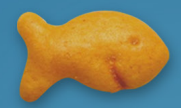


# CAFFEINE, GOLDFISH, & JESUS



A DEVOTION FOR  
KIDS MINISTRY LEADERS

## A DEVOTION FOR KIDS MINISTRY LEADERS

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# INTRODUCTION

As a kids ministry leader, you probably tend to consume lots of **CAFFEINE** to have the energy needed for the role God has called you to do and you've probably given out more **GOLDFISH** than anyone can imagine. As you dive into this devotional resource, may your walk with Him be strengthened as you spend time with **JESUS** and meditate on His Word each day.



This 12-month devotional guide, “CAFFEINE, GOLDFISH, & JESUS” was created by 18 men and women who serve kids and children’s ministry leaders in various state conventions. We know you face specific challenges and opportunities in your role, and it is our prayer that God will reveal Himself to you as you read the devotions, Bible passages, and prayer prompts. Each month introduces a new theme. Each week begins with a Bible passage, devotion, and prayer prompt. For the following days, we encourage you to read the Scripture and consider the prayer prompt.

**Get ready to grab some caffeine, goldfish, and your Bible and enjoy spending time with Jesus.**





# JANUARY : JOY

## Sing a New Song

WEEK 1

**Contributor:** David Anderson, Children's Ministry Strategist  
Louisiana Baptist Convention



## DAY 1

Sing a new song to the lord; let the whole earth sing to the lord. Sing to the lord, bless his name; proclaim his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.

Psalm 96:1-3, CSB

It is here! A whole new year. A clean slate of hope-filled dreams and unmet expectations. In the midst of turning the page, we are challenged to sing a new song. But how many of us are walking into this new year with the same plans and same attitude from the past year?

This is our chance to leave old things behind and embrace what God has laid out before us. Five different times in the Psalms we are commanded to a new song. The Lord is not talking about a hymn or a chorus. Rather, He is urging us to see the newness of every day and every opportunity. When we take the position of recognizing His hand in every moment and making that proclamation the song of our life, only then will the whole earth sing along with us. When we proclaim His salvation daily, then we will discover the true meaning of daily joy. When we declare His glory among all peoples, then we find our own selves living in an unshakable joy that will carry into any plans that He has for us in the coming year.

**Prayer Prompt:** Today commit yourself to be fully present in every day this year. Allow yourself to sing your life song about Him in a way that all peoples will see who He truly is. Take a moment and pray, asking the Lord to show you His new mercies every morning and to give you the strength to proclaim it daily.



## DAY 2

Come, let's shout joyfully to the Lord,  
shout triumphantly to the rock of  
our salvation!

Psalm 95:1, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Take a moment to praise God for the joy that He brings into our lives. Then ask Him to give you the courage to not just whisper about this joy that lives inside of you. Instead, ask Him to give you a boldness to share the joy of your salvation with all those around you.

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## DAY 3

The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coasts and islands be glad.

Psalm 97:1, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** The command to sing a new song that we saw in Psalm 96 is bookended by Psalms 96 and 97 which both begin with commands to shout joyfully and rejoice. This is not a coincidence or a mistake. Pray today and thank the Lord for His reign in your life. Ask Him to help you rejoice in a true reflection of all that He means to you today.

## DAY 4

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant!  
You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.  
Share your master's joy."

Matthew 25:23, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Take a moment to praise God for the joy that He brings into our lives. Then ask Him to give you the courage to not just whisper about this joy that lives inside of you. Instead, ask Him to give you a boldness to share the joy of your salvation with all those around you.

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## DAY 5

"And others are like seed sown on rocky ground.  
When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy."

Mark 4:16, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Have you ever seen people that have heard the Word and received the Word with great wonder and joy? Those are the sweetest moments when we see a new dawn light in a child's eyes as they discover new things about God. Today ask God to remind you of your first love and the joy that you experienced when you first received the gift of salvation. Ask Him to bring that joy to you as you continue to learn more about Him every day.

DAY 6

“I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance.”

Luke 15:7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Scripture is clear about the joy in heaven when someone turns to Christ in repentance. If you are in a season of discouragement, remember this truth. The joy that comes from the Father is often centered around those discovering and committing to Christ. Ask God today to give you the opportunity to share this joy with someone. Nothing can lift one’s spirit and bring evidence of joy like being part of sharing the gospel with someone and watching them step into new life.

DAY 7

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.

Galatians 5:22-23, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** We must remember that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. In this remembrance we must never forget that joy is not an option for a believer. It is also not a goal to be achieved. Rather, it is a natural result of living in the Spirit. Thank God today for the joy that He brings into your life as a believer. Determine to live in the Spirit daily so that you may experience the joy that is a natural result of that living.

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# JANUARY: JOY

## Where Joy Starts

WEEK 2

**Contributor:** David Anderson, Children's Ministry Strategist  
Louisiana Baptist Convention

## DAY 1

WEEK 2

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”

Matthew 6:33, CSB



Let's take a fresh look at where our joy originates. True joy flows directly from our relationship with Christ. Someone once said happiness comes from happenstance or our circumstance. But joy comes directly from God. He is the source of our joy and the replenisher of our joy. No long-lasting joy exists outside of our relationship with Him. When the trials of life present themselves – and they will – we may tend to feel overwhelmed and forget what we truly have in Him.

Deep joy is a character trait that is unexplainable. It sees us through our darkest days and offers hope. This does not mean a denial of the reality of life. Instead, it means that our joy comes only from Him and encourages us to maintain our focus on Him. This week we will be looking at a wonderful hymn that is all about joy. It is known as a Christmas hymn in many churches, but it's words are timeless and applicable to a life of joy.

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**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God today for the joy that He provides in every situation. Take time to remember joyful times in the past and look toward the plans for your future. In both situations, attempt to focus and see that God was (and will be) working it all out for good for those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Spend some moments just expressing your joy in Him.



## DAY 2

## “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flow’rs  
before You, Op’ning to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!

Verse One

**Prayer Prompt:** In today’s prayer time, focus on the way you worship the Lord on a daily basis. Are you truly able to sing “joyful, joyful, we adore thee?” Our worship should be punctuated with a deep joy for who He is. As this verse says, He melts the clouds of sin and sadness and drives the dark of doubt away. Thank Him for being a God that loves you so much that He wants to share His joy with you and allows you to return that joy back to Him in praise before Him.

## DAY 3

## “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heav’n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise; Field and forest,  
vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea, Chanting bird and flowing  
fountain Praising You eternally!

Verse Two

**Prayer Prompt:** Stop and realize that you have a choice. You can either join all creation in praising Him or you can choose to not to join in. However, He will be praised! Join in with all creation and praise Him today and surround Him with joy for all that He has created, including YOU.

## DAY 4

## “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest, Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest! Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon  
us shine; Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.

Verse Three

**Prayer Prompt:** Look at the words of this verse and allow your heart to soak into the reality of what it is saying. In your prayer time, thank Him for all He truly does for you and all that He means to you. Nothing else will bring you joy like that thought and then you will begin to understand how that “lifts us to the joy divine.”

## DAY 5

## “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;  
God’s own love is reigning o’er us, Joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Verse Four

**Prayer Prompt:** By now, you should be humming this hymn over and over. This is a great thing since this last verse invites us mortals to join the mighty chorus and march onward. The key to catch in this last verse is to see that this joyful and triumphant way of living is actually our song of life. Praise Him today for the opportunity to join others hand in hand in singing His praise and being drawn ever onward and upward to a joyful life in Him.



## DAY 6

“I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy”  
 I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)  
 Down in my heart to stay

Georgia William Cooke (1925)

**Prayer Prompt:** In your prayer time today, turn now to the timeless song of joy from our children. All week we have focused on worship and joy and the realization that it all comes from the Father. Now with this simple song, rejoice in the fact that because of Him we have this joy deep down in our heart and it is there to stay. Thank Him for the joy He has brought to your life and sing this simple song in pure joy.

## DAY 7

You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy;  
 at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

Psalm 16:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** What an incredible promise that we find abundant joy in His presence. Today, as we end our second week focusing on joy, spend your time just praising Him. Sing out “The Hymn of Joy” and “I’ve Got the Joy” both. It will lead you to understand how amazing how God is and how much joy His presence actually brings. Finish this week in a personal worship and prayer time of joy.

# JANUARY : JOY

## Shouts of Joy

WEEK 3

**Contributor:** David Anderson, Children's Ministry Strategist,  
Louisiana Baptist Convention



## DAY 1

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Our mouths were filled with laughter then, and our tongues with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord had done great things for us; we were joyful. Restore our fortunes, Lord, like watercourses in the Negev Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. Though one goes along weeping, carrying the bag of seed, he will surely come back with shouts of joy, carrying his sheaves.

Psalm 126, CSB

Psalm 126 is considered a Psalm of Ascent. These Psalms were the songs that the nation of Israel would sing as they ascended up to Jerusalem for the annual festivals. This song book of the people reminded them of the goodness of God and His promises. We can learn much from these songs.

Eugene Peterson has written a wonderful book that walks through them called “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction.” It speaks of how each Psalm has a theme. The theme of Psalm 126 is JOY. This is obvious in that the word joy appears four times in these six short verses. This week we will explore those four instances and see what brought God’s people joy and how that can apply to us today.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to give you a joy for all that He has done. Thank Him for your journey to this point and make a commitment to allow joy to mark your journey up that mountain toward the amazing city of God.





## DAY 2

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
Our mouths were filled with laughter then, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Psalm 126:1-2a, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Think back to the major struggles of your life when you felt far from God. Remember the ways that He was there, even when it didn't feel like it. Then take a moment and recall the joy you felt when that burden or struggle was lifted. Just bask in that moment again and thank God for His deliverance in every moment and every situation.

## DAY 3

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord had done great things for us; we were joyful.

Psalm 126:2b-3, CBS

**Prayer Prompt:** Contemplate what the world says about Christians in general. Then take a moment and evaluate what those around you think about you. Do the nations say, "The Lord has done great things for them" about your life? Walk in joy and watch how the world responds to you and your life. On this day, decide to walk in joy and see how the world reacts, then celebrate in your joyfulness for all that the Lord has done for you.

## DAY 4

Restore our fortunes, Lord, like watercourses in the Negev.  
Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

Psalm 126:4-5, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** In today's prayer time, do not shy away from the hurts in your life. Give those hurts, pain, and tears over to God and allow Him to begin healing in a way that only He can. Now spend some time thanking Him for that healing and embrace the joy that only He offers as you walk out of those hurts with shouts of joy.

## DAY 5

Though one goes along weeping, carrying the bag of seed,  
he will surely come back with shouts of joy, carrying his sheaves.

Psalm 126:6, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Yesterday was focused on hurts and struggles that the Lord is healing in our lives. Today the focus is on hurts that continue with us in our journey. However, notice that when we sow in tears, we will still reap a harvest of joy when we trust Him. His promise to us is that the result of our lives will be joy. Embrace that today and spend time thanking Him that the result of your life will be unending joy in His presence.

## DAY 6

Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness.

John 1:16, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Allow this verse to permeate your thoughts today. There are no limits to grace that streams from His fullness. As John says in verse 16, “We have all received grace upon grace.” That should bring joy to any heart. Sometimes just sitting in the realization of the grace you have received from Him is all that you need to experience joy. Revel in that today.

## DAY 7

You will indeed go out with joy and be peacefully guided;  
the mountains and the hills will break into singing before you,  
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands

Isaiah 55:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** The promises of God seem to go on forever and can be found around every corner. This promise in Isaiah is a moment of a wonderful concert where humankind and all of nature will “go out with joy” in constant praise. Spend time in joyful prayer and thankfulness as you wait expectantly for that amazing day. In the meantime, go out with joy, and don’t wait for sometime in the future to do so.

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# JANUARY : JOY

## Finding Joy in Our Ministry

WEEK 4

**Contributor:** Kris Buckman, Children’s and Youth Ministry Consultant,  
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware



### DAY 1

## Weeping may stay overnight, but there is joy in the morning.

Psalms 30:5b, CSB

I love a new start! The new year, a new month, a new week, even a new day – each gives us a chance to start over, to try again, to begin with a fresh attitude. How many times have you driven home from church thinking, “That’s it! I’m done! I can’t do this anymore, Lord!”

Whether that one volunteer didn’t show up again (without any notice), that one child must’ve been fed extra sugar before coming to church, or the lesson completely flopped, we are blessed with the opportunity to regroup at the end of each day and start again in the morning. Tomorrow is a new day to show grace to your leaders (as much as God has shown you!), a new day to welcome even the rowdiest of children, and a new day to tackle a new lesson.

In times like these, I find it helps to pray and to do something right then and there to bring you immediate joy. Maybe it’s a trip to Starbucks or a long, hot bath, or your favorite meal. Then, take a deep breath and remember why it is you do what you do. Recall the “wins” of your ministry, like the child who took time to say thank you, the parent who told you their child was excited to come to church this morning, or the feeling you got when you saw the joy on a child’s face after finding a Bible verse on his/her own for the first time!

God sheds new joy on us each morning if we leave yesterday where it belongs.

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**Prayer Prompt:** Praise God that we are renewed each day! Praise God that we can find joy in even the hardest of circumstances. Ask God to show you the joy He has for you today and begin with a deep breath and new song in your heart.

## DAY 2

Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish,  
for his mercies never end.  
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

Lamentations 3:22-23, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** God chose you for this ministry role. He has equipped you with all you need. Pray for his faithfulness mercy as you navigate through the challenges.

## DAY 3

This is the day the Lord has made;  
let's rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Praise God for another day! Praise God that you get to serve alongside Him by leading little ones to know that He loves them. Ask God to overwhelm you with joy today!

## DAY 4

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4:4, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God today for the ways He walks with you as you plan and prepare for the kids in your ministry. Thank Him for the families he has brought under your care and the children they entrust to you. Don't miss the joy in the details!

## DAY 5

“Until now you have asked for nothing in my name.  
Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.”

John 16:24, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** What do you need in your personal life or in your ministry that you have not yet asked God for? Ask Him for those things! There is nothing too small or too large to ask of God. What would bring you more joy in your ministry? Ask God and watch Him work!

## DAY 6

For our hearts rejoice in him because we trust in his holy name.

Psalm 33:21, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** :Do you ever feel like everything is working against you and you just can't catch a break? Spend some time expressing your gratitude for what He has already given (remember the small things!) and trust that He will provide what you need to press on.

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## DAY 7

The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing

Zephaniah 3:17, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** You bring great joy to God! He is with you and for you! He delights in all that you are, all that He's created you to be! Thank God today for the opportunity He's given you to share His love with children. Ask Him to continue to equip you to fulfill His calling in your life.

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# JANUARY : JOY

Always Be Joyful

WEEK 5

**Contributor:** Kathy Miles, Generations Associate Director  
South Carolina Baptist Convention



## DAY 1

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NLT

Growing up, I had a first-grade teacher who was the epitome of joy. Mrs. Patterson started every class belting out a beautiful song at the top of her lungs. She knew the importance of starting every day with a smile on her face and joy in her heart. In my old(er) age, I can still see exactly what she looked like, feel how special I was to her, and remember how excited I was to learn.

But hardship often comes even in the midst of joy. As a young child, I knew Mrs. Patterson's hair shouldn't be falling out. She struggled to play the piano at times, but her joy was ever present. One of her favorite songs was "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy." I knew even then that her joy came from someplace special, where it was rooted deep and secure. She had a love for the Savior and a passion for sharing her joy with a classroom full of six-year-olds. Here's how she taught me to embrace joy.

May this generation experience the joy of knowing the Savior and having children's ministry leaders like you and Mrs. Patterson who sing from the rafters the love of Jesus!

**Prayer Prompt:** Lord, help me to always be joyful. Help me to see that joy is contagious, and that I need to laugh with my kids. Help me to smile when I feel completely overtaken with everything that's going on around me. Help me to turn to you and choose joy even in the hardest situations. Let me show and tell others where my joy comes from. In Jesus' name, amen.

## DAY 2

Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him and you are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** With the new year, people often put pressure on themselves to accomplish grandiose goals and objectives. How are you seeing God work in your ministry today? This verse assures us that God is here. He fills us with joy unspeakable! We don't need a special time of year to put pressure on ourselves. Pray, open your eyes, write about the joys you experience, and praise Him for this incredible and insurmountable work He is always doing.

## DAY 3

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.  
Therefore my heart celebrates, and I will give thanks to him with my song.

Psalm 28:7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Spend some time in prayer thanking God by completing the following prompts: I praise You that You heard my cries for mercy when ... I praise You that You are my strength and stronger than ... I praise You that You have protected me from ... I praise You that I can trust You with ... Thank You for ... I pray that You will strengthen my heart as I trust You for ... Help my church trust You to carry us through ...

## DAY 4

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
“The Lord is great!”

Psalm 70:4, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Recruiting volunteers is one of the most challenging aspects of any children's ministry leader's job. Creating a culture of consistent volunteerism begins with top leadership and moves throughout the team. What is your strategy for successfully engaging new people to join the vision and mission of your ministry? Pray now that God will send you workers for the harvest, and you will exclaim that HE IS GREAT!

## DAY 5

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you  
and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** What a wonderful promise! Thank God that the joy of the Lord is your strength. Ask Him to help you to always abide in Him, so that you may be joyful, fruitful in life, and bring glory to Him.

## DAY 6

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 1:4, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** As a mom of five adult children who are walking with Jesus, this verse makes my heart skip a beat with joy. The same can be said of every child that crosses our thresholds in ministry. As leaders, are we making sure that what we are teaching is truth and that everything flows straight from scripture? Pray for your children in ministry by name.  
-Ask God to continually guide them to His truth and protect them from the enemy.

## DAY 7

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart;  
I have overcome the world.

John 16:33, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Sometimes we think being a Christian should be easy and carefree. The reality is that this verse reminds us that there will be troubling times for all of us. We are not exempt from experiencing pain, sorrow, or worries. God cares for you and wants to hear you cry out to him. What is troubling you today? The good news is that in JESUS we have peace, and He carries us through all of life's difficulties. Thank the Lord that your mind and heart can rest in Him!





# FEBRUARY : LOVE

Love One Another

WEEK 1

Contributor: Belinda Stroud, Children's Specialist,  
Alabama State Board of Missions



## DAY 1

WEEK 1

“It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.”

John 13:1, NIV

Jesus knew His time to be present physically on this earth was coming to an end. He was to be betrayed by one disciple, disowned by another, and deserted by others. He knew all of this and He still showed them the full extent of His love.

My mom, who taught school for over 40 years, had a plaque in her house that said, “Children need love the most when they deserve it the least.” That is what Jesus does for each of us. He gives us unconditional love even when it is certainly not deserved. As we minister to the families and children in our churches, sometimes they are not easy to love just like we are not so easy to love at times. We should constantly strive to love others like Jesus loves us in the good and bad times.

A mentor in ministry gave me the best advice as I began as a minister: “Love the people you are ministering to, and it will all be ok.” That was over 35 years ago, and it certainly remains true today.

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that you will be able to love others as Jesus loves you.



**DAY 2**

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for help to love others as He has loved you. People will know you are a Christian by the love you have for others.

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**DAY 3**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank Christ today for showing you love by dying for you, the ultimate sacrifice.

**DAY 4**

If I speak in tongues of men and angels, but I have no love I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that the focus of your life is to love others, to not be distracted from that.

---

**DAY 5**

Be completely humble and gentle, be patient,  
bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray to have a humble and gentle spirit as you strive to love one another.

DAY 6

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Psalm 143:8, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank the Lord for His unfailing love and ask Him to direct your steps.

DAY 7

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power  
through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your  
hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,  
may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide  
and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-18, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for your life to be rooted in God's love, also being able to understand how  
wide, long, high, and deep the love of Christ is for you!

Horizontal lines for writing notes on page 38.

# FEBRUARY : LOVE

## The Greatest Love

WEEK 2

**Contributor:** Kathy Miles, Generations Associate Director  
South Carolina Baptist Convention



## DAY 1

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

1 John 4: 8-9, NIV

Love is a word that we hear and use a lot. Hollywood uses it to promote the latest romantic movies and sets up people for great feelings and emotions. Whether it's the latest Hallmark movie or a Disney princess that finds her prince, the greatest, ultimate meaning in love is not based on temporary feelings and emotions.

The verse above tells us that to understand God and His character, we must understand that He is Love. John tells us that God showed His love to us through His Son, Jesus. Because of His life, death, and resurrection, we can be made right with God. When we submit to His authority, repent, and follow Him, we can experience the peace, joy, and security that comes from knowing Him. This is not just a mushy feeling or emotion, but the greatest love story ever written.

Who do you know that needs to experience this great love this week? Is it someone that lives in your family, your community, or at your child's school? Make a strategic plan today to begin developing relationships so that you can share the Good News of Jesus with them and allow them to experience God's GREAT LOVE.

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**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you think through people in your circles that don't know Christ. Write their names down in your Bible and begin praying for each of them. Pray for courage and obedience as you take next steps and that hearts would be open to the Holy Spirit.

## DAY 2

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”  
 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.  
 And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:36-39, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you love Him with everything that you are – heart, soul, and mind – and to realize that loving Him and loving others works in tandem and not independently of each other. Remember that if you love the Lord, then your life will reflect it in how you love those around you. Children’s ministry can often feel like a task driven list of things to do, but that is not God’s design for ministry. What relationships are you investing in today and who is discipling you? Pray that God would reveal wisdom and discernment as you continue to grow in Him.

## DAY 3

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.  
 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalms 63:3-4, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Sometimes the overwhelming nature of ministry rushes me to ask God for what I need or want. In reality, I should rest in the power of who He is and what He is already doing. So, for a few minutes, stop and praise God for who He is, for how He is working in your life and ministry, and give Him the glory today.

## DAY 4

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** When looking at this verse, can you say that you love with a Christ-like love? Replace the word “love” with your name. Are you patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, and so on? Ask God to give you a heart that is overflowing with an immeasurable amount of love that is describe in these verses. Ask Him to help you show grace, mercy, forgiveness, and truth in all situations that come your way and that love will always prevail.

## DAY 5

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Hebrews 6:10, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** God sees your service in children’s ministry. He knows how hard you work, and He remembers it. Your service in His ministry is showing His love. Ask God to help you fulfill your church’s mission and vision as you serve sacrificially to children and families. Pray that God will reveal needs among the people as you continue to share the gospel in your community.

**DAY 6**

This is how God showed his love among us:  
He sent his one and only Son into the world that  
we might live through him.

1 John 4:9, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Every kid in your ministry will talk with their parents about the fun things that happened at church but they will also talk about the gospel lessons you teach them. Be encouraged today! You are loved. These life-giving, transformational talks are changing lives forever as the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of your kids. Ask God to give you strength, perseverance, steadfastness, patience, and an extra cup of coffee to help you make it through this day. You've got this. God is at work! He is using you to do awesome things!

**DAY 7**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

Ephesians: 4:1-4, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Are you seeking ways to humbly love others who might have differences? Can you settle those differences or disagreements with affection, kindness, gentleness, and selflessness? Pray that your speech and actions promote and nurture unity within the body of Christ. May God help us bear one another in love.



# FEBRUARY : LOVE

## Loving Our Enemies

WEEK 3

**Contributor:** Jenni Carter, Statewide Children's Consultant  
Georgia Baptist Mission Board



## DAY 1

WEEK 3

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do what is good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For He is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:32-36, CSB

It's easy to be loving and kind and generous to those who are loving and kind and generous to us. For the parents who thank us for what we do and always offer to help whenever needed and give generously to our ministry, we think highly of them and love them. However, this Scripture points out that we need to love those who we can't expect anything from. We need to show love and kindness to the parents who complain about every ministry we offer, who never offer to help and ignore pleas for donations. It can be hard, but with God's help it can (and should) be done.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you have a right attitude towards those who may complain about aspect of kids ministry. Ask His forgiveness for thoughts you may have had towards those who are hard to love. Ask Him to show you ways you can show love to everyone.



## DAY 2

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 3:3, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Love and faithfulness go hand in hand. Pray for discernment as you seek to be loving and faithful to God and to the families in your ministry.

## DAY 3

My command is this:  
Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** God loves us so much He sent His Son to die for us. Ask God to help you love others with a self-sacrificial love that can only come from Him.

## DAY 4

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another in love.  
Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Have you ever been around someone whose words didn't match their actions? Maybe it was someone who said one thing but acted another way. Kids can spot a phony or fake person right away. As you pray today, make sure your motives are true as you seek ways to show kids and family love.

## DAY 5

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast,  
it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking.  
It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Children (and even some adults) can try our patience. Examine your heart before you pray today to be sure you're not envious (of other kids ministries, other staff members, etc.). Look at your heart to be sure you're not boastful or prideful, dishonoring others, self-seeking, or easily angered. Pray and ask God to help you be patient and kind whether you're working with kids or adults.

DAY 6

Be completely humble and gentle;  
be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** I've always felt the best leaders are those who are servant leaders. As you serve kids and families today, ask God to help you be humble, gentle, and patient with everyone you encounter.

DAY 7

And over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:14, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** In the verses prior to verse 14, we are told of several virtues we should have. In this verse, we learn that love will bind all the virtues together in perfect unity. Pray that God would help you to show love and to love and live in perfect unity with others.

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# FEBRUARY : LOVE

## Love God and Love People

WEEK 4

**Contributor:** Donna Blaydes, Childhood/Women's Ministry Specialist  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

### DAY 1

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, an expert in the law, asked a question to test him: "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."

Matthew 22:34-37, CSB

In this passage we see Jesus responding to the Pharisees' attempt to trap him by quoting a key passage (Deut. 6:5) of the law they sought to uphold. The law says to love the Lord your God, not with some and not with a little, but with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength. This is everything that makes you, you. Jesus said to love God with every part of you. This sounds easy, right? Maybe on the surface.

But, to love God with everything means to make Him the most important person in your life. It means to make spending time in God's Word and in prayer a priority. When you love God like that, your desire is to keep his commands.

Jesus didn't stop there. He quoted another key passage (Lev. 19:18) of the law: "Love your neighbor as yourself." This is what it is all about. When we love God with everything, our response is to love people. To love like God intends, we must be in right relationship with him.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you have a right attitude towards those who may complain about aspect of kids ministry. Ask His forgiveness for thoughts you may have had towards those who are hard to love. Ask Him to show you ways you can show love to everyone.

## DAY 2

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all his ways, to love him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul?

Deuteronomy 10:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** There are times that the demands of your ministry fill your days. Today, seek God. Spend time worshiping God in sweet surrender. Ask God to reveal areas in your life or your ministry that are keeping you from walking in all his ways.

## DAY 3

“The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me.  
And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father:  
I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

John 14:21, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** You know God’s commands. You teach them week in and week out to the kids God has placed in your ministry. Ask God to reveal to you any commands you are struggling to keep. Confess your struggles to Him. Trust His love for you and His promise that He will forgive you.

## DAY 4

Above all, maintain constant love for one another,  
since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Maintaining constant love for other people can only happen when you truly love them. This type of love comes from the Father. When you are loving people like God loves them, your focus isn’t on their shortcomings, but on who they are in God’s eyes. Thank God for those people who have forgiven you because of the love they have for you. Ask God who you need to truly love and what steps you need to take to demonstrate that love.

## DAY 5

“This is what I command you:  
Love one another.”

John 15:17, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** To command is to “give an authoritative order.” In this verse, and multiple others, Jesus gave us an authoritative order to love one another. It isn’t a suggestion. Ask God to help you to be obedient and love those He has placed in your life.



**DAY 6**

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** In this verse, Paul instructs us to do everything in love. All means every thought, every action, every word, every attitude, everything must be done in love. Ask God to help you do everything in love – His love.

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**DAY 7**

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters.  
But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead,  
use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** As a Christ-follower, you have the incredible gift of freedom. This gift is not intended to allow you to live as you desire, but as Christ desires. Paul's words say to use your freedom to serve others in love. In kids ministry you are constantly serving. Ask God to show you if you are serving in love or out of obligation. Ask Him who you need to serve.

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# MARCH : EASTER

## All-Access Pass

WEEK 1

**Contributor:** Kris Buckman, Children's and Youth Ministry Consultant,  
Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware



# DAY 1

WEEK 1

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

Mark 15:38, NIV

For the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Luke 23:45, NIV



Have you ever had an all-access pass to something? Maybe it was to a concert, and you got to go backstage and meet the band. Or maybe it was to a theme park, and you got special privileges to get in early, stay late, or see areas closed off to others. All-access passes allow us to experience things in abundance or above and beyond the “normal” access. Sometimes, all-access passes are expensive and hard to get!

On Good Friday, after Jesus had been ridiculed, beaten, spat upon, and nailed to the cross, He took His last breath. At that time, the temple veil was torn in two, from top to bottom. The temple veil separated the holy place from the holy of holies (Ex 26:33). Only the high priest had access to the holy of holies once a year on the Day of Atonement to make sin offerings. The veil represented the separation of God and man. The tearing of the temple veil symbolized Jesus’ gift of an all-access pass to Himself and the Father. God provided a way to Him through Jesus. No longer would we have to go through someone else to access the Creator. Those who believed now had the freedom to boldly approach God as His adopted children.

Are you using your all-access pass to approach the Father? Are you boldly approaching Him for direction, wisdom, counsel, and guidance as you lead your ministry? It’s easy to spend our time seeking the latest and greatest resources that promise to make our ministries better than they were yesterday. But let’s not forget to utilize the most valuable resource that was delivered on Good Friday; our free, all-access pass to the Father.

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**Prayer Prompt:** Praise God for sending His son, Jesus, to give His life for us on the cross! I can’t imagine the pain He felt as His only son released His last breath. But with that breath came the miracle of the torn temple veil that granted you and I direct access to Him again. May we never take that privilege for granted!



## DAY 2

For through him we both have access  
to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Seek access to God's wisdom today. Ask for the wisdom you need as you make plans to disciple and equip the next generation to love Him and serve Him.

## DAY 3

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace  
to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Ministry can be hard and overwhelming at times. And there are times when our hearts aren't in it, and our priorities aren't lined up according to His will. Seek access to His mercy and grace today! Ask for renewal to continue to serve the next generation.

## DAY 4

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6a, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** There are so many wonderful resources available to us as ministry leaders. But let us not forget to keep the Word at the center of all we do in ministry. Ask God to refocus you if you get distracted and to refill you if you get depleted.

## DAY 5

In him and through faith in him we may approach  
God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 3:12, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** It is because we have placed our faith in Christ that we have all access to God. Go before Him today with freedom and confidence in your belief! Be bold in what you ask. And ask for it in all confidence, for we know He is capable of great things. Pray big!

## DAY 6

“This is what the Lord almighty says: ‘If you walk in obedience and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.’”

Zechariah 3:7, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** It’s easy to neglect our walk with God as we get busy in ministry, especially this time of year. Before our feet hit the floor in the morning, we’re thinking of all the things we need to do for those special Easter events! Today, before you get distracted, seek to walk in His ways and keep His requirements.

## DAY 7

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

John 16:23-24, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Isn’t it exciting when we ask for something, and God delivers? Doesn’t it bring such joy to your heart? Not everything turns out the way we hope and ask for, but God delights in our asking, and we delight in His answering! What do you want to ask God for today? It may be big or small, but whatever it is ask Him!

# MARCH : EASTER

## The Triumphal Entry

WEEK 2

Contributor: Karen P. Kennemur, Preschool & Children's Ministry,  
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

### DAY 1

The next day, when the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They kept shouting: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord—The King of Israel!

John 12:12-13, CSB

What comes to mind when you think of Palm Sunday? For many children's ministers or leaders, we often think of children, palm branches, and excitement! Can you see it in your mind? The children in your ministry gathering around you or their Bible study teacher to acquire a palm branch. Then assembling with other children to wave the branches and repeat, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The Scriptures tell us the crowd was excited to see Jesus. Jesus knew the cheers of the crowd would shortly change. I hope and pray that you remember the voices of children in your ministry praising Jesus. One of the joys of ministering to children is to see how they love Jesus with innocent sincerity. During this Easter season may we remember to praise Him for His amazing love for us and the calling He placed on our lives to minister to children and their families.

**Prayer Prompt:** Who are the children in your ministry? Say a prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the opportunities you have to teach, lead, and love children and their families.



## DAY 2

He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6b, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Isaiah 9:6 is a passage of Scripture we typically read at Christmas. But as Easter is approaching what a great time to praise Him as the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. What other names can you add to this list as you praise God today?

## DAY 3

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of Joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared,  
a great king over all the earth.

Psalm 47:1-2, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Do you remember the song, “If You are Happy and You Know It?” In the lyrics of this children’s song, the singer is instructed to say amen, clap your hands, and stomp your feet if he or she is happy. Children love this song. They sing with gusto as they shout “Amen,” clap their hands, and stomp their feet. As I listen and watch children sing with delight, I wonder if I sing with this much delight to the Lord. Pray for delightful praise in your life today.

## DAY 4

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:3, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Do you know people who are constantly singing throughout the day? My mom sang hymns throughout the day as long as I can remember. What did this say to me as a child and adult? It said to me that my mom was a happy, loving Christian who loved the Lord. Pray today that those who encounter you will know you are a happy, loving Christian who loves the Lord.

## DAY 5

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

Psalm 147:1, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** One of the best ways for me to feel close to God is by simply going outside to enjoy God’s beautiful world. A short walk around the block gives my mind a break and my voice a desire to sing God’s praises. I encourage you to enjoy something today that makes you feel close to God.

## DAY 6

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!

Psalm 113:1, ESV

Prayer Prompt: Do your prayers of praise sometimes seem repetitive? Do you use the same words or phrases? Today voice a prayer of praise by reading from the book of Psalms. Perhaps instead of reading only the one verse listed above, read the entire chapter as a prayer of praise.

## DAY 7

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:21, NIV

Prayer Prompt: Palm Sunday for many Christians is the beginning of the Easter season. As you turn your attention to the crucifixion, praise God for loving us beyond our understanding. Praise God for giving mankind a second chance by sending Jesus to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

# MARCH : EASTER

## The Crucifixion

WEEK 3

Contributor: Karen P. Kennemur, Preschool & Children's Ministry,  
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention



## DAY 1

They took Jesus's body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the fragrant spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews. There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it. They placed Jesus there...

John 19:40-42a, CSB

We can only imagine the emotions of Jesus' followers on the day of His crucifixion. They probably had many questions! What happened? Where was God? Why? Where do we go from here?

Have you ever found yourself in a place of doubt? Have you questioned God and asked why has He placed you in your ministry context? Have you ever pondered your calling? Why did God call you into ministry? Satan loves to place doubt in our minds.

When doubt comes, think back to the day God called you into ministry. Recollect the days and hours that He spoke to you. Remember the moment you realized God was calling you into ministry. When times of doubt arise, think back to those days and hours. Remember the calling God placed on your life. Turn to Hebrews 13:5 where the Lord says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Just like the early followers, even in the darkest hours God was with them. God is always with us.

.....  
**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for your calling into the ministry. Thank him for the wisdom and experience he has allowed you to gain. Ask Him to continue to work through you in your ministry to children and families.



## DAY 2

The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?

Hebrews 13:6, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Jesus' followers were probably afraid and discouraged on the day of His crucifixion. We can feel a sense of fear, lostness, and discouragement in our ministries. In these times God is our only answer. Read Hebrews 13:6 as you pray today. Remember God is your helper. He will always carry you through difficult times.

## DAY 3

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people  
to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

Joshua 1:6, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** God was speaking to Joshua in the verse above. Moses was dead and it was Joshua's responsibility to lead the Jews to the promised land. Like Jesus' followers before the resurrection, Joshua must have felt alone and confused. But God told him to "be strong and courageous" for he was the one to lead God's people. Have you doubted your leadership? Your calling? Is God telling you to be strong and courageous? Ask God for strength and courage as you lead His people in His church.

## DAY 4

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial,  
for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life,  
which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for steadfastness in your life and ministry. The workers you lead look to you for faithfulness to your family, your church, and to the Lord. They will gain strength from watching you remain steadfast.

## DAY 5

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

Jeremiah 17:7, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Children are reminder of simple trust. Their childlike trust in God is refreshing. Have you stopped to listen to the prayers of children lately? Take time this Sunday, Easter Sunday, to listen to the prayers of children in your church. Listen to the trust in the Lord as they pray, even as they learn about the crucifixion. Thank the Lord for the words in Jeremiah and the trust of children.

## DAY 6

O Lord of hosts,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Psalm 84:12, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** For many, the Easter season is a time of reflection. A time to reflect on God's love and grace for all mankind. As you meditate on God's love, think about trust. Do you trust the Lord in all aspects of life? Some might say to love is easy, to trust is difficult. In your prayers, pray trusting the Lord will lead you as you lead others.

## DAY 7

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,  
for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

James 1:2, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Do you remember learning how to ride a bike? I fell several times before I could balance and ride by myself. With practice I became quite the rider. Even though one learns how to ride a bike, it does not mean the crashes will not come. But each wreck or incident makes you a better bike rider. You become aware of your surroundings, looking for safe roads or paths for bike riding. Today's Scripture tells us that the bumps in the road or the "bike wrecks" in life test our faith and make us stronger. In your prayer, thank God for the steadfastness He is producing in you.

# MARCH : EASTER

## The Resurrection

WEEK 4

**Contributor:** Karen P. Kennemur, Preschool & Children's Ministry,  
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

### DAY 1

“He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.  
Then go quickly and tell his disciples,  
‘He has risen from the dead...’”

Matthew 28:6-7, CSB

The joy of being a children's minister is the privilege of telling children about Jesus and the salvation story! The wonder and delight seen in children's eyes when they read or hear the story of the empty tomb is exciting.

Years ago, I was the children's minister in a medium-sized church. Vacation Bible School was one of my favorite weeks of the year. Many of our church members were involved in the preparation and execution of the week, making it a wonderful experience for many. This particular year there were about 100 children in attendance. The gospel was presented to the older children on the second or third day of the week. Nineteen children became Christians that day. Twenty percent of those in attendance accepted the Lord. It was an exciting day! I am thankful the Lord allowed me to be a part of helping children come to know Him.

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank the Lord today for the privilege of telling His salvation story to children.



## DAY 2

We will not hide them from their children, but will tell a future generation the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, his might, and the wondrous works he has performed.

Psalm 78:4, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for the Christian parents in your ministry as they lay the spiritual foundations for the children in their home. Pray that God shows you ways to walk beside these parents and help lay the spiritual foundations for their children. Pray for the children who do not have Christian parents. Ask the Lord to show you ways to lay the spiritual foundations in these children's lives.

## DAY 3

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a new law in Israel,  
“which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children  
that the next generation might know.

Psalm 78:5-6, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** For some fathers teaching the Bible is uncomfortable. Some children will grow up never hearing their fathers pray. Pray for the fathers in your church. Pray that the Lord will give them boldness to teach their children and to speak prayers over them.

## DAY 4

They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands.

Psalm 78:7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Life is busy for most families! Today pray for the families in your church. Pray specifically for parents as they tell their children throughout the day of God's works. Pray that parents will teach their children the ways of the Lord, even in the busyness of life.

## DAY 5

Apply yourself to discipline  
and listen to words of knowledge.

Proverbs 23:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** During the times that your church gathers, do you feel the eyes of others watching you? I grew up in a pastor's home. I knew people were watching how my parents parented and how I behaved! When I became a children's minister, I realized that people were now watching me parent. This is an uncomfortable reality. Proverbs 23:12 reminds us to apply discipline to ourselves. People are watching. Are we living out what we teach? Pray for areas in your life that are in need of discipline.

## DAY 6

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember,  
I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** We know this verse is the Great Commission. These were Christ's words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven. As Christians, we are to share the gospel with others and disciple them. As children's ministers, we are to tell children the salvation story, but we are also responsible for training our workers how to share the gospel with children. How many training opportunities do you provide for your workers? Do workers and teachers have opportunities to share the gospel with children? Ask God to help you train your leaders effectively. Ask God to work in the lives of the leaders and teachers as they share the gospel and disciple the children they lead.

## DAY 7

Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for  
the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that the Lord gives you opportunities to encourage the children in your ministry to live out their faith despite their young age. Pray for them as they are examples to others of God's love.

# APRIL : PEACE

You May Have Peace

WEEK 1

**Contributor:** Charlie Gatton, Cross Timbers Children's Camp & Childhood Ministry Partner  
Oklahoma Baptists



## DAY 1

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33, CSB

Recently I had the privilege of working with a master smith to forge a knife out of a railroad spike. It was an amazing transformation. We applied extreme heat until the metal was pliable. Then we pounded on it with a large hammer. Between the heat and the pounding a railroad spike became the shape of a knife. Yet it still required more work. Once the shape was there, it had to be ground on with sanding belts. At first the belts were very aggressive. This took a lot of metal away very quickly. The railroad spike started to look more like a knife, but it was still very rough. Next, we used a finer sanding belt to smooth out the rough edges. Then we used something like a scotch bright pad to refine it even more.

Just when I thought we were finished we moved to a leather wheel. Surely this would be all it takes! But there was one more step. The new knife had to be oiled. There were many steps to create the knife that was in the mind of the smith. He used heat, pressure, and abrasives to make that raw metal into a masterpiece. Sometimes we think that because we are Christians our lives should be trouble free. When trouble comes, we think God must be mad at us. Or that our sin has caused us trouble. Certainly, sin has consequences. But often God is using trouble to refine us into a stronger more useful person.

Allow God to work in and through your “troubles” to prepare you for times when you will be able to point others to God through their troubles. Troubles will come and go. Take heart! God may be using heat, pressure, and abrasives to make you into His masterpiece. God’s steadfast love endures forever! Have peace.

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray to the Lord and express the troubles that may be weighing on your mind. Ask Him to help you be strong, faithful, and to be refined by it. Remember, He loves You and is with you.

## DAY 2

I wait for the Lord;  
I wait and put my hope in his word.

Psalm 130:5, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Lord to help you wait on His timing and point you to His Word for guidance.

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## DAY 3

... but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

1 Peter 3:15, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that the Lord will allow your life to shine in such a way that others want to know what is different about you. Ask Him to help you be confident to share who He is and what He has done for you..

## DAY 4

“Because of our God’s merciful compassion, the dawn from on high will visit us to shine on those who live in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 1:78-79, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Praise the Lord for His son Jesus! Pray for continued reliance on Him for peace.

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## DAY 5

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.”

John 14:26-27, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** In times of fear, trust in the Lord to provide you with peace. Thank the Lord for His steadfast love and peace in times of trouble.

DAY 6

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Take time to praise the Lord today! Glory to God! He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace!

DAY 7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** In times of hardship or busyness, it can be so easy to be overwhelmed. Thank the Lord for His peace even when there's no other reason for you to be at peace and He is the only reason.

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# APRIL : PEACE

## The Author of Peace

WEEK 2

Contributor: Cindy Middaugh, Children's Ministry Coordinator,  
SBC Virginia



## DAY 1

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3, CSB

Simon Peter eagerly jumped out of the boat to walk toward Jesus on the waters of the Sea of Galilee. As he noticed the wind around him, he took his focus off Christ and began to sink into the waters below. Peter's focus shifted off the Giver of Peace and fear set in over his surroundings. When our surroundings take our attention away from Jesus, His love, and His power so freely given, we allow fear and doubt to hold us captive.

Even in the busyness of Vacation Bible School, managing summer camp, and scheduling volunteers to serve in children's ministry, we find peace when our focus is on Jesus. It is He that calms the storms of our lives and allows us to walk in perfect peace to accomplish His work in and through us. Peace can take you from where you are to the place God wants you to be.

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**Prayer Prompt:** : What events on your schedule is causing doubt or uncertainty? What more could you accomplish by keeping your eyes on Christ? Ask God to give you the boldness to stay focused on Him as you plan and produce what is on your ministry schedule today.



## DAY 2

You let me rest in fields of green grass.  
You lead me to streams of peaceful water.

Psalm 23:2, CEV

**Prayer Prompt:** Whether caring for the sheep as a lad or ruling a stiff-necked people as Israel's king, David surely had moments where he depended on God for peace and rest. Much like the man after God's own heart, we can tire from shepherding the children in our care and leading those who serve with us in ministry. Pray today for this perfect peace and rest as you lean on His leading and not your

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## DAY 3

He gives strength to the weary and increases  
the power of the weak.

Isaiah 40:29, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Children's ministry work can drain your energy and fill many hours of each day. How do you refuel and refresh, allowing for the strength and peace to keep pressing on? Is prayer an essential part of your day? Thank our loving Father, who knows us the best, for giving us strength and the provisions we need to carry on the work He has called us to do.

## DAY 4

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be  
called sons of God.”

Matthew 5:9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** How can you lead children to be peacemakers? What examples in your own life show this important beatitude? As you prepare to teach the children this week, ask God to give you insight in how to teach them to be peacemakers in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

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## DAY 5

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me  
— practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:9, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Paul admonishes us to “pursue the things which make for peace” (Romans 14:19, KJV). When we practice the things we have learned and received from Scripture, we are promised the God of peace is our companion. Thank Him for the peace that is ours when we practice godly living. Ask God to create a deeper desire to love His Word and live it out.

## DAY 6

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;  
against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Jonathan displayed the fruits of the Spirit in his friendship with David. Does your life bring harmony to those you call “friends?” Think of ways you can put on the peace of Christ with your friends and neighbors this week. Ask God for His peace to rule in your heart, especially when you are busy, tired, or discouraged.

## DAY 7

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Recruiting and managing volunteers in children’s ministry can be difficult. Are you only asking God to meet your ministry needs or are you spending time being thankful for the ministry He has given you? Today pray with an “attitude of gratitude” and give thanks for those who work alongside you.

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# APRIL : PEACE

## Casting Our Cares

WEEK 3

**Contributor:** Jenni Carter, Statewide Children's Consultant  
Georgia Baptist Mission Board

### DAY 1

## Casting all your cares on Him, because He cares about you.

1 Peter 5:7, CSB

The passage 1 Peter 5:7 was my mom's favorite verse. My mom was one of the happiest people on earth. Everyone loved my mom and sought to be with her. She brought joy to everyone she knew.

You would think that perhaps my mom lived a wonderful carefree life. But, by the world's standards, her life had lots of ups and downs. She grew up during the depression and her family moved to wherever her dad could find work as a welder. And then her dad died while she was a young teenager. She had two children, but the youngest one died in a robbery when he was working in a store during his college years. All her siblings also passed away long before she did. In her last years she fought a battle with cancer and lost her sight in her very last days. But she never lost her faith and lived out her favorite verse by casting her cares on her heavenly Father.

What's troubling you or causing you concern today? It may be finances, strained family relationships, wondering how you'll get everything done for work and home. Whatever it is – cast your cares on Him because He cares for you!

**Prayer Prompt:** Make a list of the things that are robbing you from experiencing peace today. Then cast those cares on Him. Ask for His guidance in each of these areas.

## DAY 2

The Lord gives His people strength;  
The Lord blesses His people with peace.

Psalm 29:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** What a wonderful promise we have in this Psalm. Thank God for blessing you with strength and with peace.

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## DAY 3

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

John 14:27, CSB

**Prayer Prompt** What's troubling you today or making you fearful? Lean into this truth – Jesus gives us peace – His peace. Pray for peace that only comes from Him.

## DAY 4

And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** I love that peace and thankfulness are joined in this one verse. It's hard to not have peace when we're thankful. In your prayers today, thank God for all your blessings. And then let peace rule your heart.

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## DAY 5

May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.  
The Lord be with all of you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Our Lord is a God of peace. Pray and ask Him to give you peace IN EVERY WAY.



## DAY 6

And let him turn away from evil and do what is good.  
Let him seek peace and pursue it.

1 Peter 3:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Is there any evil from which you need to turn away? In this verse we're reminded that to have peace we must first turn away from evil, then do what is good and then seek peace and pursue it. Pursue is a strong word. It means we're not just idly waiting for peace; we run hard or fight to attain it. In your prayer today, ask God what you need to turn away from to pursue peace.

## DAY 7

I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone,  
Lord, make me live in safety.

Psalm 4:8, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** What's keeping you up at night? Whenever I have a big event coming up, (VBS, Easter Celebration, Fall Festival, etc.) I tend to have a hard time sleeping. Sometimes it helps to have a notepad and pen beside the bed to make notes as I think of them during the night. But the most helpful thing is a prayer for peace before I go to sleep. Pray for a good night's rest tonight.

# APRIL : PEACE

## A Heart Guarded by Peace

WEEK 4

Contributor: Leigh Ann Stark Northwest Baptist Convention  
Pacific Northwest

### DAY 1

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7, CSB

We guard our kids so they may know peace. As we lift our concerns to the Lord, He guards our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. The more we surrender, the more He protects.

There is someone who I consider a great mentor in ministry. She models this kind of faithfulness. Whether we are celebrating or needing assistance or direction, her first comment is always, "Let's pray about that." Over the years, her habit of rejoicing in the Lord and laying every petition at His feet has helped me develop a similar habit. Even when life is difficult, she is known as a woman of peace and prayer.

I have tried mental tricks like list making and looking at pictures of happy places, but nothing gives me emotional peace like spending time in prayer.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to make it your natural first response to pray, lifting your concerns to Him with thanksgiving.

## DAY 2

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James:  
To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.  
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Jude 1:1-2, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for calling you, loving you and giving you peace.

## DAY 3

Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable — if there is any moral excellence and if  
there is anything praiseworthy — dwell on these things.  
Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt** Something negative can easily capture my focus and ruin my day. Ask God to help you focus on the good and true as a way of experiencing His peace.

## DAY 4

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely.  
And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless  
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** The God of peace enables us to live a life that is holy and blameless. Confess anything that separates you from the God of peace.

## DAY 5

Eli responded, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel  
grant the request you’ve made of him.”

1 Samuel 1:17, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Hannah poured out her desire for a child, then went in peace trusting God. What circumstance in your life needs to be poured out to the Lord? Ask Him to give you peace.

DAY 6

“Though the mountains move and the hills shake, my love will not be removed from you and my covenant of peace will not be shaken,” says your compassionate Lord.

Isaiah 54:10, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for keeping a covenant of peace with you, regardless of the circumstances.

DAY 7

May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:2, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** As you have experienced God multiply your peace, your knowledge of Him has also grown. Ask God to make you very aware of His presence and your peace as you go through the day.

Lined writing area with 16 horizontal lines for notes.

# APRIL : PEACE

Live at Peace

WEEK 5

Contributor: Leigh Ann Stark Northwest Baptist Convention  
Pacific Northwest



## DAY 1

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9, CSB

By nature, I desire friendship with everyone I meet. As a child, when I encountered difficult people, Mom told me, “Kill them with kindness.” This attitude enabled me to face rudeness with a smile, return anger with gentleness, see beyond a cold shoulder. Some have been wounded and are unable to trust or care for fear of being hurt again. They are naturally defensive and seem unkind. Repeated displays of peace can help them heal.

Sometimes my tone of voice is harsh without my knowing it. People misunderstand my tone as anger. My husband has helped me by gently asking if I am as angry as I sound. As I have been made aware, I have intentionally calmed my voice and am learning to speak with gentleness. This step is helping me live more peacefully with my family and co-workers.

Some people are difficult to serve or to serve with. We can only take responsibility for our words and actions. We can choose to pray for them, show kindness, and do our best to live in peace with those around us.

**Prayer Prompt:** Smile and say, “Hello!” to someone today. Ask God who you need to respond to with peace.





## DAY 2

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to use others to show you how to be at peace with everyone and to make you willing to hear the admonishment of those who love you enough to help.

## DAY 3

Better a dry crust with peace than a house full of feasting with strife.

Proverbs 17:1, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Is your home a place of peace or strife? Confess your part in any conflict and ask God to show you how to live in peace with those closest to you.

## DAY 4

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Some people are difficult to serve or to serve with. Lift them to the Prince of Peace and ask Him how He wants you to live at peace with them.

## DAY 5

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:10, 18, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to show you how to honor others so you can live at peace with them.

## DAY 6

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Become mature, be encouraged, be of the same mind, be at peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** As a person of peace, ask God how you can build up and encourage those around you. Thank the God of love and peace for enabling you to live at peace with others.

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## DAY 7

Therefore welcome one another, just as Christ also welcomed you, to the glory of God... Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:7,13, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Lord to fill you with joy and peace as you build relationships with those who need the hope only Christ can give.

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# MAY : PATIENCE

Sing a New Song

WEEK 1

**Contributor:** Cheryl Markland, Children & Family Ministries Strategist  
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



## DAY 1

WEEK 1

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:5-7, NIV



In the world of children’s ministry, we often function in a “hurry up and wait” mode. Finding last minute substitutes. Hoping for volunteers to agree to serve. Waiting on staff leadership to make a decision that impacts our planning. All of this taxes our patience and can challenge our mental reserve. It is said that patience is a virtue, but children’s ministry can make us feel less than virtuous with our need for and lack of patience.

It is interesting to note that patience rides between “peace” and “kindness” in the list of the Fruits of the Spirit. Without the buffer of peace and a desire to show kindness, patience would most likely get lost. It is wonderful to know that the Lord offers a way to find the patience we need, and He makes it so simple: ask for it with a trusting heart, no matter the situation, and He will guard your heart (and mouth) in Christ Jesus! What an amazing promise and gift.

**Prayer Prompt:** What situations or events do you think will tax your patience this coming week? Pray for God’s perfect peace which makes patience possible. Pray for opportunities to exhibit kindness when stretched by life’s challenges. Trust God to provide what you need in amazing ways that transcend your understanding of Him and remember to offer thanksgiving for this provision through Jesus Christ.

## DAY 2

The LORD is good to those who wait for him,  
to the person who searches for him. It is good to hope and wait patiently  
for the LORD's salvation.

Lamentations 3:25-26, ISV

**Prayer Prompt:** Learning to live expectantly and watch for the fulfillment of God's plan and purpose will build your patience and your faith. It can change your perspective on your current situation. For what are you praying and waiting expectantly on God to provide or do in your life? Pray for a clear view of His work in your life today.

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## DAY 3

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart be courageous.  
Wait for the LORD.

Psalms 27:14, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for encouragement, patience, and strength as you wait for the Lord to answer your most deeply held requests and desires. Submit them to Him daily and watch for His work in your life.

## DAY 4

Nevertheless, the LORD will wait so he can be gracious to you; and thus  
he will rise up to show you mercy. For the LORD is a God of justice.  
How blessed are all those who wait for him.

Isaiah 30:18, ISV

**Prayer Prompt:** Sometimes leadership is a lonely place where you can feel forgotten or neglected. Know that God's presence is promised when the answers you seek are not quickly provided. Pray for patience in the waiting, trusting God's will and desire is to be gracious and to show mercy to you. Seek His blessing in the wait.

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## DAY 5

Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble,  
and persistent in prayer.

Romans 12:12, ISV

**Prayer Prompt:** Finding joy and patience as you wait for God to work during times of trouble and discouragement can be difficult. Know that He is always working behind the scenes to make His plan a reality. Pray for a change of heart within yourself as you surrender to His will with patience and joy.



## DAY 6

But if we look forward to something we don't yet have,  
we must wait patiently and confidently.

Romans 8:25, NET

**Prayer Prompt:** At times, God's answer to your prayers is wait. Waiting well requires patience and maturity that we may not feel if we are anxious about our situation. As you pray for patience, trust God's "wait," knowing that His desire is to be gracious and merciful to you as you grow in maturity and the wisdom of what it means to be a Christ follower.

## DAY 7

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends:  
With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,  
and a thousand years are like a day.

2 Peter 3:8, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Isn't it funny how time flies when you are having fun and drags when you are bored or in a place you don't want to be? Do you look forward to heaven where the light always shines, and time loses its meaning and grip on our lives? Pray for the awareness of God's presence at all times so the "light of His love" brings hope, joy and peace to every situation.

# MAY : PATIENCE

## Patience in our Relationships with Others

WEEK 2

**Contributor:** Cheryl Markland, Children & Family Ministries Strategist  
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina



### DAY 1

Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united.

Do this by living at peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3, CEV

Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace.

Read the story of Abram and Lot in Genesis 13. Dealing with those who always prioritize their own interest above others can be a real challenge for ministry leaders. Recruiting for volunteers who say no because they "need to be fed" or won't make time to serve can be hard to handle. Sharing limited resources like people's time and real estate with other ministries can be stressful, especially if you feel your needs are not a priority.

Genesis 13 shares the account of Abram and Lot, close relatives who both tried to use the same resources for their flocks and families. When the hired hands who took care of the herds quarreled over the land, Abram showed wisdom and grace and offered to divide the land God had promised to him with his nephew, Lot. He unselfishly gave Lot first choice of a portion of the land. Lot chose the lushest part near the Jordan and Abram left to move his herds and family elsewhere. Even though it looks like Lot won the conflict, we know that his decision led to terrible consequences for himself and his family. Abram was richly blessed by God for his wise and thoughtful decision.

Abram's patience with his nephew was a virtue that led to great blessings from God. As you work with others in your church, be sure your patience will honor God's desire for unity.

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for peace, understanding, and grace that leads to God-honoring responses and reactions when you face conflict with others.





## DAY 2

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters:  
 You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.  
 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

James 1:19-20, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Godly anger comes from pure motives and hatred of sin. If we are not careful, lack of patience that yields human anger and harmful actions can lead to the sin that God hates. Pray for God's wisdom in knowing how and when to respond to conflict with patience and a godly perspective.

## DAY 3

Let's not get tired of doing what is good,  
 for at the right time we will reap a harvest  
 —if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9, ISV

**Prayer Prompt:** As you move from spring to summer ministries, your body and soul may be screaming for rest or you may be pumped for what God has in store. Summer ministries can be some of the most fruitful of the year with VBS, camp, and other opportunities to reach the children and families of your community. Pray for blessed times of rest, holy moments with God, refreshment, and encouragement as you anticipate the days of summer so that you can meet its challenges with patience.

## DAY 4

God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you.  
 So you should always clothe yourselves with mercy, kindness, humility,  
 gentleness, and patience.

Colossians 3:12, NCV

**Prayer Prompt:** Every morning we face our closet and decide what we will wear that day. It is our choice! Colossians 3:12 reminds us that we have choice about what we should wear each day. Pray for wisdom to choose mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience for your inner garments and for actions and words that coordinate with each one.

## DAY 5

He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

Psalms 37:6-7, NRSV

**Prayer Prompt:** Many successful ministry leaders struggle with control issues. This verse reminds us that God asks us to relinquish our need for control and to trust Him. Trust Him for justice, mercy, and sustaining grace when you may feel that you can't win. Know that He is the God of all good things and wants what is best for you. Watch and patiently wait for Him to act for your best and His glory.

## DAY 6

But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners,  
Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for  
those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:16, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God for His mercy and patience with us as we seek His will for each new day. Pray for opportunities to share your redemption story and the offer of abundant and eternal life through Him.

## DAY 7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud.  
Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not become angry easily.  
Love does not remember wrongs done against it.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5, ICB

**Prayer Prompt:** Often our conflict with others comes from our refusal to forget past hurts that may not even involve the person with whom you have a conflict. Lack of trust and an inability to heal come from keeping score and holding grudges. Pray for a loving heart that is patient and thoughtful. Surrender to God your scoreboard and ask Him to heal you so that you can serve with a divine love.

# MAY : PATIENCE

At Just the Right Time

WEEK 3

**Contributor:** Patty Burns, Preschool Specialist and VBS Promoter  
Alabama Baptist Board of Missions



WEEK 3

## DAY 1

So let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:9, NLT

I recently taught a Sunday School lesson on the Fruit of the Spirit. As I prepared to teach, I looked up the definition of patience, which reads, "The power or capacity to endure delay without complaint."

Waiting. I do not know anyone who likes to wait. Much of our lives is spent waiting for something. It might be as simple as sitting at a traffic light or standing in line at Wal-Mart, maybe it is the waiting room of a doctor's office, or in the que line at your favorite amusement park. Whether the wait is for your favorite rollercoaster, an unknown test result, or just a two-minute red light - waiting is hard.

When Queen Esther was brought upsetting news that Haman, who despised the Jews, wanted them all killed, she had a decision to make. Her cousin, Mordecai, wanted her to act quickly, but Esther felt waiting and fasting for three days would be the wise thing to do. That three days must have seemed like forever. But God, He is in the waiting, and at just the right time He reveals His will and plan for us. We can learn so much as we wait. We learn to be better listeners, our faith grows, and we find strength to do what God has called us to do.

**Prayer Prompt:** Are you in a period of waiting? How is your patience holding up? Are you enduring without complaint? When in a season of waiting, ask God to lead you to friends or family who can pray and wait with you.



## DAY 2

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.

Psalm 40:1-3, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** When we ask God for His help, we must be patient, knowing at the right time He will reveal His answers. As you wait, thank God for hearing your prayers and for answering them.

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## DAY 3

The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent... And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved.

2 Peter 3:9,15a, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** God is not slow; He is on His own timetable. Today remember that in all things God has a perfect plan and purpose. Thank Him for revealing His plan at just the right time.

## DAY 4

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:30-31, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Strength will rise when we wait upon the Lord. I love to sing Scripture! Today, as you are trying to patiently wait on what lies before you – sing to Him and thank Him for giving you the strength you need in this very moment.

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## DAY 5

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him, and He will help you... Be still in the presence of the LORD and wait patiently for Him to act.

Psalm 37:5,7a, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** When we commit everything to the Lord, it includes our waiting. Today trust God, believing He is control of all things and He has your best in mind. Trust Him to work everything out for your good and His glory.

## DAY 6

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Day 6: Luke 2:25-26, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** I think it could be said that Simeon was a patient man. We don't know how long he waited to see the Messiah – but we do know that God made a promise, and He keeps them! Maybe you have been praying about something for a long time – don't give up hope! God hears your prayers and at just the right time He will give you answers.

## DAY 7

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Day 7: Psalm 27:14, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Jochebed had a baby boy named Moses. Pharaoh said he had to be killed. As a mom I can't imagine what she was going through. These were very dark times for God's people, and Jochebed had to find strength, beyond her own understanding, to wait and trust God to protect Moses. Perhaps you are currently walking through dark days, and you need strength to wait until God's answers and His timing are revealed. In dark moments, pray for strength that can only come from Him to help you as you patiently wait on Him.

# MAY : PATIENCE

## Patience is Found in Hope

WEEK 4

**Contributor:** Matt Flanagan, Children & Student Ministry Consultant  
Kentucky Baptist Convention



### DAY 1

I am certain that I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart be courageous. Wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:13-14, CSB

Have you ever prayed for patience? For many of us, this isn't our favorite prayer. It seems like a recipe for not getting what you want now. However, for believers, we know that patience is founded in hope. When we are hopeful and confident of the outcome, patience is easier. Patiently waiting for a child in college to come home over summer break is infinitely easier than patiently waiting for the results of a medical exam.

What is the psalmist David instructing when he says to wait for the Lord? How does a believer in Christ posture themselves when we aren't seeing His goodness (v 13)? Many of us wait in a passive manner. When we arrive at the restaurant and are asked to wait for a table, we simply stand and idly wait until our name is called. How we use those minutes do not influence our meal. Being patient and waiting on the Lord is not a passive manner, it is an intentional resolve to be faithful in the current situation until the Lord moves upon our request. And if we don't see this move, we continue to be faithful.

The psalmist instructs us to be strong and have courage as we wait. We bring glory to God as we confidently hope in Him. Remember, it is not the action that provides the hope, it is the person of God. He is faithful and He will move. Be patient and trust in His care.

**Prayer Prompt:** Read through Psalm 27 and think through all the ways that David trusted in the Lord. Then, as you pray a prayer of thanksgiving, ask God to grant you the strength and courage to patiently wait on Him in all things.





## DAY 2

Patience is better than power, and controlling  
one's emotions, than capturing a city.

Proverbs 16:32, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray the Lord would give you patience over your emotions and grant you the steadiness that comes with godly living.

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## DAY 3

Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction;  
be persistent in prayer.

Romans 12:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Are you walking through difficult times and affliction? Pray that God would grant you patience to rejoice and stand strong during this difficult season.

## DAY 4

A patient person shows great understanding,  
but a quick-tempered one promotes foolishness.

Proverbs 14:29, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** A quick temper leads to foolish decisions. Pray today that God would bless you with patience to listen and think before you speak.

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## DAY 5

The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay,  
but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish  
but all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** The Lord perfectly models patience as He delays His judgement and more come to repentance. Pray that the Lord will give you opportunities to share His gospel as you patiently seek to lead others to Christ.

## DAY 6

Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him;  
do not be agitated by one who prospers in His way, by the person  
who carries out evil plans.

Psalm 37:7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Does it seem as those who do evil prosper while the godly struggle?  
Pray today that you will be expectantly patient for His judgement on not lose heart of  
temporary matters.

## DAY 7

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the  
proper time if we don't give up.

Galatians 6:9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** You are making a difference as a kids' ministry leader. Don't give up! Pray that  
God will give you the patience and endurance to continue doing good.



# JUNE : KINDNESS

## Be Kind and Compassionate to One Another

WEEK 1

**Contributor:** Matt Flanagan, Children & Student Ministry Consultant  
Kentucky Baptist Convention



## DAY 1

WEEK 1

Let all bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.

Ephesians 4:31-32, CSB



Have you ever found yourself exhausted with watching the news, following politics, or simply scrolling through social media? Today's social discourse is not for the faint hearted. When did it become the norm to treat one another with contempt simply because you had a differing viewpoint? There are entire shows in news and sports developed so people to argue their points. Can't we all just play nice?

You may have noticed in many homes in your area with signs asking folks to "just be kind." This is good encouragement for our world. As a follower of Christ, we should model this social grace in both the Church and to the world.

As kids ministry leaders, we never set out to be unkind. However, the business of ministry often stresses us and causes us to miss the mark in how we treat other people. Perhaps you are stressed this week over upcoming VBS and summer camp preparation. Don't allow internal stresses to shortchange the grace you give to others.

In our text, Paul is pleading with believers to be kind to one another, which opens the heart to being both compassionate and quick to forgive.

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank the Lord for His loving kindness demonstrated to you in Jesus. Pray that you would treat those in your family, church, and community with this same kindness. Confess where you have allowed your internal pressures to withhold kindness to others.



## DAY 2

Therefore as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:12-14, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Whether you begin your day with coffee, exercise, preparing kids for school, or simply rushing to get ready yourself, take time to pray that God gives you grace to put on kindness first and wear it the entire day.

## DAY 3

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that your love for others would be expressed through the kindness in which you treat them. Pray that others would see the kindness of God in you today.

## DAY 4

Kindness to the poor is a loan to the Lord,  
and he will give a reward to the lender.

Proverbs 19:17, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray that God would open your heart to share a special kindness today with someone less fortunate in possessions, friendships, opportunities, etc.

## DAY 5

“But I say to you who listen: Love your enemies, do what is good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on the cheek, offer the other also. And if anyone takes away your coat, don't hold back your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks you, and from someone who takes your things, don't ask for them back.”

Luke 6:27-30, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** I encourage you to read the full passage of Luke 27-36. As you read this passage, consider the ways that Jesus has called us to be kind to those who oppose us. Pray that God's kindness would be revealed through your actions today.

## DAY 6

A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel person brings ruin on himself.

Proverbs 11:17, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Remember that your kindness not only blesses others, but it is also a blessing to you. Pray that you will see opportunities today to share God's kindness with others.

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## DAY 7

Therefore consider God's kindness and severity:  
severity toward those who have fallen but God's kindness toward you  
– if you remain in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

Romans 11:22, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Spend time in prayer today examining God's gracious kindness that He has shown you through your salvation. God is the perfect picture of kindness. In your prayer, reflect on this characteristic of God.



# JUNE : KINDNESS

## Kindness that is Undeserved

WEEK 2

**Contributor:** Jack Lucas, Leadership Development Director  
Illinois Baptist State Association



## DAY 1

WEEK 2

“I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:19-20, ESV

This may not be the first passage that comes to mind when you think of kindness. But the kindness displayed by the father in the parable of the prodigal son is powerful. We often see this as a story of love and forgiveness, which of course it is in part, but it is also a story of kindness.

In the story, the father recognizes the repentance of the son and forgives immediately. This is a direct reflection of the forgiveness God extends to us as we repent. There are going to be people in your ministry (parents, students, other staff members, etc.) who hurt you and are hard to love. Will you show them kindness? Will you go above and beyond and show them kindness even if they are not repentant? That’s not easy. But it is necessary.

Abram’s patience with his nephew was a virtue that led to great blessings from God. As you work with others in your church, be sure your patience will honor God’s desire for unity.

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God for strength to show kindness to those who are often difficult to love in your ministry. Seek his forgiveness for any lack of kindness you may have harbored in your heart toward them.





## DAY 2

A man who is kind benefits himself,  
but a cruel man hurts himself.

Proverbs 11:17, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** It may seem that kindness is for the benefit of the recipient. But the Bible indicates that there is benefit for the one showing kindness as well. Pray that God will give you a better understanding of how obedience to His mandates improves your relationship with him. Ask God to give you opportunities to show kindness today. Thank God for the benefits that come from caring for others, both for you and for them.

## DAY 3

He has told you, O man, what is good and what does  
the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** One goal of the Christian life is to be more like God daily and to walk closely with Him. Micah 6:8 indicates that one way to walk closely to God is to love kindness. Pray that God will give you a love for showing kindness and opportunities to do so.

## DAY 4

Let a righteous man strike me — that is a kindness; let him rebuke me  
— that is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it,  
for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers.

Psalms 141:5, NIV

**Prayer Prompt:** Can you see kindness in correction? The psalmist indicates that when done with proper motives, correction and rebuke are actually an act of kindness. Ask God to send people into your life who care enough about you to offer correction when you need it. Pray that God will give you a heart to care enough about others to gently bring correction to their lives when needed.

## DAY 5

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this:  
to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself  
unstained from the world.

James 1:27, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Showing kindness to those who are in need or helpless holds a special place in the eyes of the Lord. Ask God to open doors for you to minister to those who are lonely and in need. Pray that God will show you opportunities to involve your kid's ministry in these endeavors.

## DAY 6

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** God has shown us the ultimate kindness in sending Jesus. This should naturally lead to a desire in us to show kindness to others. Ask God to give you a heart that naturally defaults to kindness to others. Pray for daily opportunities to live out that kindness outside of the church family as well.

## DAY 7

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 5:18-20, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** The greatest kindness you can show someone is to introduce them to Jesus. Are you a friend that will go to any lengths to bring someone to Jesus? Pray that God will put people in your path that you can introduce to Him. Ask God to give you the boldness to tell others about Jesus.

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# JUNE : KINDNESS

## God's Kindness Toward Us

WEEK 3

**Contributor:** Vicki Hulse, Childhood Specialist  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



## DAY 1

WEEK 3

But God who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7, CSB

As a young child, I regularly heard stories from the Bible at home and church. I repeated those stories to anyone that would listen. I loved singing songs about Jesus and memorizing verses from the Bible. While I knew many facts from the Bible, I remember the day that head knowledge became heart knowledge.

At a backyard Bible club, I heard a leader share why Jesus had to die on the cross. It was as if I was hearing parts of that story for the very first time. I became sad as I realized that Jesus died on that cross because of things I had done wrong. Jesus took my punishment. While I had always loved hearing and telling the stories of Jesus, it was that day that I fell in love with Jesus, amazed at what He had done for me. Ephesians 2:4 begins with such hope.

Before Christ, I was dead in my sin, "BUT GOD" saved me by His grace. Verse 7 reminds us that His kindness didn't end there but continues in the ages to come. As kids ministry leaders, we must share Jesus with kids in such a way that they will fall in love with Jesus, amazed at what He did for them on the cross.

**Prayer Prompt:** How did you first realize God's great love for you? Make a list of how He continues to show His kindness to you. Thank God for the opportunity to teach kids about the most important things they will ever learn - God's plan for their lives and how He wants them to live.



## DAY 2

But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us – not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy – through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Titus 3:4-6, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** Parents aren't always kind when things don't go how they think they should. Ask God to help you to show kindness even when it's hard.

## DAY 3

“For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake,  
But My loving kindness will not be removed from you,  
And My covenant of peace will not be shaken,”  
Says the Lord who has compassion on you.

Isaiah 54:10, NASB (1995)

**Prayer Prompt:** Thank God that His love is the same for you today, tomorrow, and forever. Assure kids in your ministry God will never stop loving them.

## DAY 4

They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:17, NKJV

**Prayer Prompt:** How do you respond to a child refusing to obey? Ask God to help you be ready to forgive, slow to anger, and abundant in kindness.

## DAY 5

How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Psalms 36:7, NASB (1995)

**Prayer Prompt:** The psalmist reminds us that God's loving kindness is precious. Take a few moments to thank God for the many blessings of His loving kindness toward you.

# DAY 6

For His loving kindness is great toward us,  
And the truth of the LORD is everlasting. Praise the LORD!

Psalm 117:2, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** Pray for God to help you be an example of kindness toward each child in your ministry.

# DAY 7

Blessed be the LORD, For He has made marvelous  
His loving kindness to me in a besieged city.

Psalm 31:21 NASB (1995)

**Prayer Prompt:** Have you ever felt persecuted while serving God? Thank God that you can run to Him in times of trouble.

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# JUNE : KINDNESS

## Extraordinary Kindness

WEEK 4

**Contributor:** Jenni Carter, Statewide Children's Consultant  
Georgia Baptist Mission Board

### DAY 1

The local people showed us extraordinary kindness. They lit a fire and took us all in, since it was raining and cold.

Acts 28:2, CSB

Extraordinary kindness! When the boat Paul was on shipwrecked and they made their way to the island of Malta, the local people, the islanders, showed extraordinary kindness. How wonderful to be known for showing extraordinary kindness. It's easy to be kind to those who are kind and especially to those we know. But these islanders didn't know these people who came up on their shore. Regardless, they took them in and lit a fire because it was cold and raining.

Sometimes we get so caught up in our own crazy busy lives that we don't notice those around us who are struggling and need to be shown kindness. The truth is everyone is struggling in some way or another. We need to show kindness to everyone we meet. I love that the Bible uses the phrase "extraordinary kindness!" Extraordinary means going beyond what is usual, regular, or customary.

What have you done this month to show extraordinary kindness? Have you done something that has gone beyond what is usual or customary to be kind to someone? I love hearing stories of "Random Acts of Kindness," but I think I would love to hear stories of "Extraordinary Acts of Kindness." Let's start a new trend - Extraordinary Acts of Kindness!

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**Prayer Prompt:** As you pray today, ask God to reveal to you someone that needs an extraordinary act of kindness.



## DAY 2

She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:36, ESV

**Prayer Prompt:** This verse is taken from the chapter about the Wife of Noble Character. But we can all pray and ask God to help us teach with wisdom and kindness.

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## DAY 3

Therefore encourage one another and build  
each other up as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** As I write this, I just finished a week of teaching Missions at our VBS. One day I asked the kids what acts of kindness we could show to others. One little boy answered that we could give people compliments. Ask God to reveal to you someone who needs some kind encouraging words today. Give compliments, encourage others, and build others up.

## DAY 4

Kind words are like honey – sweet to the soul  
and healthy for the body.

Proverbs 16:24, NLT

**Prayer Prompt:** Ask God to help you use kind words today with everyone. I think it's sweet to the soul and healthy for the body for both those who speak them and for those who hear them.

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## DAY 5

The Lord of Armies says this: “Make fair decisions.  
Show faithful love and compassion to one another.”

Zechariah 7:9, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** When helping to settle disputes between kids (and sometimes adults) it's hard to know what to do. Everyone has their version of what happened. As you go about your day today, ask God to help you make fair decisions and to show love and compassion to everyone.

## DAY 6

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved,  
put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Colossians 6:12, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** As you serve in children's ministry today, only God knows what you may encounter. Things may go as planned, schedules may stay intact, and all your volunteers may show up. But there's a likely chance that something unexpected may happen. As you pray, ask God to help you be compassionate, kind, gentle, and patient.

## DAY 7

Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy,  
is not boastful, is not arrogant.

1 Corinthians 13:4, CSB

**Prayer Prompt:** It doesn't matter what the size of your kids ministry may be, there's always someone down the street or in another part of the state that's smaller than yours and one that's larger than yours. We should never compare our ministries; we should only serve God in the church and community where He has placed us. We also shouldn't envy our fellow kids ministers who may have a larger ministry or be boastful or arrogant if ours is larger than others. Pray to ask God to help you be patient and kind with kids, with adults, and with fellow kids ministries.