# SERVING GOD IN THE RAIN

## **Dakota Lynch**

Copyright © 2025 Scripture Memory Fellowship International. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language.

Cover design by Jason McIntosh. Interior design by Stephen Cahill.

ISBN: 979-8-89704-494-8
Scripture Memory Fellowship International
scripturememory.com ● 888.569.2560 ● contact@scripturememory.com
P.O. Box 550232 ● Dallas, TX 75355

Jesus answered him,

"What I am doing you do not understand now,
but afterward you will understand."

John 13:7

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4	
SECTION 1 THE	SOURCE OF THE RAIN8	
CHAPTER 1	THE BROKENNESS OF CREATION10	
CHAPTER 2	THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD13	
CHAPTER 3	THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD16	
SECTION 2 THE	PURPOSE OF THE RAIN22	
CHAPTER 4	GOD'S PLANS ARE FOR OUR GOOD24	
CHAPTER 5	GOD'S PLANS ARE FOR HIS GLORY27	
CHAPTER 6	GOD'S PLANS TAKE TIME30	
SECTION 3 OUR	RESPONSE WHEN IT RAINS36	
CHAPTER 7	PRAISE GOD WHEN IT RAINS38	
CHAPTER 8	TRUST GOD WHEN IT RAINS42	
CHAPTER 9	SERVE GOD WHEN IT RAINS46	
SECTION 4 WHE	N THE RAIN STOPS52	
CHAPTER 10	NAOMI'S STORY57	
CHAPTER 11	MARY AND MARTHA'S STORY62	
CHAPTER 12	PETER'S STORY66	
	WHEN THE RAIN DOESN'T STOP70	
ENDNOTES		
DECOLIBORO	74 76	

# Introduction

n many ways, this book is the outgrowth of my life-changing encounter with God's providence in 2024. It's a story that took 31 years to unfold, and it taught me to never again doubt God's ability to redeem even the most broken circumstances for the glory of His name and the good of His children. In each of this book's four sections, I'll share a portion of that story with you.

Each section contains three chapters that unpack different aspects of God's character, His plan, and our response. You'll also be invited to memorize key Bible verses on each topic. Resist the temptation to skip this part. I started memorizing Scripture during the darkest season of my life, and God's Word became an invaluable source of light and life. As the psalmist wrote, "If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction" (Psa. 119:92).

Of course, writing a book about human suffering is a precarious task. Job didn't need his friends to show up with advice; he just needed them to show up. The purpose of this book isn't to minimize your pain or explain exactly how God will use it. I simply hope to fuel your faith that, someday and somehow, God will bring beauty from the ashes (Isa. 61:3).

A word of warning: reading about God's sovereignty can be painful. When life's storms are raging, the last thing you want to hear is that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. I've been there, and I get it. I can't promise that things will get better soon or even that they'll get better on this side of heaven. But I can promise that God is at work, no matter how absent He may seem in the moment.

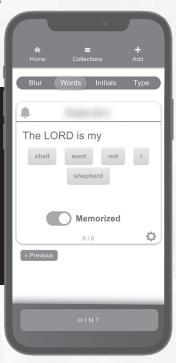
Whatever type of storm you're facing, my prayer is that this book will renew your hope and strengthen your faith in the God who makes "everything beautiful in its time" (Eccl. 3:11).

-Dakota Lynch



VerseLocker

VerseLocker is a free app that helps you memorize Scripture using interactive tools. Download the memory verses from Serving God in the Rain in your preferred Bible translation at verselocker.com/rain.













# The Source of the Rain

A s a child, I never knew my father. I was told at a young age that the only father figure I had ever known wasn't my real dad. The details were sparse: I was conceived out of wedlock, and my mom married Michael a couple weeks after I was born. That was the end of the story, and I didn't ask any questions.

I spent my early childhood trying to earn the love and approval of the only dad I knew. This didn't go well. He was extremely bipolar and physically abusive to my mom, my sister, and myself. This created a pervasive sense of instability in our home. We walked on eggshells constantly, knowing that the slightest misstep might lead to an outburst. Those outbursts were always loud and often violent. Being thrown on the floor or against the wall was a daily possibility. We rarely felt like we were in mortal danger, but one thing was clear: with each passing year, things were getting worse.

Everything came to a head in 2007. My "dad" was caught having an affair with a teenager who was only four years older than me. Things quickly escalated from there: more fights, more bruises, and more

tears. I still remember my mom asking me to sleep with the phone in my bed in case I had to call 911. Although I came close several times, I never called the police—mainly because our small town had only one cop, and Michael was the mayor.

During one particularly bad night, my mom told my sister and me to wait for her in the car. She came with the keys, and we drove to a nearby shelter for victims of domestic violence. Thanks to this local ministry and the hospitality of friends from church, we had a safe place to stay while my mom applied for a restraining order at the county courthouse. After it was granted, we went back home, packed our things, and moved 150 miles away.

At this point in my story, the source of the rain seemed clear from my teenage perspective: it was raining in my life because other people made bad choices. I didn't cause the rain, and I was powerless to stop it. I couldn't see any divine fingerprints, and most of them would remain unseen until 17 years later.

# The Brokenness of Creation

'm guessing you didn't start reading a book called Serving God in the Rain because everything is going smoothly in your life. Perhaps you're grieving the loss of a loved one or the death of a dream. Maybe your spouse left or the cancer came back. Whatever you're facing, my goal in the coming chapters is to encourage you with timeless truths from God's Word that will fuel your faith, strengthen your heart, and renew your confidence in God's ability to bring beauty out of brokenness.

Before we dive into these beautiful truths, it's important to lay some theological groundwork. This is important for the same reason you pour a foundation before building a house. Skipping this step would save time, but at a high cost. Finding lasting comfort in God's promises about suffering begins with understanding the origin of human suffering and the nature of God Himself. Let's begin laying this foundation by exploring the primary cause of human suffering: sin.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, "sin came into the world...and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Rom. 5:12). Those who trust Christ can find comfort in the promise that God uses suffering (Rom. 8:28) and that our suffering will not last (1 Pet. 5:10; Rev. 21:4), yet the words of Jesus remind us that suffering is unavoidable on this side of heaven: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Perhaps all of this sounds familiar and cliché, but it's important to begin with a reminder that suffering is an inescapable part of the human experience. We know this is true, yet we're often tempted to take suffering personally. The rain comes and we ask, "Why is God allowing this to happen?" Embedded in this question is the subtle accusation that God isn't giving us what we deserve.

Life is filled with painful betrayals, heartbreaking disappointments, and unexpected funerals. Such suffering is a direct consequence of the Fall and touches us all—even Christians. God doesn't owe us sunshine, yet He invites those who trust Christ to take comfort in the promise of something even better: a city that "has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23).

# **Chapter 1 Memory Verses**

## John 16:33

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.

## **Romans 8:19-21**

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

# The Sovereignty of God

Od's sovereignty is one of the most fundamental doctrines of Scripture. It's also one of the most difficult for our finite minds to understand. In simple terms, God's sovereignty is His absolute and unrivaled reign over the universe. Everything is under His authority, and nothing is outside of His control (Psa. 115:3; Eph. 1:11).

Theologians have long sought to understand the relationship between God's sovereignty and human volition. Why does a holy and sovereign God allow sin, pain, and suffering? We'll explore part of the answer to that question in the next chapter, but we should begin by reviewing what Scripture teaches about God's sovereignty. Understanding what sovereignty is—and what it is not—is an important first step in learning to serve God in the rain.

First, our view of God's sovereignty should be shaped by a biblical understanding of His holiness. Since God is perfectly holy (Deut. 32:4), it is impossible for Him to sin or cause others to sin (Jas. 1:13). Our heavenly Father "dwells in unapproachable light" and is "not a God who delights in wickedness" (1 Tim. 6:16;

Psa. 5:4; 1 John 1:5). When you find yourself the victim of someone else's sin, do not blame God. Instead, remember that He "is a righteous judge" who "will by no means clear the guilty" (Psa. 7:11; Exod. 34:7).

Because God's sovereignty is absolute and unequivocal, nothing escapes His notice or interferes with His plans. As Alec Motyer writes, "[T]he whole sweep of history, from its inception to the things still in process, and on to the end, is under his sovereign rule. He does not await the turn of events and then wonder what to do about them: they all emerge in order on the stage of history...at the dictate of his word."

Comprehending God's sovereignty can be difficult. While Scripture does not answer all of our questions on the subject, it does reveal the kind and gracious heart of our heavenly Father. As Paul writes, "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32). A God who loves us so deeply can be trusted even when He cannot be understood.

# **Chapter 2 Memory Verses**

## Job 42:2

I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

## Psalm 115:3

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

## Isaiah 14:24

The LORD of hosts has sworn:
"As I have planned,
so shall it be,
and as I have purposed,
so shall it stand,"

## **Ephesians 1:11**

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

# The Providence of God

God's sovereignty means that He has eternal decrees or divine purposes for all that He has created. He accomplishes these purposes through both creation and providence. In Creation, God speaks all things into existence (Gen. 1), and in providence, He continually upholds, sustains, and governs every aspect of His creation according to the counsel of His will (Neh. 9:6; Eph. 1:11).

The providence of God is one of the most comforting doctrines in Scripture. Not only does God actively uphold "the universe by the word of his power"; He superintends every moment of our lives and ensures none of His good purposes are thwarted (Heb. 1:3; Rom. 8:28; Job 42:2).

Providence and sovereignty are closely related. God's sovereignty is His absolute and universal rule over Creation. God's providence, on the other hand, speaks to His "activity throughout history in providing for the needs of human beings, especially those who follow him in faith." In summary, the doctrine of sovereignty teaches us *that* God reigns. The doctrine of providence teaches us *how* God reigns.

It's easy to see how misunderstanding either of these doctrines can skew our theology. If you believe in sovereignty but doubt providence, God may seem unloving and unphased by suffering. If you embrace God's providence but underestimate His sovereignty, you're left with a loving God who tries to make the best of the ingredients we give Him.

What does all of this have to do with serving God in the rain? Simply this: God is in charge of the rain, and He uses the rain. The hardest seasons of life don't come to us by accident. Every raindrop comes to us through the filter of God's sovereignty.

Admittedly, this is often hard to understand when the storms of life leave us weathered and worn. Why would God allow this to happen? Even more fearful is the thought that God didn't just allow the rain; what if He *sent* it (Job 1:8)?

This is where providence comes in. The Bible teaches us that "all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). What others mean for evil, He means for good (Gen. 50:20). In ways that our finite minds cannot fully comprehend, God orchestrates every moment of our lives—even the darkest and most painful—to accomplish His gracious and providential purposes.

# **Chapter 3 Memory Verses**

## Nehemiah 9:6

You are the LORD, you alone.
You have made heaven,
the heaven of heavens,
with all their host,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them;
and you preserve all of them;
and the host of heaven worships you.

## Matthew 10:29-31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
And not one of them
will fall to the ground
apart from your Father.

But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. "God is in charge of the rain, and He uses the rain."





# The Purpose of the Rain

he divorce was ugly and painful. After the ink dried and the dust settled, I attempted to adjust to my new normal as a 14-year-old. I never had a dad, but now I really didn't have a dad. My grandma generously allowed us to move in with her, and I shared a room with my mom and sister in the basement. Things were hard to say the least, but we were safe, and we were together.

You couldn't pay me to relive those early days after the divorce. At the same time, I wouldn't trade them for all the money in the world. That little room in the basement is where our broken hearts finally began to heal. We cried together. We prayed together. We grew together. There's a special kind of closeness that grows only in the soil of adversity, and those years knit us together in ways that can never be undone.

Prior to the divorce, my relationship with God was always rather shaky—partially because Michael was an unbeliever who actively discouraged prayer, attending church, and Christian music. After the divorce, and in the absence of any earthly father figure, my heavenly Father drew me into His loving arms. I soon found myself spending hours every day praying, reading my

Bible, and memorizing Scripture. In a very real sense, the hardest season of my life became the best season of my life spiritually. Deuteronomy 23:5 was happening in real time: "the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you."

In the years that followed, I not only learned how to live without a dad; I became very proficient at avoiding the subject entirely. Any time someone asked about my dad, I would dodge the question and say something like, "Oh, my parents divorced when I was 14." Of course, the full story was much more complicated than that. Only a few of my closest friends knew the painful secret that my biological father was a complete mystery to me.

The purpose of the rain often remains unclear to those who experience it. Why cancer? Why divorce? Why betrayal? I sometimes blamed Michael for the divorce. Other times, I blamed God for letting it happen. I eventually saw a silver lining behind the dark cloud—I was growing closer to God—but the silver lining didn't make the cloud any less dark.

In hindsight, it's clear that God's purposes were beyond my comprehension in the moment. His plans eventually proved to be much bigger than anything I could have imagined.

# God's Plans Are for Our Good

Rod's Word—and for good reason. It contains the tremendous promise "that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." If you're tempted to skim past these familiar words, take a moment to consider the less familiar truth of verse 29: "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Verse 28 tells us that God works all things together for our good. Verse 29 goes further, explaining exactly what kind of good God has in mind: making us like Jesus. As Robert Mounce writes,

God directs the affairs of life in such a way that, for those who love him, the outcome is always beneficial. The "good" of which Paul spoke is not necessarily what we think is best, but as the following verse implies, the good is conformity to the likeness of Christ. With this in mind it is easier to see how our difficulties are part of God's total plan for changing us from what we are by nature to what he intends us to be.<sup>3</sup>

This might seem like a minor detail, but it's essential to properly understanding the promise that all things work together for good. Romans 8:28 isn't a guarantee that professional setbacks are always a precursor to a promotion, or that you'll find \$100 while looking for your lost keys. It's a promise that God will use "all things" to accomplish His ultimate purpose of conforming us to the image of Christ. If the only thing you gain from a trial is a bit more patience, humility, or trust, that's still a win in God's economy.

Sometimes the storms of life are so severe that it's hard to imagine any outcome that could be worth the pain. Just ask Job. He eventually regained all his livestock and became richer than ever (Job 42:12), but his children were still gone (1:18-19). No amount of wealth could compensate for the grief he endured. On paper, it's hard to see how all things worked together for Job's good.

Perhaps you can relate to the feeling that you've lost too much to ever come out ahead. God will absolutely keep His promise to make all things beautiful in His time (Eccl. 3:11), yet this may not happen tangibly or on this side of heaven. God uses the rain to make us more like Jesus, and it's "preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen" (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

# **Chapter 4 Memory Verses**

# **Deuteronomy 23:5**

But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you.

## Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

## Romans 8:28-29

And we know
that for those who love God
all things work together for good,
for those who are called
according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew
he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be
the firstborn among many brothers.

# **God's Plans Are for His Glory**

Just like the promise that God works all things together for our good, the fact that God's plans are for His glory is easy to misunderstand. When your heart is flooded with grief or your body is wracked with pain, the idea that God's ultimate purpose in your pain is His own glory might be hard to swallow. Would a good and loving God really afflict His children for His own benefit?

To answer this question, let's consider the familiar story of Jesus healing a man who was born blind:

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:1-3)

Jesus ultimately received glory in this story, but God's glory wasn't disconnected from the blind man's best interests. God was glorified because "the works of God" were "displayed in him" (vs. 3). What were these "works of God?" For starters, Jesus gave a blind man his sight. This miracle gave all who saw it undeniable proof of Christ's divine power.

But wait a second! What about the blind man? Was he the victim of a lifelong disability just so God could eventually get credit for healing him? Again, our answer is found in Scripture:

Jesus heard that they had cast him [the blind man] out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38)

In addition to providing physical healing, Jesus ultimately provided *spiritual* healing as the once-blind man turned to Christ in saving faith (vs. 38). This set the stage for "the works of God" to be on display every day through his transformed life. The man's blindness led to a life-changing, soul-saving encounter with the Messiah. God was glorified, and the blind man benefited immensely from that process.

Our lives are often filled with pain that comes with no explanation. God doesn't disclose exactly what He intends to accomplish in each trial, but we know that He will ultimately receive glory as "the works of God" are accomplished in and through us. Even if He doesn't replace blindness with 20/20 vision, we can trust that God has our best interests at heart and that He will be glorified as they are carried out.

# **Chapter 5 Memory Verses**

#### Isaiah 43:7

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

#### **John 9:3**

Jesus answered,
"It was not that this man sinned,
or his parents,
but that the works of God
might be displayed in him."

#### John 11:4

But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

## **Revelation 4:11**

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

# **God's Plans Take Time**

As we saw in chapter four, God providentially superintends all things to accomplish His good purposes and make us more like Jesus (Rom. 8:28-29). This process takes time, yet our natural tendency is to try and figure out exactly what God intends to accomplish and when He'll be finished.

When the rain starts, it's tempting to think things will get better as soon as we ace the test. After all, isn't that what happened to Abraham? When God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac, Abraham did as he was instructed and led Isaac up the mountain (Gen. 22:1-10). Just as Isaac's life was about to end, an angel spoke from heaven and brought immediate closure to this heart-rending trial of faith (Gen. 22:11-12). Isaac was spared, God provided a ram instead (Gen. 22:13), and Abraham walked down the mountain with his son. The sequence of events was simple: Abraham's faith was tried, he passed the test, and the trial ended.

Unfortunately, our trials are usually more like Joseph's than Abraham's. Everything started when Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers (Gen. 37:23-28). His life was filled with dramatic ups and

downs for the next 13 years, including being falsely accused and imprisoned (Gen. 39:19-20), before finally being promoted to second in command over Egypt (Gen. 41:39-41). Only then did God's purpose become clear. Others meant it for evil, but "God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (Gen. 50:20).

Joseph may have learned many valuable spiritual lessons along the way, but there was nothing he could do to accelerate God's timeline. The length of the trial wasn't due to Joseph being a slow learner; God's plans simply took time to unfold, and they were much bigger than anyone could have imagined.

Joseph's lengthy trial isn't an isolated event in Scripture. David spent years fleeing from Saul before becoming king (1 Sam. 19; 2 Sam. 2:1-4). Zechariah and Elizabeth faced a lifelong battle with infertility before giving birth to John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25, 57-66). Paul encountered numerous delays when attempting to visit Rome, including a near-death experience at sea (Acts 27:1-44; 28:11-16; Rom. 1:9-13).

Our trials of faith rarely follow predictable timelines. Perhaps you learned the lesson you thought God was trying to teach you, but your circumstances got worse instead of better. On one hand, it's healthy to

ask ourselves what spiritual lessons God might be trying to teach us through the rain. Maybe God wants to cultivate patience, compassion, contentedness, or humility. If you sense that is the case, capitalize on the opportunity to grow in those areas. But even after you learn the lessons you think God is trying to teach you, don't expect an angel from heaven to immediately appear and announce an end to the storm. God's plans take time, and they are often much bigger and better than we realize.

# **Chapter 6 Memory Verses**

## Psalm 27:14

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

## Isaiah 40:31

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.

## John 13:7

Jesus answered him,
"What I am doing
you do not understand now,
but afterward you will understand."





# **Our Response When It Rains**

As an adult, I coped with the pain like most men do: I didn't think about it. I decided that never knowing about my biological father would probably be less painful than walking down that road. What if he doesn't want me? What if I couldn't find him? What if he's dead? Rather than facing the possibility of more disappointment, I buried all these questions and went on with my life.

This strategy served me well most of the time, but there were occasions when the pain couldn't stay hidden. One significant example is when my wife Laura and I faced a prolonged battle with infertility. Not knowing my biological father left me with a deeply rooted desire to have a biological relationship with my own child. Adoption is a beautiful and biblical thing, but deep scars and heavy emotional baggage made it impossible for me to seriously consider it. "God didn't give me a biological dad. Can't He at least give me a biological son?" This was my embarrassing and sinful train of thought.

Infertility was a renewed and unwelcome reminder that, even if I ever became a dad, I didn't have one. My wife, to her credit, periodically suggested that it might be healthy for me to ask the question I had vowed never to ask: who was my dad? I always shut down these conversations as quickly as they started, but my curiosity secretly began to grow.

In July of 2023, I ordered a DNA test kit from Amazon. I told Laura I was just curious to know about my genetic makeup. I wanted to know what part of the world I hailed from, and that was it. Of course, we both knew there was a slim chance they would match me with my biological father. When the DNA results came and there was no match, my heart sank. As much as I didn't want to admit it, I really did want to know who my dad is.

My response to the rain was imperfect to say the least. As a child, my heart was often full of bitterness and doubt. As an adult, I buried my feelings and tried to pretend I didn't care. Despite my unwillingness to deal with these deep-seated issues, God graciously gave me many blessings during this season: a godly wife, a solid church, and a full-time ministry at Scripture Memory Fellowship to name a few. The pain was still there, but I was learning how to serve God in the rain.

### **Praise God When It Rains**

The coronavirus pandemic of 2020 was an emotional season for almost everyone. The world suddenly transformed into a very different place, and it was impossible to go anywhere without being reminded of this new and unwelcome reality. As churches met online or even suspended services entirely, many believers found themselves discouraged and disconnected—a dangerous combination for anyone.

My own struggle with discouragement during the pandemic reached a turning point when I was invited to visit a nearby church that had just reopened. As I stood in a sanctuary filled mostly with strangers, we joined our voices in worship and sang these words:

Come, behold the wondrous mystery Slain by death, the God of life But no grave could ever restrain Him Praise the Lord, He is alive! What a foretaste of deliverance How unwavering our hope Christ in power resurrected As we will be when He comes.<sup>4</sup>

Suddenly, I felt something change inside my heart. I wasn't thinking about masks, vaccines, and social distancing; I was thinking about Jesus and rejoicing in His magnificent work of redemption. As I praised God, my priorities were realigned. Things that once seemed supremely important were now eclipsed by the beauty of the gospel and the glory of God. None of my problems had been solved when I left the service 90 minutes later, but I saw them from a different perspective. They weren't front and center anymore; God was.

Perhaps you're looking for the "what" and "why" of today's storm. What is God doing? Why is He letting this happen? When will it be over? The disciples found themselves with similar questions in Acts 1:6-8. Israel had suffered under Roman occupation for years, and they were more than ready for the storm to subside. When was Jesus going to fulfill the Old Testament prophecy that the Messiah would establish an earthly kingdom and bring an end to all oppression (Isa. 9:6-7)? Jesus answered their question with a humbling reminder that some things are simply none of our business: "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority."

Rather than focusing on what we don't know, praising God in the rain means focusing on what we do know: God is still God. He is still good, holy, just, merciful, and gracious. No matter how difficult today is, the gospel is still true. Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died

on the cross, and rose again on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Heb. 4:15). Your future may seem uncertain, but you can rejoice in the promise that Jesus is coming soon and everything wrong will be made right (Psa. 96:13; Rom. 8:20-21; Rev. 22:12). God's goodness transcends today's raindrops.

# **Chapter 7 Memory Verses**

Job 1:20-21

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.

And he said,
"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked shall I return.
The LORD gave,
and the LORD has taken away;
blessed be the name of the LORD."

### Daniel 6:10

When Daniel knew
that the document had been signed,
he went to his house
where he had windows in his upper chamber
open toward Jerusalem.
He got down on his knees three times a day
and prayed and gave thanks before his God,
as he had done previously.

### **Trust God When It Rains**

of what it looks like to trust God in the face of adversity. Phrases like "the valley of the shadow of death" and "in the presence of my enemies" make it clear that David knew a thing or two about hardship. Even so, he concludes this timeless psalm with an affirmation of his unwavering trust in God: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (vs. 6).

When it comes to trusting God, our greatest enemy is doubt. Will God's goodness and mercy *really* follow us all the days of our life? Will He keep His promises? Does He truly have our best interests at heart? These are the questions Eve wrestled with in the Garden of Eden when the serpent called God's motives into question. "But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'" (Gen. 3:4-5).

It's no exaggeration to say that the Fall was a direct consequence of doubting God's goodness. As Victor

### Hamilton writes,

The serpent's first tack is to suggest to Eve that God is sinister, that in fact God is abusing her. This is the force of his question in verse 1a. "Would God let you see and touch these trees (i.e., raise the desire), but not let you eat any of them? A God who would do something like that certainly does not love you."<sup>5</sup>

Just as in the Garden of Eden, the enemy seeks to sow seeds of doubt about the goodness of God—especially during difficult seasons. If God is good, why is He letting such bad things happen? Yet as painful as it may be to admit, the trials of your life are not a courtroom where God's goodness is on trial. When my wife and I struggled with infertility, it took me years to realize that God didn't owe us children. Infertility was not an indictment against His goodness. God could choose never to give us a child and still be good. This is true in every area of life: God doesn't owe us children, good health, or an easier path. We deserve His wrath, not His blessing (Psa. 130:3; Rom. 3:10).

So, what does all this mean? When the storm clouds roll in, should we comfort ourselves with the gloomy thought that we probably deserve even worse? Of course not! The point isn't that you are bad; it's that God is good, and His goodness is not contingent upon the weather above your house. Don't let today's

circumstances erode your faith that God is who He says He is: infinitely good, all-powerful, and completely trustworthy. You may not always understand His ways, but you can always trust His heart.

# **Chapter 8 Memory Verses**

### Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

### Habakkuk 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

### **Serve God When It Rains**

Daniel is a perfect picture of what it means to serve God in the rain. At about 16 years of age, Daniel and his friends were taken captive by the Babylonians. Why them? Because "the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace" (Dan. 1:3-4).

Daniel wasn't just an unfortunate victim of a random kidnapping; this was a hostile takeover by a foreign government, and Daniel was specifically targeted as a member of the political class. As if being kidnapped wasn't enough, he and his friends were forced to learn "the literature and language of the Chaldeans" (Dan. 1:4). Imagine being uprooted from your homeland as your government is overthrown, then being forced to learn the language and customs of your captors!

To say it was raining in Daniel's life would be an understatement. He found himself in a situation where compromise would have been easy, yet he resisted cultural pressure and remained steadfast in his faith.

He didn't go with the idea that desperate times call for desperate measures. Instead, he "resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank" (Dan. 1:8). Rather than treating the storm as an occasion to relax his standards and do the bare minimum, Daniel resolved to live a life of unwavering obedience to God's Word.

In addition to his example of integrity, Daniel was also incredibly resilient. As a member of the nobility, it's safe to assume Daniel was serving God in very specific and important ways prior to his captivity. He was also a young man, which means he probably had big plans for what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. All of that changed when the inhabitants of Judah looked out and found themselves surrounded by Nebuchadnezzar's army. For years to come, Daniel's life would be spent serving God in the rain.

Although Daniel's future didn't take shape as he expected, he capitalized on natural opportunities to serve God in this new setting. He interpreted multiple dreams for the king and became "ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon" (Dan. 2:48). This wasn't the political career Daniel had envisioned as a young man, but that didn't stop him from embracing every opportunity to serve God in his new home.

Perhaps your story feels like Daniel's. Nothing is going according to plan, and there's no sign of things returning to normal anytime soon. If that's you, ask God to help you recognize natural opportunities to serve Him in this season. Has the storm brought new people into your life who need to hear your testimony or see your example of faithfulness?

Serving God in the rain may look very different than what you planned, but make no mistake: God can use you right where you are, even if you're soaking wet.

# **Chapter 9 Memory Verses**

#### 1 Samuel 12:24

Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
For consider what great things he has done for you.

### **Romans 12:11**

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:2

But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict.





# When the Rain Stops

t was February 2024, and the battle with infertility was over. Laura was pregnant! Hundreds of prayers and just as many tears culminated nine months later when we welcomed Landon Lynch into our lives. Our hearts overflowed with joy and gratitude. I now had the opportunity to be the dad I never had, and I wasn't going to waste it!

Over the next few weeks, we were blessed by frequent visits from friends and family. My mom and sister flew in for the birth, and my mom joined us again just two weeks later to help with the baby while I was at work.

On Sunday, November 17, I sat in my living room having a rare one-on-one conversation with my mom while Laura and Landon attended a friend's baby shower. Without much thought or preparation, I heard myself say these words: "Mom, I know this is random, but I would really like to know more about my dad." I had no idea what she would say, but I needed closure—even at the expense of possible heartbreak.

My mom responded by saying she has always been prepared to answer my questions; she was simply waiting for me to ask. As she began to share the story, I had no idea that my life was about to change forever.

I was conceived when my mom was 18 and my dad was 19. They quickly got engaged and started planning a wedding. As their wedding day approached, my mom ended the relationship, told him they were getting married for the wrong reasons, and gave back the engagement ring. My dad returned the ring to the jewelry store and gave her the cash. He called once after I was born and was asked by a relative to let me have a normal life. That was his last contact with our family, although it was reported that my dad subsequently became involved with drugs and lived a reckless life.

After sharing this story, my mom asked if I wanted to know my dad's name.

"I do."

"His name is Brent.

Would you like to see his picture?"

"Yes."

A few moments later, my mom found him on Facebook and showed me his picture. That was him. That was my dad! After years of trying to pretend he didn't exist, I saw a face that looked unmistakably like my own and knew that I had found him.

I quickly ended the conversation with my mom, eager to find his Facebook page for myself and send him a message. I didn't know what I would say, but I had to reach out to him. As I sat there with tears in my eyes, I composed a message and hit send. What would he say? Would he even see my message? What if he's not on Facebook anymore?

I couldn't bear the suspense, so I scoured the internet looking for any information I could find about my dad. I finally found what appeared to be a legitimate cell phone number and sent a text message. "My name is Dakota Lynch....Is this Brent?" The response came less than a minute later: "Yes."

My heart was pounding as I wrote, "I know you have a life and a family, and I don't want to disrupt that. But after 31 years of wondering who my dad is, it would mean the world to me if we could have a conversation and maybe get to know each other." He responded immediately and wanted to meet. I was in disbelief. Unfortunately, I was also 600 miles away, so meeting in person wasn't immediately practical. We settled on Facetime instead. Less than an hour before, I didn't know whether my dad was even living. Now I was about to have a video call with him.

As I sat on my back porch preparing to start the call, I was overwhelmed by a flood of emotions. I didn't want an apology. I didn't want an explanation. All I wanted was for him to love me, to welcome me into his life and let me be his son. My dad joined the video call, and we were both in tears. It turned out he had been longing for this moment as well. When he made that initial phone call after my birth, the person who answered falsely led him to believe my mom was already married to someone else. He then found himself questioning everything. How long had my mom been with this man? Was I even his son? He tried to call numerous times in the days ahead, but he couldn't get through. All these years later, he still knew that phone number by heart.

After 11 years of addiction, my dad turned to God and has been clean ever since. To my surprise, my dad wasn't a deadbeat or a jerk; he was a born-again Christian who loves serving God and serving others.

The next 40 minutes were spent getting to know each other. I told my dad about Landon, his first grandchild. He told me about my half-brother and two half-sisters. Most importantly, I heard words I had given up on ever hearing: "Son, I am proud of what you have become. I am going to love you well." By the end of the next day, he had purchased a plane ticket to come and visit. Could this be real? I was starting to believe I might not

be dreaming after all.

On December 6, 2024, my dad landed at Dallas Love Field Airport. As he walked through that gate, he saw his son, his grandson, and his daughter-in-law waiting to greet him. For the first time in 31 years, I got to hug my dad and tell him I love him. I showed him where I work and where I live. I took him to my church and introduced him to my friends. Now when people ask about my dad, I'm not embarrassed to tell them the truth. I simply say, "My dad's name is Brent. Let me tell you how we met."

During a span of 25 days, I became a dad, and I found my dad. The rain had stopped, and I suddenly saw God's fingerprints on every page of the story. He was there when we packed the U-Haul and moved away from my childhood home. He saw every tear that hit the floor of my grandma's basement. He was there when my wife and I grieved the devastating loss of a miscarriage after years of wanting children. The pain was deep and real, but it wasn't wasted. God was writing a story that would change my life and showcase His ability "to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).

## **Naomi's Story**

aomi's story opens in depressing fashion: "In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons" (Ruth 1:1).

This single verse is packed with bad news. For starters, Naomi lived "in the days when the judges ruled." This notoriously dark chapter of Israel's history was characterized by repeated cycles of sin, oppression, and deliverance. Naomi lived in a particularly difficult period when "there was a famine in the land," a clear sign of God's chastisement against His people (Deut. 28:17-20). Her hometown of Bethlehem ("house of bread") was now a house of no bread, prompting her husband Elimelech to relocate the family to Moab—a Gentile country outside the Promised Land.

That all sounds bad enough, but things were about to get much worse:

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. (Ruth 1:3-5)

Following the death of her husband and two sons, Naomi returned to Bethlehem with her daughter-in-law, Ruth. So deep was Naomi's grief that a new name seemed appropriate: "She said to them, 'Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me'" (Ruth 1:20).

At this point in Naomi's story, it was difficult to see how God could possibly be at work. The only evidence of Divine involvement she could see suggested that God was working against her, yet chapter one concludes with a glimmer of hope that things are about to change: "They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest" (vs. 22). The famine was over, and Naomi was about to experience God's provision in an unforgettable way.

As a widow in ancient Israel, Naomi's financial outlook was bleak. Her only means of survival was outlined in Deuteronomy 24:19: "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." Ruth

gathered leftover grain for herself and her mother-inlaw (Ruth 2:2-3), but they both knew their only hope of escaping poverty was a "kinsman redeemer."

Under Jewish law, acting as a kinsman redeemer often came at significant personal cost. In this case, it would mean marrying Ruth, providing for her, and assuming full responsibility for the land.

What's the catch? The land would ultimately stay within Elimelech's family. In other words, the kinsman redeemer would be responsible for the property without gaining any lasting equity in it. Plus, any future children would be legally viewed as the heirs of Ruth's first husband, Mahlon. It's no wonder that the first person in line to fill this role decided it was too expensive and opted out (Ruth 4:6).

Enter Boaz. By marrying Ruth, Boaz embraced his responsibility "to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place" (Ruth 4:10). When Ruth subsequently gave birth to a son, "Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David" (Ruth 4:16-17).

After years of rain, Naomi's storm had passed. It would take another 1,000 years for the magnitude of God's plans to become clear, but for now she held in her arms a child who would someday be the grandfather of King David and an ancestor of the long-awaited Messiah.

# **Chapter 10 Memory Verses**

#### **Ruth 4:14**

Then the women said to Naomi,
"Blessed be the LORD,
who has not left you this day
without a redeemer,
and may his name be renowned in Israel!"

### **Psalm 30:5**

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

### Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## Mary and Martha's Story

he story of Lazarus is one of the most well-known miracles in the New Testament. We've heard the happy ending so many times that it's easy to forget how it all began: Lazarus got sick, and his sisters Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus. When Jesus heard the news, He responded with a promise: "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). What a relief! Lazarus was gravely ill, but Jesus had given His word that it would not lead to death.

After a two-day delay, Jesus informed His disciples they were heading back to Judea (vss. 6-7). When the disciples objected on the grounds that the Jews wanted to stone Him (vs. 8), Jesus shared the astonishing news that "Lazarus has died" (vs. 14). How could this be? Just two days earlier, Jesus had reassured everyone with the promise that Lazarus was going to be okay. Jesus said the illness would not lead to death, but by all appearances, it had done just that. The disciples now found themselves grieving the loss of a friend while also trying to make sense of a promise that seemed very broken.

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Mary and Martha, who viewed their brother's death as an entirely preventable disaster, both greeted Jesus in the same way: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (vss. 21, 32). The Lord's earlier promise that the illness would not lead to death may have left them confused, but they didn't jump to the conclusion that Jesus was a fraud. They had seen too much to doubt the legitimacy of Christ's ministry. Martha's faith was shaken but not broken as she said, "But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you" (vs. 22).

In response to Martha's faith, Jesus offered yet another promise: "Your brother will rise again" (vs. 23). This time, Martha tempered her expectations and "said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day'" (vs. 24). She didn't understand all of God's promises, but she took comfort in what she knew for sure. Little did she know what was about to unfold! Jesus was setting the stage for a miracle that would change their lives and send shockwaves through the entire town.

You know the rest of the story. Jesus arrived at the tomb, gave orders for the stone to be taken away, and "cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out'" (vs. 43). Four days of mourning suddenly turned to joy as

"the man who had died came out" (vs. 44). Not only were Mary and Martha reunited with their brother, but their faith was strengthened as they suddenly saw God's fingerprints on every page of the story. Why did Lazarus get sick? Why did Jesus say it wouldn't lead to death? Why was He so late in coming? The answer to these questions was now clear: God was doing something far bigger than they could have imagined.

The resurrection of Lazarus didn't change the fact that Mary and Martha had just endured four days of grief. The pain was real, but it wasn't wasted. Every teardrop had served a divine purpose. Jesus kept His promise, rolled back death, and demonstrated His power to bring beauty from even the darkest of circumstances.

# **Chapter 11 Memory Verses**

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

### John 11:40

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

## **Peter's Story**

Sometimes the rain isn't your fault. Perhaps your story is like Joseph's, and you've been the unfortunate victim of bad decisions by other people. Oftentimes, however, we're more like Peter than Joseph: the storm itself is unavoidable, but we respond in a way that makes matters even worse.

Immediately after Peter publicly acknowledged Christ as the Messiah (Matt. 16:16), Jesus forecasted a coming storm: "From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised" (Matt. 16:21). There was nothing Peter could do to avoid this storm; it was "according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). Peter and the rest of the disciples were about to experience the three darkest days in history, and there was nothing they could do about it.

Fast forward to the night of His betrayal, and Jesus told His disciples exactly how they would respond: "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matt. 26:31). As usual, Peter was the

first to speak up. Fall away? Not him! "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away" (Matt. 26:33). Peter claimed he would respond differently than all the rest, and he was right: following Jesus' arrest, Peter was the only one who blatantly denied his Savior (Matt. 26:69-75).

Luke records the painful moment that Peter would replay in his memory again and again:

But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." (Luke 22:60-61)

Peter now found himself in a storm within the storm. Not only was Jesus facing execution, but Peter had responded in the worst way possible. He denied knowing Jesus while Jesus was standing right there! Overwhelmed with grief, "he went out and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62).

Following Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter and several of the other disciples encountered Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. "When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15).

The significance of this question is hard to miss. Did Peter still claim to love Jesus more than anyone else? Jesus asked this question three times, and each time Peter's answer included a trace of humility: "You know that I love you" (vss. 15-17). This time, there was no grandstanding or throwing others under the bus. Peter had learned his lesson.

We all face storms like Peter's from time to time. Maybe the rain started through no fault of your own, but your response has turned the storm into a monsoon. Peter's example teaches us that the solution isn't to continue weeping bitterly; the rain stops when we lean into the grace of God and receive the forgiveness He offers. Just as Christ prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail (Luke 22:31-32), our Lord Jesus "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him" (Heb. 7:25). Even self-inflicted storms are among the "all things" that God will use to accomplish His good purposes and make you more like Jesus (Rom. 8:28-29).

# **Chapter 12 Memory Verses**

#### Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

#### Hebrews 12:6

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.

### 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## When the Rain Doesn't Stop

y story took 31 years to unfold. But what about storms that last a lifetime? Cancer doesn't always go away. Infertility doesn't always give way to pregnancy. Fathers don't always text back. How do we respond to the very real possibility that it will keep raining? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10:

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul was familiar with storms that last a lifetime. He prayed for things to get better, and they didn't. Instead of bemoaning his weakness, Paul delighted in the sufficient grace of God. He did the things we learned about earlier in this book: he praised, served, and trusted God in the rain.

As Tolkien wrote, "The birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus means that one day everything sad will come

untrue." Sometimes God allows us to see a glimpse of that on this side of eternity. Other times, we must wait until heaven for things to make sense. On that day, God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

If God has called you to take a walk in the rain, take the umbrella of faith—and remember that His plans are bigger and better than you could ever imagine.

# **Epilogue Memory Verses**

### 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

But he said to me,
"My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness."
Therefore I will boast
all the more gladly of my weaknesses,
so that the power of Christ
may rest upon me.

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### 1 Peter 5:10

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

### **Revelation 21:4**

He will wipe away
every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain anymore,
for the former things have passed away.

- J. Alec Motyer, Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 20, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 333.
- 2. Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Providence," in *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1791.
- 3. Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 187–188.
- 4. Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Michael Bleecker, "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery" (McKinney Music, Inc. [BMI], Getty Music Hymns and Songs [ASCAP], Getty Music Publishing [BMI], Love Your Enemies Publishing, and Bleecker Publishing, 2013).
- 5. Victor P. Hamilton, "Genesis," in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, *Baker Reference Library* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 13.



## More from Scripture Memory Fellowship



**SwordGrip** 

SwordGrip is a comprehensive memorization plan that will familiarize you with Scripture from cover to cover. You'll learn key verses from every Bible book. The SwordGrip flipbook includes memory verses, detachable verse cards, and Grip-It-Tighter questions.

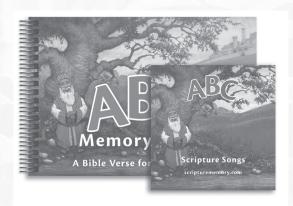
### scripturememory.com/swordgrip



14:6

14:6 is a Scripture memory course that will help you embrace a biblical worldview in every area of life. The title is derived from the words of Jesus in John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Each of the three volumes in 14:6 focuses on a different aspect of a biblical worldview.

scripturememory.com/146



### **ABC Memory Book**

The ABC Memory Book is our best and most popular memory book for preschoolers. Learn one verse of Scripture for each letter of the alphabet from A through Y, then read about the story of Zacchaeus for the letter Z. A short explanation, a related song or poem, and a beautiful watercolor illustration are included for every verse. This book is a great way to make Scripture a fundamental building block of your child's learning right along with the letters of the alphabet. The ABC Memory Book is also available as a musical CD or MP3 and as a coloring book.

scripturememory.com/abc



### The Classics

The Classics is a simple memory course of 100 key Bible verses everyone should know. These priceless passages of Scripture will be a continual source of strength, wisdom, and blessing in your walk with God.

scripturememory.com/classics

## **About Scripture Memory Fellowship**

### Who We Are

SMF exists to cultivate systematic Scripture memorizers who know Jesus Christ and grow in His likeness for the glory of God. We offer dozens of time-tested memory courses as well as a mobile app, Scripture songs, rewards, and more to equip memorizers of all ages to master the challenges of Scripture memory. We also host Scripture Memory Camp and ScriptureFests to help believers treasure the life-giving words of God. SMF operates primarily in the U.S. with ministry partners around the world.

#### **Partner With Us**

This ministry is a work of faith. Support from God's people allows us to continue operations and to offer Scripture memory materials at low cost. God has faithfully supplied SMF's needs for decades through the sacrificial giving of His people. If you've been touched by our ministry and want to support this work of planting God's Word, please consider giving (Rom.15:27; 2 Cor. 9:7).

### scripturememory.com/donate

### **Contact Us**

contact@scripturememory.com • 888.569.2560 P.O. Box 550232 • Dallas, TX 75355

