushes us downward. It tells us to hide. It convinces us we are too broken, too different, or too flawed to be fully loved or fully used by God.

In *Wicked*, Elphaba's journey is shaped by the tension between how others see her and who she truly is. Shame isolates her. But eventually she begins to resist the narratives imposed upon her.

The Spirit works this same liberation in us. God does not deny our wounds, but God refuses to let those wounds define our future. The Spirit lifts what shame tried to bury.

Pentecost reminds us that God does not call perfect people. God calls real people and fills them with holy courage.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of freedom, lift the shame I have carried for too long. Help me believe that Your grace is stronger than my fear. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Speak one compassionate truth to yourself today instead of a critical one.

---

## **Day 4 – Wednesday, May 27**

### **Called Beyond Limitation**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:14

**Reflection:**

Many of the limitations we live with are internal long before they become external. We decide what is possible based on past pain, rejection, disappointment, or insecurity.

But Scripture repeatedly shows God calling people beyond the boundaries they assumed were permanent. Moses thought he was disqualified. Jeremiah thought he

was too young. Peter thought failure defined him. Yet the Spirit continually expands what people believe is possible.

The phrase “defying gravity” resonates spiritually because gravity symbolizes whatever keeps us stuck. Fear. Shame. Expectations. Cynicism. Exhaustion.

The Spirit does not erase difficulty, but it refuses to let limitation become destiny.

To be led by the Spirit means trusting that God sees more in you than you currently see in yourself.

**Prayer:**

God who calls me forward, help me stop defining myself by limitation. Give me courage to trust what Your Spirit is forming in me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself: “Where have I already decided growth is impossible?” Bring that honestly before God.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, May 28**

**Holy Disruption**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:2

**Reflection:**

Pentecost interrupts everything. Wind rushes in. Fire appears. Language barriers break open. The Spirit disrupts normal expectations.

God often works through disruption. We tend to prefer stability and predictability, but transformation rarely happens without interruption.

Sometimes the Spirit unsettles us because our lives have become too small for the calling God is inviting us into. Holy disruption shakes loose what keeps us spiritually stagnant.

This does not mean chaos is automatically sacred. But it does mean that God can work powerfully through transitions, disruptions, and unexpected change.

The disciples probably would not have chosen Pentecost’s disruption. Yet it became the birth of the Church.

Sometimes the very thing that unsettles us becomes the place where new life begins.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me remain open when life feels disruptive or uncertain. Teach me to trust that You are still working in the unexpected. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Instead of resisting every interruption today, pause and ask: "What might God be inviting me to notice here?"

---

**Day 6 – Friday, May 29****Life in the Spirit Is Bigger Than Survival**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8

**Reflection:**

Many people spend their lives in survival mode. Just getting through the day. Just managing stress. Just holding everything together.

But the Spirit calls us into more than survival. The Spirit calls us into purpose.

The disciples could have remained hidden indefinitely. They could have protected themselves from risk and disappointment. But Pentecost pushes them outward into meaningful, courageous living.

Life in the Spirit is expansive. It enlarges compassion. It deepens courage. It strengthens love.

God did not create you merely to survive your life. God calls you to participate in healing, justice, beauty, mercy, and transformation.

That calling may feel intimidating. But the same Spirit that called the disciples empowers us too.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of life, move me beyond survival and into purpose. Help me live courageously and compassionately in the world. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Identify one way you can move beyond self-protection and toward meaningful engagement this week.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, May 30****Lifted Into Calling**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:14

**Reflection:**

The movement of Pentecost is upward. Not upward in escape from the world, but upward into fuller life within it.

The Spirit lifts people into calling. Into courage. Into freedom. Into truth.

The world may still misunderstand you. Fear may still whisper. Limitation may still feel real at times. But none of those things have ultimate authority over your life.

The Spirit is still moving. Still lifting. Still calling.

And perhaps that is the deepest invitation of this week: to trust that God is not finished with you yet.

**Prayer:**

God of new beginnings, thank You for continuing to call me beyond fear and limitation. Help me trust the work Your Spirit is still doing in me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "This week, the Spirit has been lifting me toward..."

## **Week 2: The Lion King**

### **“Remember Who You Are”**

**Date:** Sunday, May 31

**Primary Scriptures:** Romans 8:15–16, Luke 15:17–24

**Big Idea:** The Spirit restores your identity when shame makes you forget.

---

#### **Day 1 – Sunday, May 31**

##### **Remember Who You Are**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:15–16

##### **Reflection:**

One of the most powerful moments in *The Lion King* comes when Simba hears the voice of his father: “Remember who you are.” Those words cut through fear, shame, and confusion. They awaken something Simba had forgotten deep inside himself.

Shame has a way of making us forget who we are. It narrows identity until we begin defining ourselves by failure, regret, fear, or loss. Over time, shame becomes a distorted mirror. We stop seeing ourselves clearly.

Paul writes that the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Notice the intimacy of that language. The Spirit reminds us who we are when fear and shame try to rewrite the story.

Many people live spiritually exiled from themselves. Like Simba hiding far from home, they believe the past disqualifies them from belonging, purpose, or joy. But the voice of God continues calling us back to our truest identity.

The Gospel is not simply about forgiveness. It is about restoration. God restores what shame tried to erase.

##### **Prayer:**

Spirit of adoption, remind me who I am when shame clouds my vision. Help me live from belovedness instead of fear. Amen.

##### **Spiritual Practice:**

Write down three words that describe how God sees you, not how fear sees you.

---

#### **Day 2 – Monday, June 1**

##### **Shame Creates Distance**

**Scripture:** Luke 15:17–20

**Reflection:**

The prodigal son leaves home physically long before he returns emotionally. Shame isolates him. He assumes his failure has permanently changed his identity.

This is what shame does. It convinces us that distance is safer than vulnerability. It whispers that returning is impossible. Over time, shame convinces people they no longer belong.

Simba experiences this same kind of exile. He runs from the pain of his past and tries to build a life disconnected from responsibility, memory, and identity. But avoidance never heals what wounds us.

Eventually both stories reach a turning point. The prodigal “comes to himself.” Simba remembers who he is. Restoration begins when denial ends.

God’s grace continually moves toward people who feel distant. The journey home may be difficult, but love never stops calling us back.

**Prayer:**

God of mercy, meet me in the places where shame has created distance in my life. Give me courage to come home to Your grace. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one area where shame causes you to withdraw from others or from God. Pray honestly about it.

---

**Day 3 – Tuesday, June 2**

**The Spirit Calls You Home**

**Scripture:** Luke 15:20–24

**Reflection:**

One of the most moving details in Jesus’ parable is that the father runs toward the son before the son can finish his apology.

Grace moves first.

The son expects punishment or rejection. Instead, he is embraced. Restored. Celebrated. His identity as beloved child was never erased, even when he forgot it himself.

The Spirit works this way in our lives too. God's love is not waiting for us to become flawless before welcoming us home. Grace meets us before we have everything figured out.

Many people spend years trying to earn back what God never stopped offering freely.

The Spirit continually calls people home to themselves, to community, and to God.

**Prayer:**

Welcoming God, thank You for running toward me in grace. Help me trust that Your love is bigger than my failure. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Spend a few quiet moments imagining God welcoming you with compassion instead of judgment.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, June 3**

**Identity Is Not Earned**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:15

**Reflection:**

Paul says we have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear, but a spirit of adoption.

Fear-based religion often teaches people to perform for acceptance. But adoption changes everything. Children do not earn belonging. They receive it.

This does not mean our choices are unimportant. It means our identity is rooted deeper than our performance.

Simba believed he had to fix the past before reclaiming who he was. Many people carry the same burden spiritually. They believe they must become worthy before they can belong.

But the Gospel begins with grace, not achievement.

The Spirit reminds us that we are loved before we succeed. Loved before we understand everything. Loved before we become whole.

That love becomes the foundation for transformation.

**Prayer:**

God of grace, free me from the belief that I must earn belonging. Help me rest in the identity You have already given me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice where you tend to tie your worth to performance. Practice speaking to yourself with grace instead of pressure.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, June 4****Facing the Past Honestly**

**Scripture:** Luke 15:21

**Reflection:**

Restoration does not require pretending the past never happened. The prodigal son still tells the truth about his mistakes. Simba still has to face the grief and fear he carried for years.

Healing begins with honesty.

The Spirit does not lead us into denial. The Spirit leads us into truth that heals rather than condemns.

Many people fear that if they fully face their wounds, regrets, or failures, they will collapse under the weight of them. But grace creates space for honesty because grace is not fragile.

God already knows the truth about us and still chooses love.

The goal is not perfection. It is reconciliation.

**Prayer:**

God of truth and mercy, help me face my story honestly without becoming trapped in shame. Heal what I have avoided for too long. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one painful truth you need to acknowledge gently and honestly before God.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, June 5****Grace Restores Community**

**Scripture:** Luke 15:22–24

**Reflection:**

The father does not merely forgive the son privately. He restores him publicly. The robe, ring, and feast all communicate belonging.

Grace restores community.

Shame isolates people. Grace gathers them back in.

This is part of the Spirit's work in the Church. The Spirit creates communities where people are not defined forever by their worst moments. Communities where restoration is possible.

The Church is called to reflect the heart of the father in the parable. Not gatekeeping grace, but celebrating restoration.

That kind of community can change lives.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of belonging, help me become someone who reflects grace instead of condemnation. Teach me how to help others feel welcomed home. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out to someone who may feel isolated or forgotten. Offer simple presence or encouragement.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, June 6**

**Living From Belovedness**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:16

**Reflection:**

The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God. Not someday. Now.

Identity rooted in belovedness changes how we live. It frees us from constantly proving ourselves. It allows courage to replace fear and compassion to replace defensiveness.

Simba's transformation begins when he remembers who he is. Ours does too.

The Spirit continually calls us back to our deepest truth: we belong to God.

And when we begin living from that truth, everything else starts to shift.

**Prayer:**

Beloving God, anchor my identity in Your love. Help me live with courage, freedom, and peace as Your beloved child. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "Because I belong to God, I no longer have to..."

## **Week 3: Spider-Man: No Way Home**

### **“The Cost of Love”**

**Date:** Sunday, June 7

**Primary Scriptures:** John 15:13, Luke 9:23

**Big Idea:** Spirit-filled love is sacrificial.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, June 7**

#### **Love That Costs Something**

**Scripture:** John 15:13

#### **Reflection:**

Jesus says, “Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Love, according to Jesus, is not measured primarily by emotion. It is measured by sacrifice.

That truth sits at the center of Spider-Man: No Way Home. Peter Parker discovers that loving people often requires painful choices. Protecting others costs him comfort, recognition, and eventually even relationship. The deeper the love, the greater the sacrifice.

Most people want love that feels good. But Spirit-filled love goes further. It serves. It stays. It sacrifices.

This does not mean destroying ourselves or accepting abuse. Jesus never glorified harm. But real love does require surrender. It asks us to let go of selfishness, ego, and control for the sake of someone else’s flourishing.

The Spirit forms this kind of love within us slowly. It teaches us to move beyond convenience into compassion. Beyond self-protection into courage.

The cross reveals that love is not proven when life is easy. Love is revealed by what we are willing to carry for one another.

#### **Prayer:**

Jesus, teach me the kind of love that gives rather than grasps. Form my heart into one shaped by compassion and courage. Amen.

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Do one loving thing today that costs you time, comfort, or convenience.

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, June 8**

### **The Weight of Responsibility**

**Scripture:** Luke 9:23

**Reflection:**

Jesus invites people to take up their cross daily. That invitation is not about punishment. It is about responsibility.

Peter Parker learns that power and responsibility cannot be separated. Every choice affects someone else. Every action has consequence. Avoiding responsibility may feel easier in the moment, but eventually it creates greater harm.

Spirit-filled living requires maturity. It asks us to recognize that faith is not only private belief. It is how we carry responsibility toward others.

Some responsibilities are chosen. Others arrive unexpectedly. Caring for family. Showing up for community. Protecting the vulnerable. Telling the truth when silence would be easier.

The Spirit does not remove the weight of responsibility. It helps us carry it faithfully.

The cross is heavy, but it is also meaningful. Love gives weight purpose.

**Prayer:**

God of faithfulness, help me carry responsibility with courage rather than resentment. Teach me to love faithfully in the places where I am needed most. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on one responsibility you have been resisting. Pray honestly about what makes it difficult.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, June 9**

### **When Love Is Misunderstood**

**Scripture:** John 15:13

**Reflection:**

One of the painful realities of sacrificial love is that it is not always understood.

Jesus healed people, forgave people, and served people, yet he was still rejected by many. Peter Parker repeatedly experiences the loneliness that comes with doing what is right even when others misunderstand his motives.

Faithfulness can feel isolating at times.

There are moments when loving well means disappointing people. Telling difficult truths. Making unpopular decisions. Setting healthy boundaries. Remaining compassionate in a cynical world.

Spirit-filled love is not people-pleasing. It is rooted in truth and compassion together.

Sometimes doing the loving thing means carrying misunderstanding without becoming bitter.

Jesus shows us that misunderstood love is still holy love.

**Prayer:**

God of truth and compassion, help me remain faithful even when I feel misunderstood. Keep my heart rooted in love rather than resentment. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice where you are tempted to seek approval more than faithfulness. Pray for wisdom and courage.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, June 10**

**Letting Go for the Sake of Others**

**Scripture:** Luke 9:23

**Reflection:**

At the heart of No Way Home is a painful act of surrender. Peter chooses loss for the sake of protecting others.

This echoes the shape of Christ-like love. Love sometimes requires letting go of what we desperately want in order to care for someone else more deeply.

Surrender is difficult because we fear emptiness. We fear what life will look like after the letting go. But resurrection teaches us that surrender is not the end of the story.

The Spirit helps us release control, ego, and self-centeredness so that something larger can emerge.

Not every sacrifice is healthy or holy. But sacrificial love rooted in wisdom and compassion reflects the heart of Christ.

The question is not whether sacrifice will be required. The question is whether love is shaping what we surrender and why.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me discern what love requires of me. Give me wisdom to surrender what keeps me from deeper compassion and faithfulness. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself: "What am I holding onto that love may be asking me to release?"

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, June 11****Redemption Through Loss**

**Scripture:** John 12:24

**Reflection:**

Jesus teaches that a seed must fall into the earth before new life emerges. Resurrection often passes through loss.

This is one of the hardest spiritual truths to accept. We want transformation without grief. Healing without surrender. Resurrection without Good Friday.

But throughout Scripture, God continually brings life from what appeared lost.

Peter Parker's story reflects this painful pattern. Loss reshapes him. Suffering deepens him. The experience does not destroy his humanity. It refines it.

Loss changes us. Sometimes painfully. But loss does not automatically mean absence of God.

The Spirit remains present even in grief, disappointment, and endings. Often those very places become the soil where compassion, wisdom, and courage begin to grow.

**Prayer:**

God of resurrection, hold me in the places of loss and grief. Help me trust that You are still bringing life where I cannot yet see it. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one loss you are still carrying. Offer it honestly to God without trying to rush healing.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, June 12****Love Stronger Than Fear**

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:18

**Reflection:**

Fear constantly tempts us toward self-protection. Love moves us outward.

Peter repeatedly faces fear in *No Way Home*. Fear of failure. Fear of hurting people. Fear of losing what matters most. Yet again and again, love pushes him toward courageous action.

The Spirit works this same transformation in us. Perfect love does not mean we never feel afraid. It means fear no longer controls our choices.

Fear narrows life. Love expands it.

The Gospel does not call us into reckless living. It calls us into courageous compassion. Into lives shaped more by love than by anxiety.

The Spirit strengthens us to keep loving even in a fearful world.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of courage, help love grow larger than fear within me. Teach me to live bravely and compassionately. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

When fear rises today, pause and ask: "What would love do here?"

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, June 13****Love Leaves a Mark**

**Scripture:** John 15:13

**Reflection:**

Sacrificial love always changes people. It leaves a mark on both the giver and the receiver.

Jesus' love changed the disciples. Peter Parker's sacrifices shape the people around him even when they no longer fully remember him. Real love echoes beyond what we immediately see.

This is part of the mystery of faithful living. We rarely know the full impact of our compassion, forgiveness, generosity, or courage.

The Spirit continues working through ordinary acts of love every day.

Not all heroism is dramatic. Sometimes holiness looks like staying kind in difficult seasons. Showing up consistently. Caring faithfully. Forgiving honestly. Remaining compassionate when cynicism would be easier.

Love changes the world slowly, one faithful act at a time.

**Prayer:**

God of enduring love, help my life reflect Your compassion in ways that bring healing and hope to others. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "This week, love has been teaching me..."

## **Week 4: The Greatest Showman**

### **“This Is Me: From Rejection to Redemption”**

**Date:** Sunday, June 14

**Primary Scriptures:** Acts 2:42–47, Galatians 3:28

**Big Idea:** The Spirit forms a community where outsiders belong.

---

#### **Day 1 – Sunday, June 14**

##### **This Is Me**

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:28

##### **Reflection:**

One of the reasons *The Greatest Showman* resonates so deeply is because it tells the story of people who spent their lives feeling unwanted. Rejected. Misunderstood. Mocked for who they were. Yet together they begin building a community where they are finally seen.

At the heart of the Gospel is this same movement from rejection to belonging.

Paul writes that in Christ the divisions that once defined people no longer have ultimate power. The barriers of status, identity, ethnicity, gender, and social hierarchy are challenged by a deeper truth: every person bears the image of God.

The Spirit creates communities where people no longer have to hide who they are in order to belong.

That kind of belonging can feel almost unbelievable to people who have spent years carrying rejection. Many learn to shrink themselves for safety. Others wear masks to survive. Some stop believing they are worthy of connection at all.

But Pentecost creates a radically different vision of community. Not uniformity. Not erasing difference. Belonging.

The Church is meant to become the kind of place where people can finally say, “This is me,” without fear of losing love.

##### **Prayer:**

God of belonging, heal the places in me shaped by rejection and fear. Help me trust that I am fully seen and fully loved by You. Amen.

##### **Spiritual Practice:**

Notice where you feel pressure to hide parts of yourself. Bring that honestly before God in prayer.

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, June 15**

### **Rejection Leaves Wounds**

**Scripture:** Psalm 27:10

**Reflection:**

Rejection changes people. It can create deep insecurity, defensiveness, loneliness, or shame. Sometimes rejection becomes internalized until people begin rejecting themselves before others have the chance to.

The characters in *The Greatest Showman* each carry wounds from being treated as outsiders. Their pain is not imaginary. It is the result of living in a world that constantly told them they were less valuable.

Many people know that feeling spiritually and emotionally. Excluded because of failure. Appearance. Background. Questions. Mental health struggles. Identity. Past mistakes.

Jesus consistently moved toward people carrying those wounds.

The Spirit still does.

God's love does not erase the pain of rejection instantly. But it does interrupt the lie that rejection defines your worth.

You are more than the wounds others gave you.

**Prayer:**

Compassionate God, meet me in the places where rejection still hurts. Remind me that other people's judgment does not determine my value. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Speak kindly to yourself today in an area where rejection has shaped your self-image.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, June 16**

### **Grace Gathers People Together**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42–47

**Reflection:**

After Pentecost, people begin gathering differently. The early Church shares meals, resources, worship, prayer, and life itself. Community becomes sacred.

This is one of the Spirit's clearest works: gathering people who otherwise might never belong together.

The world often organizes itself around exclusion. Around insiders and outsiders. Around power and status. But the Spirit continually disrupts those divisions.

In *The Greatest Showman*, isolated individuals begin finding healing through shared belonging. Community becomes transformative because people are finally loved without condition.

The Church is called to become that kind of space.

Not perfect. Not performative. But genuinely welcoming. A place where grace is practiced instead of merely preached.

Belonging heals people in ways isolation never can.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of community, teach me how to help create spaces of welcome, healing, and compassion. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out intentionally to someone who may feel overlooked or excluded.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, June 17**

**You Do Not Have To Earn Belonging**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:19

**Reflection:**

Many people live as though belonging must be earned. Be successful enough. Attractive enough. spiritual enough. Productive enough. Then maybe you will be accepted.

But grace works differently.

The Gospel announces that belonging begins with God's love, not our performance.

This truth is difficult to trust because most of the world operates conditionally. Acceptance often feels fragile and transactional. But the Spirit forms a different kind of community.

A community where people are welcomed before they are impressive.

Jesus constantly embodied this kind of radical hospitality. He ate with outsiders. Touched people others avoided. Spoke dignity into lives shaped by shame.

Grace does not wait for perfection before making room at the table.

**Prayer:**

Welcoming God, free me from the exhausting need to earn belonging. Help me rest in Your grace and extend that grace to others. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Practice receiving kindness today without minimizing it or trying to “earn” it.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, June 18**

**Community Changes Us**

**Scripture:** Acts 2:46–47

**Reflection:**

Healthy community does more than comfort people. It transforms them.

The people in Acts become more generous, compassionate, courageous, and connected through shared life together. Isolation weakens people. Authentic community strengthens them.

This is also true emotionally and spiritually. Healing often happens relationally. We discover parts of ourselves through being seen, loved, challenged, and supported by others.

In *The Greatest Showman*, the performers become more confident not simply because circumstances improve, but because they stop carrying life alone.

The Spirit forms communities where people help one another heal and grow.

We were never meant to do faith alone.

**Prayer:**

God of connection, help me open myself to relationships that bring healing, honesty, and growth. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect honestly: “Where am I isolating myself unnecessarily?”

---

**Day 6 – Friday, June 19**

**Seeing the Image of God in Others**

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:27

**Reflection:**

Every act of exclusion begins by forgetting someone's humanity.

The Spirit continually pushes against systems that reduce people to stereotypes, labels, or categories. Pentecost itself is a story about barriers being crossed and human dignity being affirmed.

To see the image of God in others requires spiritual attentiveness. It means refusing to define people by fear, politics, assumptions, or appearances.

Jesus saw people differently than the world around him did.

The Church is called to do the same.

This does not mean ignoring harm or pretending differences do not exist. It means remembering that every person carries sacred worth.

Communities shaped by the Spirit practice dignity.

**Prayer:**

God of all people, help me see others with compassion and dignity. Challenge the assumptions and prejudices that limit my love. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Intentionally listen to someone today without immediately judging or correcting them.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, June 20****From Rejection to Redemption**

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:28

**Reflection:**

The movement of the Gospel is always toward redemption.

Not shallow positivity. Not pretending pain never happened. Redemption means God bringing healing, dignity, purpose, and belonging into places once marked by rejection.

The Spirit does not erase individuality. It redeems it.

The people in *The Greatest Showman* do not become valuable because society finally approves of them. They were already valuable. What changes is that they begin believing it themselves.

Grace has a way of restoring what shame tried to bury.

And perhaps that is the invitation this week: to believe that God's love reaches deeper than rejection ever could.

**Prayer:**

Redeeming God, continue healing the wounds rejection has left in me. Help me live confidently and compassionately as someone deeply loved by You. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "God is teaching me to believe that I am..."

## **Week 5: Inside Out 2**

### **“Naming What We Carry”**

**Date:** Sunday, June 21

**Primary Scriptures:** Psalm 139:1–12, 2 Timothy 1:7

**Big Idea:** The Spirit meets us honestly in our emotions and leads us toward wholeness.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, June 21**

#### **God Meets Us Honestly**

**Scripture:** Psalm 139:1–3

#### **Reflection:**

One of the most powerful truths in Inside Out 2 is that emotions are not enemies. Fear, anxiety, sadness, joy, embarrassment, anger, and insecurity all become part of the complicated landscape of being human.

Many people grow up believing faith means suppressing emotion. Stay positive. Stay calm. Stay strong. But Scripture tells a different story. The Psalms are filled with grief, confusion, anger, fear, hope, and joy. God does not reject human emotion. God meets people within it.

Psalm 139 reminds us that God knows us completely. Not partially. Not only the polished parts. Completely.

The Spirit does not ask us to become emotionally numb in order to become spiritually mature. Instead, the Spirit leads us toward honesty and wholeness.

Avoided emotions often gain more power, not less. What remains unnamed tends to shape us quietly beneath the surface. Healing begins when we stop hiding from what we carry.

God already knows what is happening inside you. The invitation is not to impress God. The invitation is to become honest enough to be healed.

#### **Prayer:**

God who knows me fully, help me stop hiding from my own emotions. Teach me to trust that You meet me with compassion and truth. Amen.

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Pause several times today and ask yourself honestly: “What am I feeling right now?”

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, June 22**

### **Anxiety Wants To Protect Us**

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:7

**Reflection:**

Inside Out 2 portrays anxiety not as evil, but as overwhelmed protection. Anxiety tries to prevent pain, embarrassment, rejection, or failure by staying hyper-alert at all times.

Many people know this experience intimately.

Anxiety often develops because something inside us is trying desperately to keep us safe. The problem is not that anxiety exists. The problem is when anxiety begins controlling our lives.

Paul reminds Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. This does not mean faithful people never struggle with anxiety. It means fear does not have ultimate authority.

The Spirit gently helps us distinguish between awareness and captivity. Between caution and constant fear.

God's presence does not always remove anxiety instantly. But the Spirit can slowly teach us how to live without letting fear dominate every decision.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of peace, help me hold my anxiety with honesty instead of shame. Teach me how to trust You in the middle of my fears. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

When anxiety rises today, pause and take three slow breaths while praying: "God, stay near."

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, June 23**

### **Emotions Are Not Weakness**

**Scripture:** John 11:35

**Reflection:**

Jesus wept.

That short verse carries enormous spiritual weight. The Son of God did not avoid emotion in order to appear strong. Jesus grieved openly.

Many people have been taught to fear vulnerability. They associate emotional expression with weakness or instability. But emotionally disconnected people often struggle to love deeply, empathize honestly, or heal fully.

Inside Out 2 reminds viewers that emotional complexity is part of maturity, not the opposite of it.

The Spirit does not flatten our humanity. The Spirit deepens it.

Faith is not emotional avoidance. It is learning how to bring our full selves into relationship with God.

There is strength in honest grief. Strength in vulnerability. Strength in naming what hurts instead of pretending everything is fine.

Jesus shows us that tears can be holy too.

**Prayer:**

Compassionate Christ, help me stop treating emotion as weakness. Teach me to live honestly and tenderly with myself and others. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Give yourself permission to feel something today without immediately judging or suppressing it.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, June 24**

**The Spirit Leads Toward Wholeness**

**Scripture:** Galatians 5:22–23

**Reflection:**

The fruit of the Spirit includes peace, patience, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities are not about emotional perfection. They are signs of inner transformation.

Wholeness is different from emotional suppression. Suppression hides emotions. Wholeness helps us integrate them wisely.

Inside Out 2 explores the tension between emotional chaos and emotional maturity. Growing up often means learning how to hold multiple feelings at once. Joy and sadness. Fear and hope. Grief and gratitude.

The Spirit helps us become emotionally grounded people. Not because difficult emotions disappear, but because they no longer control everything.

Spiritual maturity includes emotional maturity.

God's goal is not to erase your humanity. It is to heal and strengthen it.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, continue forming emotional wisdom and wholeness within me. Help me grow in peace, gentleness, and honesty. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one emotional reaction today and ask: "What deeper need or fear might be underneath this?"

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, June 25**

**You Are More Than One Feeling**

**Scripture:** Psalm 42:5

**Reflection:**

One difficult emotion can begin to feel like our entire identity. Anxiety says, "This is who you are now." Grief says, "Joy is gone forever." Shame says, "You will never move beyond this."

But emotions are real without being ultimate.

The psalmist speaks honestly to his own soul: "Why are you cast down?" Notice that sadness is acknowledged, but not allowed to become the whole story.

Inside Out 2 beautifully portrays this truth. Human beings are emotionally layered and constantly changing. No single feeling gets to define an entire life.

The Spirit reminds us that we are larger than our hardest moment.

Feelings deserve compassion and attention, but they do not get final authority over identity or hope.

**Prayer:**

God of hope, remind me that difficult emotions are not the entirety of who I am. Help me hold them with honesty and perspective. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

When a strong emotion rises today, say gently to yourself: "This feeling is real, but it is not the whole story."

---

**Day 6 – Friday, June 26**

**Healing Happens in Connection**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

**Reflection:**

One of the painful effects of emotional struggle is isolation. People often hide anxiety, sadness, shame, or confusion because they fear being misunderstood.

But healing rarely happens in complete isolation.

Throughout Scripture, God continually works through relationship and community. We are strengthened when we are known, supported, encouraged, and loved honestly.

Inside Out 2 reminds us how deeply human beings need connection. Even difficult emotions become more manageable when they are shared rather than hidden.

The Spirit forms communities where honesty is possible. Spaces where people can say, “I’m struggling,” without fear of rejection.

You do not have to carry everything alone.

**Prayer:**

God of connection, help me resist the urge to isolate myself when life feels overwhelming. Lead me toward relationships marked by honesty and compassion. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out to someone you trust and share honestly about how you are doing.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, June 27**

**Held Together By Grace**

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:17

**Reflection:**

At times life can feel emotionally scattered. Conflicting feelings compete inside us. Fear and hope. Joy and sadness. Confidence and insecurity.

Yet Scripture says that in Christ all things hold together.

That includes us.

The goal of spiritual life is not emotional perfection. It is deeper trust that God can hold together what feels fragmented inside us.

Inside Out 2 ends not with flawless emotional control, but with greater self-understanding and integration. That is a deeply spiritual vision of maturity.

The Spirit continues this work within us slowly and compassionately.

You do not have to become less human to become holy.

You are already held together by grace.

**Prayer:**

God who holds all things together, hold my heart, mind, and spirit with compassion.  
Continue forming wholeness within me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "God is helping me become more whole by..."

## **Week 6: Jaws**

### **“Facing What We Fear”**

**Date:** Sunday, June 28

**Primary Scriptures:** Psalm 56:3, Mark 4:35–41, 2 Timothy 1:7

**Big Idea:** The Spirit gives courage to face fear instead of being controlled by it.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, June 28**

#### **Fear Beneath the Surface**

**Scripture:** Psalm 56:3

#### **Reflection:**

One reason *Jaws* became such an iconic film is because the danger is often hidden. The fear lives beneath the surface. People cannot always see it clearly, but they feel its presence everywhere.

That is how fear often works in our lives. Some fears are obvious, but many operate quietly beneath the surface. Fear of failure. Fear of rejection. Fear of loss. Fear of not being enough. Fear of the future.

Fear shapes decisions even when we do not fully acknowledge it. It influences relationships, choices, habits, and expectations. Sometimes fear becomes so familiar that we stop noticing how much control it has over us.

The psalmist does not deny fear. Instead, he speaks honestly: “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

Faith is not pretending fear does not exist. Faith is learning where to turn when fear appears.

The Spirit does not shame us for being afraid. The Spirit helps us face fear without surrendering to it.

Courage begins with honesty.

#### **Prayer:**

God of courage, help me acknowledge the fears that shape my life. Teach me to trust You more deeply than I trust my anxiety. Amen.

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Name one fear that has been quietly influencing your decisions lately. Bring it honestly before God.

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, June 29**

### **Panic Spreads Quickly**

**Scripture:** Mark 4:37–38

**Reflection:**

In Jaws, fear spreads through the entire community. Anxiety becomes contagious. People react emotionally, impulsively, and defensively.

Fear often works this way socially as well. Entire communities can become shaped by panic, outrage, suspicion, or insecurity. Fear narrows perspective. It pushes people toward blame instead of wisdom.

In Mark's Gospel, the disciples panic during the storm while Jesus sleeps nearby. The storm outside becomes a storm inside them.

Fear is not always irrational. Storms are real. Sharks are real. Danger exists. But panic rarely helps people respond wisely.

The Spirit helps us move from panic toward groundedness.

Spirit-filled courage is not denial. It is calm trust in the middle of uncertainty.

That kind of peace becomes especially important in fearful times.

**Prayer:**

Prince of Peace, calm the storms within me when fear begins to take over. Help me respond with wisdom instead of panic. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Pay attention to how fear affects your reactions today. Pause before responding impulsively.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, June 30**

### **Courage Is Not Recklessness**

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 1:7

**Reflection:**

One of the mistakes people sometimes make is confusing courage with recklessness. Courage is not pretending danger is absent. Courage is acting faithfully despite fear.

In Jaws, Chief Brody is not fearless. In fact, he is deeply afraid of the water. But courage grows when he chooses responsibility over avoidance.

The Spirit does not make people careless. The Spirit gives power, love, and self-discipline.

Healthy courage includes wisdom. It acknowledges risk honestly while refusing to become paralyzed by it.

Many spiritual decisions require this kind of courage. Having difficult conversations. Telling the truth. Seeking healing. Starting over. Standing up for justice. Asking for help.

Fear says, "Stay safe at all costs." The Spirit says, "Move faithfully."

There is a difference.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, teach me courageous wisdom. Help me act faithfully without being controlled by fear or recklessness. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself: "Where is fear keeping me stuck when wisdom may be calling me forward?"

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, July 1**

**Naming the Threat Honestly**

**Scripture:** John 8:32

**Reflection:**

Part of the tension in Jaws comes from people refusing to acknowledge the danger honestly. Denial delays healing and protection.

The same thing happens spiritually and emotionally. People often minimize problems because truth feels uncomfortable. Addiction. Burnout. Anxiety. Injustice. Grief. Conflict. Trauma.

But healing rarely begins until truth is named honestly.

Jesus says the truth sets people free, not because truth is always pleasant, but because honesty creates the possibility for transformation.

The Spirit leads people into truth, not avoidance.

Avoidance may create temporary comfort, but it rarely creates lasting peace.

Sometimes courage begins simply by naming what is real.

**Prayer:**

God of truth, help me face honestly what I have been avoiding. Give me courage to trust that truth can lead toward healing. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Identify one difficult truth you have been minimizing or avoiding. Write it down honestly.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, July 2**

**We Need Each Other**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

**Reflection:**

One of the strengths of Jaws is that no single person can solve the crisis alone. The characters need one another's skills, perspective, and support.

Fear often isolates people. It convinces them they must carry everything privately. But Scripture continually points toward shared strength and community.

The Spirit forms people together, not separately.

Some battles are too heavy to carry alone. Grief. Anxiety. Recovery. Parenting. Justice work. Healing from trauma. Spiritual doubt.

Community does not remove fear entirely, but it makes courage more possible.

God often strengthens people through relationships.

The myth of total self-sufficiency leaves many people exhausted and disconnected.

You were never meant to face everything alone.

**Prayer:**

God of community, help me resist isolation when fear grows heavy. Teach me to give and receive support honestly. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out to someone trustworthy today instead of carrying everything privately.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, July 3**

**Fear Does Not Get the Final Word**

**Scripture:** Mark 4:39–40

**Reflection:**

Jesus speaks peace into the storm: “Peace. Be still.”

The storm does not disappear because the disciples were strong enough to control it. Peace arrives through Christ’s presence in the middle of chaos.

Fear often convinces people that chaos is ultimate. That anxiety will always dominate. That darkness will always win.

But resurrection tells another story.

Fear is real, but it is not final.

The Spirit continually reminds people that God remains present even in frightening seasons. Courage grows not because life becomes perfectly safe, but because we are no longer alone within it.

Peace is not the absence of storms. It is the presence of God within them.

**Prayer:**

Christ of peace, speak calm into the storms within me. Help me trust that fear does not have ultimate authority over my life. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Spend five quiet minutes today breathing slowly and repeating: “God is with me here.”

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, July 4**

**Courage Beneath the Surface**

**Scripture:** Psalm 27:1

**Reflection:**

Fear may live beneath the surface, but so does courage.

Many people assume courage means never feeling afraid. But courage often looks quieter than that. It looks like continuing forward while still trembling. Speaking honestly while uncertain. Loving despite vulnerability.

The Spirit forms this kind of courage slowly over time.

Chief Brody never becomes fearless, but he does become willing. That willingness changes everything.

Faith does not eliminate fear permanently. It teaches us how to live faithfully even when fear remains present.

And perhaps that is enough.

Not perfection. Not fearlessness. Just deeper trust that God's presence is stronger than what frightens us.

**Prayer:**

God of courage, continue strengthening my heart in fearful seasons. Help me live with trust, wisdom, and hope. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "This week, God has been helping me face..."

## **Series Title: At the Movies: Where Stories Meet the Spirit**

### **Week 7: Forrest Gump**

#### **“Running Through Grace”**

**Date:** Sunday, July 5

**Primary Scriptures:** Micah 6:8, Romans 8:28, Galatians 6:9

**Big Idea:** God works through ordinary faithfulness, unexpected journeys, and persistent love.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, July 5**

#### **Life Is Bigger Than We Understand**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:28

#### **Reflection:**

Forrest Gump moves through some of the most significant moments in American history almost accidentally. Wars, cultural upheaval, political change, heartbreak, success, grief, and friendship all intersect within one ordinary life.

That is part of what makes the story so compelling. Forrest rarely understands the full significance of what is happening around him. He simply keeps moving forward faithfully.

Life often feels this way spiritually too.

Most people do not understand the meaning of their lives while they are living them. We only see fragments. Small moments. Unfinished stories. We rarely understand how God may be weaving grace through events we cannot fully explain.

Romans says that God works in all things for good for those who love God. Not that all things are good. Not that suffering is easy. But that God continues working even in complicated, painful, unfinished realities.

The Spirit remains active in places that seem random, confusing, or unresolved.

Faith is often less about understanding everything and more about continuing to walk faithfully even when the larger picture remains unclear.

#### **Prayer:**

God of mystery and grace, help me trust that You are still working in the unfinished parts of my life. Teach me to walk faithfully even when I cannot fully see the path. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on one confusing or unresolved area of your life and pray honestly about your questions instead of trying to force certainty.

---

**Day 2 – Monday, July 6****Ordinary Faithfulness Matters**

**Scripture:** Micah 6:8

**Reflection:**

Forrest never sets out trying to become extraordinary. He simply keeps doing the next faithful thing in front of him. He shows kindness. Loyalty. Honesty. Persistence.

The world often celebrates dramatic success, visibility, and influence. But Scripture repeatedly honors ordinary faithfulness.

Micah says that what God requires is simple and profound: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Many people underestimate the spiritual importance of small acts. Caring for family. Showing compassion. Working honestly. Encouraging someone. Remaining loyal. Telling the truth. Continuing to love people through difficult seasons.

The Spirit often works quietly through these ordinary acts of goodness.

Not every faithful life becomes famous. But every faithful act matters to God.

The Kingdom grows through countless unnoticed moments of compassion and integrity.

**Prayer:**

Faithful God, help me stop overlooking the sacredness of ordinary faithfulness. Teach me to love well in the daily rhythms of life. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Choose one ordinary task today and approach it prayerfully instead of rushing through it.

---

**Day 3 – Tuesday, July 7****Running Through Grief**

**Scripture:** Psalm 34:18

**Reflection:**

One of the most emotional parts of Forrest Gump is Forrest's long season of running after deep loss and heartbreak. He cannot fully explain why he runs. He simply keeps moving.

People often carry grief this way.

Some run emotionally. Some stay constantly busy. Some withdraw from relationships. Others keep searching for meaning after painful loss.

Grief changes people. It reshapes identity, expectations, and understanding of the world. But Scripture reminds us that God remains close to the brokenhearted.

The Spirit does not rush grief. God does not shame people for mourning slowly.

Healing is rarely neat or predictable. Some wounds take years to fully understand. Yet God remains patient within the process.

You do not need to have every emotion resolved in order to keep moving forward faithfully.

**Prayer:**

Compassionate God, stay near to me in seasons of grief, confusion, and loss. Help me trust that healing can unfold slowly and honestly. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Take a reflective walk today and speak honestly with God about what still hurts.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, July 8****Love That Keeps Showing Up**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:7

**Reflection:**

Forrest's love for Jenny remains constant despite disappointment, distance, and pain. The relationship is complicated and imperfect, yet Forrest continues showing compassion and care.

Steadfast love is one of the clearest reflections of God's character.

In a culture shaped by convenience and disposability, persistent love becomes deeply countercultural. Loving people consistently through difficulty requires courage, patience, and grace.

This does not mean tolerating harm or avoiding healthy boundaries. But it does mean refusing to let cynicism harden the heart.

The Spirit forms people who continue choosing compassion even after disappointment.

God's love for humanity works this way throughout Scripture. Again and again, grace continues reaching toward people who fail, wander, doubt, or struggle.

Faithful love changes lives slowly over time.

**Prayer:**

God of steadfast love, help me become someone who reflects Your patience, compassion, and faithfulness in my relationships. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out intentionally to someone who may need encouragement or support today.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, July 9**

**You Do Not Have To Be Extraordinary**

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 12:9

**Reflection:**

Forrest succeeds in many surprising ways, but not because he becomes impressive by the world's standards. In many ways, his simplicity becomes part of his strength.

People often believe they must become extraordinary before their lives can matter spiritually. More talented. More influential. More polished. More successful.

But God continually works through imperfect and ordinary people.

Paul writes that God's power is made perfect in weakness.

This truth is freeing because it means your value does not depend on being exceptional. God's grace does not require perfection or brilliance in order to work through a person's life.

The Spirit often works most deeply through sincerity, humility, compassion, and openness.

You do not need to become someone else before God can use your life meaningfully.

**Prayer:**

God of grace, free me from the pressure to prove my worth through achievement or comparison. Help me trust that Your Spirit works through ordinary people every day. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice where comparison or insecurity has been shaping your self-worth and pray honestly about it.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, July 10****Grace in Unfinished Stories**

**Scripture:** Philippians 1:6

**Reflection:**

No one in Forrest Gump has a perfectly resolved life. Every character carries wounds, regrets, questions, and unfinished healing.

That feels deeply true to real life.

Many people secretly believe they are failing spiritually because their lives still contain struggle, uncertainty, or emotional complexity. But Scripture consistently tells stories of unfinished people being shaped by grace.

Peter doubted. David failed. Thomas questioned. Martha worried. Yet God continued working in them all.

The Spirit does not abandon unfinished people.

God's grace remains active in the middle of the process.

Faith is not about reaching flawless perfection. It is about continuing to trust that God is still shaping, healing, and forming us over time.

Your unfinished story is still holy ground.

**Prayer:**

God who continues good work in imperfect people, help me trust Your grace within my unfinished story. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Offer yourself compassion today in an area where you feel frustrated by slow growth or unresolved struggle.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, July 11****Trusting the Journey**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5–6

**Reflection:**

The feather drifting through Forrest Gump becomes a symbol of life's unpredictability. Sometimes life feels directed. Other times it feels random and uncertain.

Most people wrestle with that tension eventually.

Faith does not provide complete explanations for every mystery. But it does offer companionship within uncertainty.

The Spirit often leads gradually rather than giving complete clarity all at once.

Trust grows one step at a time.

Forrest's life reminds viewers that meaning is often discovered while moving forward, not before the journey begins. The same is true spiritually.

You may not understand every chapter of your life right now. But God remains present within the story.

Grace continues moving even when the path feels unclear.

**Prayer:**

God of every journey, help me trust You in uncertainty and transition. Guide my steps even when I cannot fully see where the road leads. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "God is teaching me to trust..."

## **Week 8: Interstellar**

### **“Love Across the Distance”**

**Date:** Sunday, July 12

**Primary Scriptures:** Romans 8:38–39, Psalm 8:3–4, Hebrews 11:1

**Big Idea:** Even in uncertainty, loss, and distance, love remains one of the strongest forces binding humanity together.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, July 12**

#### **Small Beneath the Stars**

**Scripture:** Psalm 8:3–4

**Reflection:**

Interstellar begins with humanity facing crisis. The earth is failing. Resources are disappearing. The future feels uncertain and fragile. Against the backdrop of space, human beings appear impossibly small.

Most people experience moments like this spiritually. Times when life feels overwhelming and we feel insignificant within a vast and complicated world.

The psalmist looks at the heavens and asks a deeply human question: “What are human beings that you are mindful of them?”

The wonder of Scripture is not that humanity is large or powerful. The wonder is that God remains attentive to us anyway.

The Spirit reminds us that smallness does not equal worthlessness.

Modern life often makes people feel invisible. Lost in systems, schedules, expectations, and anxieties. But the Gospel insists that every human life carries sacred value.

God sees us fully, even beneath enormous skies.

And somehow, in the mystery of grace, the Creator of galaxies continues caring deeply about ordinary people and fragile lives.

**Prayer:**

Creator God, when I feel small or overwhelmed, remind me that I am still deeply known and loved by You. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Spend a few quiet moments outside today noticing the sky, the trees, or the world around you. Let awe become prayer.

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, July 13**

### **Faith in the Unknown**

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:1

**Reflection:**

Much of *Interstellar* is shaped by uncertainty. The characters move toward unknown worlds, uncertain outcomes, and impossible decisions. They act without guarantees.

Faith often feels this way too.

People sometimes imagine faith as certainty, but Scripture describes faith differently. Hebrews says faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Faith is not complete control over the future. It is trust strong enough to keep moving forward even when clarity is incomplete.

This kind of faith is difficult because uncertainty makes people uncomfortable. We want maps. Explanations. Timelines. Proof.

But the Spirit often leads people one step at a time rather than revealing the entire journey all at once.

Abraham traveled without knowing where the road would lead. The disciples followed Jesus without understanding the full story. Resurrection itself required trusting beyond visible evidence.

Faith is not blindness. It is courageous trust in the middle of uncertainty.

**Prayer:**

God of the unknown future, help me trust You when clarity feels incomplete. Teach me to move forward faithfully even when I cannot see the whole path. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Identify one area where uncertainty has been creating anxiety. Pray honestly about it instead of trying to control it.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, July 14**

### **Love Reaches Across Distance**

**Scripture:** Romans 8:38–39

**Reflection:**

One of the deepest themes in *Interstellar* is the persistence of love across separation, time, and distance. Again and again, the story suggests that love is not weakened by absence.

That truth resonates spiritually because so many people carry experiences of distance. Distance from loved ones. Distance created by grief, conflict, transition, or loss. Sometimes even distance from God.

Paul writes that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Nothing.

Not death. Not fear. Not time. Not distance. Not uncertainty.

The Spirit continually reminds people that love remains present even when circumstances change dramatically.

Human relationships may struggle under distance, but love still leaves marks on the heart. It continues shaping memory, identity, hope, and connection.

God's love works this way too. Even when God feels distant emotionally, grace remains present.

Love is often stronger and more enduring than we realize.

**Prayer:**

God of enduring love, remind me that I am never truly separated from Your presence and care. Strengthen the relationships in my life that feel strained by distance or loss. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out intentionally to someone you miss or have not connected with recently.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, July 15****Time Changes Us**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 3:1

**Reflection:**

Time functions strangely in *Interstellar*. Years pass differently depending on where the characters are standing. Some relationships change dramatically while others remain emotionally frozen in place.

Time affects all of us this way.

Some seasons feel endless. Others disappear quickly. Relationships evolve. People grow. Grief softens slowly. Children become adults. Entire chapters of life shift before we fully process them.

Ecclesiastes reminds us there is a season for everything.

The Spirit works within time, not outside it. Healing takes time. Growth takes time. Forgiveness takes time. Trust takes time.

Many people become frustrated with themselves for not healing or changing faster. But spiritual formation is rarely instant.

God is patient with process.

You are allowed to grow gradually.

**Prayer:**

Patient God, help me trust Your work within the timing of my life. Teach me patience with myself and with others. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on one area where growth has been slower than you hoped. Offer yourself grace instead of frustration.

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, July 16**

**Hope in Fragile Worlds**

**Scripture:** Romans 15:13

**Reflection:**

Interstellar portrays humanity struggling to survive in a fragile world. Fear, scarcity, and uncertainty shape nearly every decision.

That reality feels familiar in many ways today.

People carry anxiety about the future. Climate fears. Political division. Economic uncertainty. Violence. Loneliness. Exhaustion.

Hope can begin to feel naive in difficult times.

But biblical hope is not denial. It is resilience rooted in God's presence.

The Spirit does not ignore suffering. The Spirit sustains people within it.

Romans says that God fills people with joy and peace in believing so they may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope is not pretending everything is fine. It is refusing to believe darkness is ultimate. Even fragile worlds remain places where grace can grow.

**Prayer:**

God of hope, strengthen my heart when the world feels heavy or uncertain. Help me carry hope honestly and courageously. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one sign of beauty, kindness, or goodness today and give thanks for it intentionally.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, July 17**

**Sacrifice for the Sake of Love**

**Scripture:** John 15:13

**Reflection:**

Interstellar asks difficult questions about sacrifice. What are people willing to give up for those they love? What responsibilities do we carry toward future generations?

Love often requires sacrifice.

Not unhealthy self-erasure, but meaningful surrender for the sake of another person's well-being.

Parents understand this deeply. Caregivers understand it. Anyone who has loved through hardship understands it.

Jesus describes the greatest love as laying down one's life for others.

The Spirit forms this kind of self-giving compassion within people slowly over time.

In a culture focused heavily on individual fulfillment, sacrificial love becomes increasingly countercultural.

But love has always carried cost.

And still, love remains worth it.

**Prayer:**

God of self-giving love, help me grow in compassion, generosity, and courage. Teach me how to love others faithfully and wisely. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Choose one act of sacrifice today that genuinely helps or supports another person.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, July 18**

**Held Together By Love**

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:17

**Reflection:**

Interstellar suggests that love may be one of the few forces capable of transcending human limitation. Spiritually, that idea echoes something deeply true.

Scripture says that in Christ all things hold together.

Love holds families together. Communities together. Friendships together. Hope together.

Without love, human life fragments quickly into fear, isolation, and self-interest.

The Spirit continually forms people into deeper love because love reflects the very nature of God.

Not shallow sentimentality, but enduring commitment to compassion, mercy, justice, connection, and grace.

At the center of the Gospel is not fear. Not power. Not achievement.

Love.

And perhaps that is the deepest spiritual truth beneath both Scripture and stories like Interstellar: even in vast, uncertain, fragile worlds, love still matters most.

**Prayer:**

God of eternal love, hold my life together through Your grace. Help me become someone who reflects love faithfully in a fearful world. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: “This week, love has been teaching me...”

## **Week 9: Rocky**

### **“Keep Getting Up”**

**Date:** Sunday, July 19

**Primary Scriptures:** Philippians 3:13–14, 2 Corinthians 4:8–9, Isaiah 40:31

**Big Idea:** The Spirit forms perseverance, resilience, and hope through struggle and endurance.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, July 19**

#### **More Than Winning**

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:13–14

#### **Reflection:**

At its heart, Rocky is not really about boxing. It is about dignity. Perseverance. Hope. It is about a man trying to believe his life matters despite years of disappointment and limitation.

Rocky does not begin as a champion. He begins as someone overlooked. Struggling financially. Carrying insecurity. Wondering whether his life has amounted to much.

Many people know that feeling.

The world often measures worth by visible success, achievement, popularity, or status. But Scripture continually points toward a deeper vision of faithfulness.

Paul writes about pressing forward toward the goal, not because he has already arrived, but because he refuses to let the past define the future.

Rocky’s deepest victory is not the final score of the fight. It is that he keeps going. He discovers strength he did not know he possessed.

The Spirit works this way in people too.

God often forms resilience long before visible breakthrough arrives.

Faithfulness is not always glamorous. Sometimes holiness looks like simply refusing to quit.

#### **Prayer:**

God of perseverance, strengthen me when I grow discouraged or weary. Help me continue moving forward with courage and hope. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on one area where you feel tempted to give up. Pray honestly about what continuing forward could look like.

---

**Day 2 – Monday, July 20****The Power of Small Steps**

**Scripture:** Zechariah 4:10

**Reflection:**

One of the most memorable parts of Rocky is the training. Early mornings. Small improvements. Repeated effort. Growth happens gradually.

Transformation rarely happens instantly.

The Spirit often works through small, repeated acts of faithfulness rather than dramatic overnight change. Prayer. Rest. Honesty. Forgiveness. Courage. Healthy choices. Compassion. One day at a time.

Many people become discouraged because they expect immediate results. But spiritual formation is usually slow work.

Small steps matter more than we realize.

Scripture warns against despising small beginnings because God often builds lasting change patiently over time.

Rocky becomes stronger not because of one perfect moment, but because he keeps showing up consistently.

The same is true spiritually.

You do not have to transform your entire life overnight. Faithfulness grows gradually.

**Prayer:**

Patient God, help me trust the slow work of growth and transformation. Teach me to value faithfulness in small things. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Choose one small healthy spiritual practice today and commit to it consistently rather than perfectly.

---

**Day 3 – Tuesday, July 21**

## **Getting Back Up**

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

### **Reflection:**

Rocky gets knocked down repeatedly. Physically. Emotionally. Socially. Yet the story keeps returning to the same truth: he gets back up.

Life does this to people too.

Disappointment. Rejection. Failure. Grief. Anxiety. Loss. There are seasons when people feel beaten down by circumstances beyond their control.

Paul writes that believers may be afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, or struck down, but not destroyed.

That distinction matters.

Pain is real, but pain is not ultimate.

The Spirit strengthens people not by preventing every hardship, but by helping them rise again after difficulty.

Resilience is deeply spiritual.

Not shallow positivity. Not pretending suffering does not hurt. Real resilience acknowledges pain honestly while refusing to surrender hope completely.

Getting back up is holy work.

### **Prayer:**

God of resilience, help me rise again when life feels heavy or discouraging. Remind me that hardship does not define my future. Amen.

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Think about a past struggle you survived. Spend time thanking God for the strength that carried you through it.

---

## **Day 4 – Wednesday, July 22**

### **Fighting the Right Battles**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 6:12

### **Reflection:**

Rocky appears to be about fighting an opponent, but the deeper battle is internal. Fear. Self-worth. Identity. Belonging.

Many of the hardest battles people fight are invisible.

Anxiety. Shame. Addiction. Loneliness. Cynicism. Bitterness. Self-hatred. Despair.

Scripture reminds believers that spiritual struggle is often deeper than external conflict.

The Spirit helps people discern which battles truly matter.

Not every argument deserves energy. Not every competition deserves participation. Not every cultural expectation deserves obedience.

Some battles are about ego. Others are about healing, justice, truth, and freedom.

Spiritual maturity includes learning where to invest emotional and spiritual energy wisely.

The goal is not simply to fight harder. It is to fight faithfully.

**Prayer:**

Holy Spirit, help me discern the battles that truly matter. Give me wisdom to resist what harms my soul and courage to pursue what brings life. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself honestly: "What unnecessary struggle is draining my energy right now?"

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, July 23**

**Strength Through Community**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

**Reflection:**

Rocky's growth does not happen alone. Mickey trains him. Adrian supports him. Community becomes part of his transformation.

People are rarely strengthened in isolation.

The myth of self-sufficiency leaves many exhausted and disconnected. Scripture consistently emphasizes encouragement, support, accountability, and shared strength.

The Spirit forms people together.

Healthy community reminds people of their worth when they forget. Challenges them to grow. Supports them when life feels overwhelming.

Even strong people need encouragement.

No one carries every burden alone forever without eventually becoming weary.

God often strengthens people through relationships.

**Prayer:**

God of community, help me remain open to support, encouragement, and connection. Teach me to both give and receive strength in relationships. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out to someone who has encouraged or supported you and thank them intentionally.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, July 24**

**Hope Changes How We Fight**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:31

**Reflection:**

Rocky trains differently once he begins believing transformation is possible. Hope changes his posture, energy, and endurance.

Hope changes people spiritually too.

Without hope, people become cynical, numb, or resigned. But hope creates endurance.

Isaiah says those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. It is trust that God remains active even when circumstances feel difficult.

The Spirit renews weary people slowly and steadily.

Not by removing every obstacle immediately, but by strengthening hearts to keep moving faithfully.

Hope gives people courage to continue.

And sometimes continuing is itself an act of faith.

**Prayer:**

God of hope, renew my strength when I feel exhausted or discouraged. Help me keep moving forward with trust and perseverance. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Identify one area where you need renewed hope and pray specifically for strength there.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, July 25**

## **Victory Looks Different in the Kingdom**

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:26

### **Reflection:**

By the world's standards, victory is usually measured by domination, success, wealth, or recognition.

But Rocky challenges that idea. The deeper triumph is not fame or applause. It is dignity, courage, growth, and perseverance.

The Kingdom of God measures victory differently too.

Faithfulness matters more than status. Compassion matters more than power. Integrity matters more than image.

The Spirit forms people whose worth is not dependent on worldly definitions of success.

Sometimes victory means healing instead of hiding. Telling the truth instead of pretending. Continuing to love despite disappointment. Refusing to let bitterness win.

God's vision of victory is rooted in transformation, not performance.

And that kind of victory lasts longer than applause ever will.

### **Prayer:**

God of true victory, reshape the way I define success and worth. Help me pursue faithfulness, love, and integrity above all else. Amen.

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: "This week, God has been teaching me that real strength looks like..."

## **Week 10: Top Gun: Maverick**

### **“Learning To Trust Again”**

**Date:** Sunday, July 26

**Primary Scriptures:** Isaiah 40:31, Proverbs 3:5–6, John 15:13

**Big Idea:** The Spirit teaches us courage, humility, trust, and the healing power of reconciliation.

---

### **Day 1 – Sunday, July 26**

#### **Carrying the Weight of the Past**

**Scripture:** Psalm 32:3–5

**Reflection:**

Top Gun: Maverick is filled with people carrying unfinished pain. Regret. Loss. Guilt. Broken relationships. Old grief quietly shapes almost every character in the story.

Many people live this way spiritually and emotionally. The past continues influencing the present long after events are over. Sometimes guilt becomes so familiar that people stop imagining healing is possible.

Maverick especially carries the burden of Goose’s death and the complicated relationship with Rooster that followed. Even years later, unresolved pain still affects how he sees himself and others.

The Spirit often begins healing by inviting honesty.

Psalm 32 describes the exhaustion of carrying hidden pain alone. Silence becomes heavy. Avoidance drains life. But confession and honesty begin opening space for grace.

God does not heal people through denial. God heals through truth, compassion, and reconciliation.

You do not need to pretend the past did not hurt in order to move forward faithfully.

**Prayer:**

God of healing, help me face the unresolved pain and regret I still carry. Give me courage to bring my whole story honestly before You. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Write honestly about one burden from your past that still affects you emotionally or spiritually.

---

## **Day 2 – Monday, July 27**

### **Courage Is Not the Absence of Fear**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 40:31

**Reflection:**

One of the central themes in Top Gun: Maverick is courage under pressure. But the film wisely shows that even highly skilled people still experience fear, uncertainty, and vulnerability.

Real courage is not fearlessness.

The pilots understand the risks clearly. Their courage comes from continuing faithfully despite fear.

The same is true spiritually.

People often imagine strong faith means never doubting, struggling, or feeling anxious. But Scripture tells story after story of fearful people continuing to trust God anyway.

Isaiah promises that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Strength in Scripture is rarely arrogance or invulnerability. It is resilient trust.

The Spirit helps people remain steady in difficult situations. Not because danger disappears, but because fear no longer controls every decision.

Faithful courage grows slowly over time through trust, wisdom, and perseverance.

**Prayer:**

God of courage, strengthen me when fear feels overwhelming. Help me move forward faithfully even when uncertainty remains. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one fear you have been avoiding and pray honestly about it instead of pretending it is not there.

---

## **Day 3 – Tuesday, July 28**

### **Trusting Other People Again**

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

**Reflection:**

Top Gun: Maverick is not only about flying. It is about trust.

The mission requires teamwork, vulnerability, humility, and dependence on others. No one succeeds alone.

Trust can feel difficult after disappointment or betrayal. Many people become emotionally guarded because vulnerability once led to pain. Over time, self-protection begins replacing connection.

But isolation rarely leads to healing.

The Spirit continually forms people in community. Relationships become places where courage, wisdom, accountability, and healing grow.

Healthy trust does not mean ignoring boundaries or wisdom. It means remaining open to connection despite the risks that relationships involve.

Maverick slowly learns that leadership is not about carrying everything alone. It is about empowering others and allowing mutual trust to develop.

Faith grows stronger in honest community.

**Prayer:**

God of relationship, help me heal the fears and wounds that make trust difficult. Teach me how to build healthy, life-giving relationships. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out intentionally to someone you trust and have an honest conversation instead of staying emotionally guarded.

---

**Day 4 – Wednesday, July 29**

**Humility Makes Growth Possible**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 11:2

**Reflection:**

One reason Maverick struggles at times is because confidence can slowly become pride. Yet growth only happens when people remain teachable.

Humility is not insecurity or self-hatred. Humility is openness to learning.

The Spirit continually invites people into deeper wisdom, but pride resists growth because pride fears vulnerability.

Scripture consistently connects humility with wisdom because humble people remain open to transformation.

Many spiritual struggles become worse when people refuse correction, accountability, or honesty. Pride isolates people from growth.

Maverick slowly learns that leadership requires humility. Listening. Trusting others. Letting go of control.

The Spirit forms this same humility in us gradually.

Growth begins when defensiveness softens.

**Prayer:**

God of wisdom, help me remain humble and teachable. Free me from pride that keeps me from growth and deeper connection. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself honestly: "Where have I become defensive instead of open to learning?"

---

**Day 5 – Thursday, July 30**

**Reconciliation Changes People**

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:23–24

**Reflection:**

One of the emotional centers of Top Gun: Maverick is the strained relationship between Maverick and Rooster. Grief, misunderstanding, and resentment created years of distance.

Reconciliation is difficult because it requires vulnerability from everyone involved.

Many people avoid reconciliation because they fear rejection, conflict, or reopening painful wounds. Yet unresolved relationships often continue affecting people internally for years.

Jesus speaks seriously about reconciliation because broken relationships affect the soul deeply.

The Spirit moves people toward healing conversations, honest apologies, forgiveness, and restored connection where possible.

Not every relationship can or should be restored fully. Wisdom and safety matter. But reconciliation remains one of the Spirit's deepest works.

Healing relationships often begins with humility and honesty.

Grace creates space for difficult conversations that lead toward life.

**Prayer:**

God of reconciliation, help me move toward healing where relationships have been broken. Give me wisdom, humility, and courage in difficult conversations. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Pray intentionally for one strained relationship in your life and ask God what healing could look like there.

---

**Day 6 – Friday, July 31****Passing Wisdom Forward**

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 2:2

**Reflection:**

Top Gun: Maverick ultimately becomes a story about mentorship and legacy. Maverick learns that his role is no longer simply proving himself. It is helping prepare others.

Spiritual maturity includes this shift too.

There comes a point when faith becomes less about personal achievement and more about investing in others. Encouraging. Teaching. Supporting. Guiding.

The Spirit forms communities where wisdom is shared across generations.

No one reaches maturity entirely alone. Most people can identify mentors, teachers, friends, parents, pastors, or loved ones who shaped them through encouragement and guidance.

Part of faithful living is becoming that kind of presence for others.

Your wisdom, experience, compassion, and honesty may help strengthen someone else more than you realize.

**Prayer:**

God of wisdom and legacy, help me encourage and strengthen others with the life and lessons You have given me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reach out to someone younger or less experienced and offer encouragement, support, or wisdom.

---

**Day 7 – Saturday, August 1****Trusting the Mission Ahead**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5–6

**Reflection:**

By the end of Top Gun: Maverick, the mission is still dangerous, uncertain, and costly. But something has changed. Fear no longer dominates the story. Trust does.

Trust in one another. Trust in preparation. Trust in courage. Trust in purpose.

Faith often feels this way too.

The future remains uncertain. Life stays fragile and unpredictable. Yet the Spirit continually teaches people how to move forward with deeper trust.

Not blind optimism. Trust.

Proverbs reminds believers to trust in the Lord rather than relying solely on their own understanding.

That trust does not remove all uncertainty. But it creates courage to continue moving forward faithfully.

The Spirit does not promise perfectly safe journeys. The Spirit promises presence, wisdom, and strength along the way.

And often, that becomes enough.

**Prayer:**

Faithful God, help me trust You with the mission, calling, and future ahead of me. Lead me with wisdom, courage, and peace. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Finish this sentence prayerfully: “God is teaching me to trust...”