

Moments Remembered

A 30-Day Devotional for Families

By Douglas Lim



Bladensburg, MD

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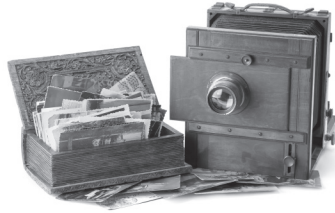
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Day 1

Dark Rooms

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalms 27:1).

The power went off in the house. Silence and darkness filled our home. I suddenly heard shouts from the children upstairs. The darkness frightened them, especially the monsters and ghosts the kids believed lurked in the dark. I lit candles and rushed upstairs. As the candle lights filled the room, they felt safe once again.

As adults, we also find ourselves in dark places. It is the darkness of everyday worries, of an unknown future, or a hurtful past that frightens us.

When Christ came into this world as the Light, He made it possible for us to see our way out of the darkness. But we must engage our faith and trust in Him

for His light to illuminate the dark places and banish the fears. We do not know what the future holds, but our Master does. He is in control when we cannot be.

Like a child who wants his Mom and Dad to leave the lights on to feel safe, the Light of Christ will comfort all who seek Him.



Prayer

Heavenly Father, in moments of great distress, help me to open my heart wide to Your light that has the power to scatter the darkness of fear inside of me. Amen.



Day 2

Models of Faith

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

There is more I need to teach my children.

After dinner, my wife and I helped our kids with homework. We also set aside time to talk with them about school and their friends. We encouraged them to ask us questions about whatever was on their minds.

We often worried about their grades, health, and safety. But we should be concerned about something more. God commands us to teach our children about Jesus Christ and frequently reminds us how much it matters to educate them on the things of God.

As parents, our vocation is to lead our children to the Savior and ensure they arrive at the place of our

heavenly Father. This means clearing a path for them to encounter Him. He called us to this mission as mothers and fathers from the beginning.

God wants us to be models of faith to our kids and cautions us not to block their path with our bad example. We need to walk with them on their faith journey until they are ready to walk with Jesus by themselves.

He equipped us to guide our children to love Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the power of grace. Joyful will be the day our Lord welcomes our children to walk alongside Him—and they follow.



Prayer

Lord, help me to become a better teacher of the faith to my children. Let my actions and words help them grow closer to You, our Savior. Amen.



Day 3

Second Chances

Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:14, NLT).

I hated myself for using such cruel words. I told God how much I regretted causing my friend so much pain and embarrassment at school, and I asked for forgiveness. But I was not able to get over the guilt. I kept replaying the scene over and over in my mind, which made things worse.

Before long, I felt too ashamed—and stopped praying and going to church. Believing I didn't deserve forgiveness, I hid from God. Finally, it became clear I could never receive forgiveness nor start to feel better

if I kept holding on to the guilt.

I began praying again. God showed me through Jesus' death on the cross that He forgave me—and I had a second chance to make things right.



Prayer

Lord, give me the courage to approach You when I have done something wrong. Help me to trust that if I pray to You with real regret, You will forgive me and guide me to do better next time. Amen.