

A Celebration of Blessings:
Seven days of holiday devotionals





Hey there, mama!

Feeling frazzled this Christmas season?

We are right there with you!

That's why we created a seven-day holiday devotional for you. We are praying these free, short daily devos help you take a moment to breathe and spend time with your Father. He loves you so much!

But we don't want this to be just another item on your to-do list. We want to help you be intentional about meeting God within the pages of this eBook.

Here's our suggestion: set a reminder on your phone for a time when it's easy to get away for a few minutes. Fix a cup of coffee or tea. Open up these pages. Soak up God's love for you!

On December 18, our team will begin setting aside a few moments each day to meet with God within the pages of this devotional. Join us on Facebook and Instagram as we celebrate something special each day.

If you got this from a friend and you don't know much about our blog, Texting the Truth, we are happy you've received our free gift!

We don't claim to have motherhood figured out. Actually, quite the opposite. We're a group of women who love the Lord and want to honor Him with our lives and talents. What better way for us to sort out this beautiful and messy thing called motherhood, but to process it together through blogging?

Our prayer is that as we share our real-life stories, every mom who visits our blog will receive tangible truth and experience real grace.

We hope these devotionals are a blessing to you during this Christmas season!

We're praying for you, mama! Merry Christmas!

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Day One

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened." - Matthew 7:7-8, MEV

Conflict makes me uncomfortable. Like it makes me want to crawl into a hole. I know that it is inevitable, but I still don't like it. Maybe because when I experience extreme emotion of any kind, it is expressed in tears. Crying makes it hard to talk. Crying gets interpreted as hurt or sadness, but sometimes I'm just frustrated or even angry. Anyway, I tend to avoid conflict to avoid crying. And when I'm around people in conflict, I am insanely uncomfortable.

One of the most memorable posts from this year was one of our very first. It was about the 2016 presidential election. The conflict between people, political parties, newscasters, friends and family was a lot to handle for my avoid-conflict-at-all-costs mentality. The *last* thing I thought our blog should do was tackle such a touchy topic. I tried to write with the team. But everything we wrote had the potential to be polarizing without meaning to be.

I did what I thought was best: I prayed. Our motto for the blog has always been, "When God Originates, He Orchestrates!" So I prayed that. And I prayed our tagline: Lord, help us be "Real Moms" with "Real Grace."

And that night, God orchestrated the perfect voices to write a grace-filled text about that conflict-ridden election. My voice was not one of them. But can I tell you how much I learned about the process of trusting God with every word of every blog post? About trusting my team to hear from our God, too? About trusting the vision of the blog to be fulfilled by Him who gave it? About the power of prayer?

Praying with the Texting the Truth team every Friday has been one of the most precious things to me over the last year. God has answered many of our prayers - both personal and blog-related prayers. And for some prayers, we are still waiting for answers.

But I know if we keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking, answers will come.

Sometimes when we least expect it. Sometimes in ways we don't want.

What is in your heart? What conflict exists in your life? What answers are you waiting for?

Ask, seek, knock, mama. He hears you.



Day Two

“You’ve had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God’s pure kindness. Then you’ll grow up mature and whole in God.” - Peter 2:2, The Message

I love routines. They feel comfortable and secure.

I also love spending time snuggling with my boys. I so much want to see them - to *really* see who God created them to be!

It seems like simple thing should make our routines so easy and smooth.

Except when it doesn’t.

I’ve been doing this ever since the school year started: I snuggle them as much as possible in the mornings. I pray with them. I have a checklist posted of what they need to do before the bus comes or before preschool to keep us on track.

At night we have a snack together. We chat about silly things. Then we go upstairs and accomplish another list before bedtime. We end the day with prayer.

Doesn’t that sound like a great routine?

So *why* is it still a challenge? Why do we still rush? Why can’t they just follow the routine without argument or requests for another book or another drink?

When my kids ask for *one more thing*, it’s easy to assume they’re just wasting time... but Jesus softly whispers to me what they *really* want.

What they want is me. When I’m willing to see them, *really see them*, just for a minute, at the beginning and end of the day, I’m giving them *me*.

But I have to get to a place where I have that in me to give.

Usually, I’m finished. Tired. Done.

But is there more beyond myself?

Yes, *there is Jesus*.

What if I am filled up myself, drinking deeply of God’s love and attention. Then I can give out of the overflow of Him.

I can give them me - and I can give them His love, too.



Day Three

“She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: ‘You are the God who sees me,’ for she said, ‘I have now seen the One who sees me.’” - Genesis 16:13, NIV

Hey, mama.

I just want you to know God sees you today.

Even if your husband hasn't seen you like you really need him to. Or maybe it's your kids, your friends or your workplace where you feel unnoticed.

Trust that God sees the hours and effort you're putting into your family, your job, your home, your friendships... even if no one else seems to.

And you know what else?

He *delights* in you.

He doesn't just happen to glance up and there you are. No, He is intentionally seeking you out. He has a glimmer in His eye just thinking about you.

Your Father is so proud of YOU.

Even if you yelled at your kids or snapped at your husband.

His grace is more than you can fathom; He's not looking for you to be perfect.

Friend, in the craziness of the holiday season, take a minute to breathe in the truth that God sees you where you are and sings over you with delight.

Let that truth fill the places in your heart that are empty.



Day Four

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV

If I'm honest, I feel overwhelmed and defeated when people look at me with my girls and say, "Enjoy every minute!"

Because, in full disclosure, I don't.

There are good days and there are bad ones. Days when I am tired of fixing meals the kids won't eat. Days when I'm tired of endless laundry piles.

It leaves me longing for days that don't feel quite so draining.

In those hard moments, instead of being present, I can find myself wanting to check out on my phone or turn on the TV to distract myself.

But part of #thetruthaboutgrowingup for me is tuning my heart to God's and asking, "How do You want me to spend my time right now?"

Because enjoying every moment is not the goal - but listening to God and making choices that make my girls feel loved is.

So, Lord, would you help us spend our days well so we grow more in wisdom in our mothering? We can't do it without Your help. Amen.



Day Five

“Stand therefore, having your waist girded with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, having your feet fitted with the readiness of the gospel of peace, and above all, taking the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- Ephesians 6:14-17, MEV

The other day, I walked into my closet, looked at all of my clothes, and all I could think was, “Ugh.”

There was nothing I liked anymore. Drab and dreary, wrinkled and too tight. Everything I owned seemed so blah.

Still, I grabbed the same old sweater. The same old jeans. The same worn-out shoes.

It’s probably time to clean out my closet and update my wardrobe, but there are so many things on my to-do list. Do I really have time for that?

I wonder if I’ve been applying that same attitude to my life, too. Lately, I’ve been thinking about what doesn’t fit me anymore, and I’m not talking about jeans and t-shirts here.

Have I cleaned out my heart recently, or is it full of things I should let go of?

Am I choosing anxiety, frustration, bitterness or worry every day, along with my favorite comfy shoes?

It’s really easy to put on the same old negative feeling day after day, season after season.

But, friend, our kids aren’t the only ones growing! We are, too. And sometimes with spiritual growth comes a necessary renewal of our hearts.

Even if it’s just ONE layer, I’m taking off ONE layer of worry, and putting on ONE layer of trust today.

Lord, I want to keep my eyes open to what I’m wearing on the outside and on the inside. Will you help me do that and clean out anything in my heart that I’ve outgrown? Amen.



Day Six

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out.” - 1 Peter 2:9, MEV

Lately the girls and I have been chatting about how sports and other extracurriculars can give our kids the impression that our identities comes from what we do.

As added pressure, it’s not enough to just be involved in something - you’re supposed to be really good at it, too.

It’s easy for our children to sucked into competition and perfectionism and let their successes or failures dictate their identities.

If we’re being really honest, aren’t we as mamas sometimes guilty of letting our kids choices dictate how good we think we are at motherhood?

The truth is, our identities aren’t found in activities... or in our children.

We do what we do because of who we are, whether that’s sports or mothering. Because of who God designed us to be. And we can learn a lot about our own identity (and that of our kids) through activities.

But let’s take the pressure off.

Take the opportunity to teach your children who they really are - *and who God really is.*

Let that truth soak into your heart, too. You aren’t your child’s brightest moments or their deepest failures.

We need to drink deeply of God’s truth, love and grace as we pray for His help to see who He made us to be.

He already knows the plans He has for us, after all.

We’re praying that you’ll find your identity in Christ, and that you’ll teach your kids to see themselves in Him too.



Day Seven

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, [a] who loved me and gave Himself for me.” - Galatians 2:20, MEV

I've been keeping up a pretty intense pace these last several weeks.

I'm weary from it, but I feel the pressure from myself to keep pushing forward.

There are just so many to-do's on the “critical” list. (Don't forget the Christmas parties at school! Remember to pick up a gift for my neighbor! Plan a perfect Christmas dinner!)

Sometimes I catch myself thinking, “After I'm finished with this one thing, I'll have more time.”

Who am I kidding? I'll have more time for *what*? Another project? Another thing to do to fill my days?

If the truth be told, I *like* to have things to do. I *like* keeping a fast pace.

So what am I longing for?

It's something deeper that my endless to-do list cannot satisfy, no matter how hard I try.

It's rest. It's peace.

It's this verse: Christ in me. (Galatians 2:20)

How do I make sure that Him, in me, is the most critical “to-do” on the list?

I ask Him to help me remember.

I ask God to nudge my heart when I'm filling my days with stuff and not spending time with Him.

He's always faithful to draw me close to Him when I ask.

What about you, mama? Where do you need God to bring you peace in the midst of all you have to do?

From our families to yours, Merry Christmas, mama!

Hopefully these seven days of devotionals have been a blessing! Our team has enjoyed celebrating each day with you on Facebook and Instagram. Send us an email (textingthetruthblog@gmail.com) and share your feedback - we'd love to hear it!

We are so excited to announce our theme that will kick off 2018 - #WarmInTheWinter. Subscribe to the blog if you haven't already and follow us social media as we tackle topics including dry marriage seasons, boredom/cabin fever, sex, loneliness and unanswered prayer.

Encouraging you in motherhood,
The Texting the Truth team

*“And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
She wrapped him in cloths and placed him
in a manger, because there was no guest
room available for them.*

*And there were shepherds living out in the
fields nearby, keeping watch over
their flocks at night.*

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and
the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.*

But the angel said to them,

***“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news
that will cause great joy for all the people.***

***Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
He is the Messiah, the Lord.”***

- Luke 2:7-11, NIV



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