

# Biblical Reflections

in a Middle Eastern Context



ACCTS

المركز العربي للخدمات الاستشارية والتدريب  
Arab Center for Consulting and Training Services (AWT)

We are delighted to share this booklet with you, a heartfelt work prepared through ACCTS, to offer biblical devotionals that resonate with the realities of life in the Middle East. Our hope is that these reflections, rooted in scripture and shaped by the region's cultural and historical context, will uplift your spirit, strengthen your faith, and draw you closer to God and His Word.



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ACCTS is a Christian ministry based in Jordan dedicated to empowering and equipping women and youth across the MENA region—strengthening them in body, soul, and spirit—to become devoted disciples of Christ. By nurturing their faith and leadership potential, ACCTS seeks to inspire them to influence their communities and ultimately help the church grow.



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# Strength in the Desert

Day 01



**The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (Isaiah 58:1)**

In the Arab world, the desert is a powerful symbol. Its vastness represents life's challenges: arid, relentless, and sometimes overwhelming. Yet, amid this barrenness, God promises provision and refreshment. Like an oasis in the desert, His guidance transforms scarcity into abundance.

We often face "desert moments", whether in strained relationships, overwhelming responsibilities, or spiritual dryness. But Isaiah reminds us that God is not distant; He is a Shepherd who walks with us, guiding us to places of rest and renewal.

In Arab culture, hospitality is sacred, and an honored guest is cared for with the best provisions. Imagine how much more God, our gracious Host, lavishes His care upon us, His children. He offers us living water through His Word and the Holy Spirit, quenching our thirst and renewing our strength to endure life's trials.

Are you weary? Trust in God's promise to guide and satisfy you. Let Him fill the dry places of your heart and make you a well-watered garden for His glory.

**Prayer.** Lord thank You for being my oasis in the desert of life. Help me to trust Your guidance and seek Your living water daily. Refresh my soul, that I may bear fruit and glorify Your name. Amen

# The Potter's Hand

Day 02



**Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)**

In many Arab homes, pottery holds a special place, reminding us of the beauty that skilled hands can create from mere clay. The potter's work requires patience, vision, and precision. Similarly, our lives are shaped by the hands of our Heavenly Father, who molds us into His masterpiece.

As the clay, we may not always understand the Potter's methods. The shaping process can be uncomfortable—pressing, spinning, and refining in the fire. Yet, these moments are not meant to harm us but to perfect us for His purposes. Every detail in the Potter's work has significance, just as every trial, joy, and lesson in our lives serves a divine purpose.

Arab culture values perseverance and the art of craftsmanship, reflecting God's deliberate care in shaping us. Like the clay, we must surrender to His hands, trusting His wisdom and plan, even when we cannot see the final design.

Take heart, for the Potter does not abandon His work. He sees beauty and purpose in what may appear to be imperfections.

**Prayer.** Father thank You for being the Potter who shapes my life with love and purpose. Help me to trust Your process and yield to Your hands, knowing You are creating something beautiful in me. Amen.

# Ahlan wa Sahlan

Day 03



**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:2)**

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:9-10)

If you've ever been to a Middle Eastern home, you were most likely met with an extravagant spread of food and plenty of warmth aimed at making you feel at ease. Even the phrase spoken, "Ahlan wa Sahlan" (literally) welcomes guests as family members and wishes them a smooth stay. Hospitality at its best!

All cultures have an element of it, no doubt. Unfortunately, however, many times, we all tend to practice conditional hospitality. Hosting our "clique" is fun but being gracious to someone who does not have much in common with us takes effort.

Going out of our way to serve others quickly transforms into a burden if they are outside our circle of comfort. We are willing to make room at our metaphorical table only when the guests fit our criteria of familiarity. But God showed us grace when we didn't meet the standard when we were still sinners.

He inconvenienced Himself - for lack of a better expression - leaving the glory of Heaven to live in our world and die for the sake of our reconciliation and welcome into His family.

And so, it is worth asking: am I showing God's hospitable grace to the "strangers" in my life, the vulnerable, the refugee, the person of a different culture, religion, race, color, etc...? If so, am I doing it gladly or begrudgingly? And does that reflect good stewardship of God's grace that was first shown to me?

**Prayer.** Dear Lord, Thank You for welcoming me into Your family, Thank you for showing me grace when I least deserved it. Teach me to reflect Your love by word and action to those around me, even to strangers. May my earthly hospitality point them to the utmost welcome into Your kingdom so that You may be glorified. Amen



# Measuring the life of faith

Day 04



**When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I understood like a child, and I reasoned like a child, but when I became a man, I put away the things that are childish.” (1 Corinthians 13:11)**

In the Arab world, especially in the mountains, little shepherds are raised with care and preparation for their roles. From a young age, they drink lamb or goat milk and consume its dairy products, building the strength they’ll need to tend the herds.

By the age of 8 or 9, these children are considered ready to shepherd the flock, stepping into a responsibility that shapes their character and maturity.

Similarly, in our spiritual journey, God has provided everything we need to grow and mature in faith. The Holy Spirit dwells within me, offering guidance and strength.

The Word of God serves as my foundation and compass, and the community of believers, the Church, supports, teaches, and encourages me to advance in my walk with Christ. These gifts are always available to help me move beyond spiritual infancy and into maturity.

To grow, I can examine three key areas of my life. First, my relationship with God should reflect a deep longing to connect with Him through prayer and find rest in His presence.

This ongoing fellowship strengthens and renews me. Second, I should cultivate inner transformation by relying on the Holy Spirit, allowing His peace, joy, and reassurance to fill my heart as I experience and bear His fruit daily. Finally, my relationships with others are a testament to my growth.

As I practice gentleness, patience, and forgiveness, my actions and attitudes reflect Christ's love and bring light to those around me.

I should embrace this journey of growth, trusting in God's provision and encouraging others to mature in faith and love.

**Prayer,** Help me Lord, with the help of your Holy Spirit, to grow every day in my knowledge of you, in my feelings, and in my behavior, so that I may glorify your name on earth. Amen



# The characteristics of the believer.

Day 05



**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalm 1)**

In Arab and Bedouin cultures, men are often celebrated for their strength, courage, and leadership. These traits reflect a heritage of resilience and honor, but the life of Jesus provides a higher standard for godly character that transcends cultural norms. Jesus was disciplined, living in perfect alignment with God's timing. At the wedding in Cana, He reminded His mother, "My time has not yet come," showing the importance of patience and divine purpose rather than yielding to human expectations.

Jesus also demonstrated true courage, not through physical dominance but by standing against injustice. When He overturned the tables of the money changers, He showed that righteousness requires boldness in confronting wrongs. His nobility was evident in His respect for others. When accused of being a Samaritan and demon-possessed, He calmly denied the insult without demeaning the Samaritans, exemplifying the dignity of love and respect above societal divides.

While emotions are often concealed in traditional masculinity, Jesus embraced compassion. He wept at Lazarus's grave and comforted a grieving widow, teaching us that true strength lies in tenderness.

His wisdom was unmatched, as seen when He answered complex questions with divine clarity, like instructing, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God.” Through prayer, He displayed a deep reliance on God, spending entire nights in communion with the Father before pivotal moments like choosing His disciples.

The Arab man’s traits of honor, bravery, and wisdom are admirable, but Jesus calls us to something greater.

His life reveals that a godly man is not defined by cultural expectations but by a heart aligned with God’s will—disciplined, compassionate, courageous, and prayerful. May we follow His example and reflect His character in every aspect of our lives.

**Prayer.** O Lord help me on this day to be according to Your heart, just as the Lord Jesus, the perfect man, walked, prayed, and acted wisely in every situation. Amen



# The Obedience of Ruth.

Day 06



**But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)**

In many Arab cultures, the relationship between a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is often depicted as difficult, with media emphasizing rivalry and tension. These portrayals have led to real-life struggles in some marriages, where unresolved issues between a wife and her mother-in-law contributed to divorce.

However, the biblical story of Ruth and Naomi offers a different perspective. It highlights a relationship based on love, loyalty, and respect. Ruth’s devotion to Naomi began with a powerful declaration of commitment, saying, “Where you go, I will go” (Ruth 1:16). Her faith was not passive, as she worked diligently to provide for both herself and Naomi, saying, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain” (Ruth 2:2).

Ruth also accepted Naomi’s guidance with humility and trust, exemplified when she followed Naomi’s advice on how to approach Boaz (Ruth 3:1-3). Her integrity was recognized by Boaz, who admired her for choosing character over personal gain (Ruth 3:10).

Ruth and Naomi's relationship challenges the stereotypes often associated with mother-in-law and daughter-in-law dynamics. Their story demonstrates that with faith, respect, and humility, even challenging relationships can become sources of blessing and strength.

Their relation could also be demonstrated in any relationship, such as teacher and student, employer and employee. God put us in a relationship to honor him, not to disgrace one another.

**Prayer.** Thank you, Lord, for giving us examples of people who were weak like us, but your work in their hearts made them great believers.

Help us, O Lord, to be obedient and submissive to you, and grant us not to grieve the Holy Spirit who lives in us. In Jesus' name, we pray.



# It Is Well: Finding True Peace in Christ

Day 07



**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)**

People's days are often marked by uncertainty—whether due to political instability, economic hardships, or the pain of wars and revolutions that have shaped the entire region. Sometimes, some days are calm and ordinary, but others face overwhelming challenges. This made us pause and reflect on the word "peace" and ask: What does this word truly mean?

The Bible tells the story of a woman who longed for a child. The prophet Elisha prophesied that she would have a son, and God fulfilled that promise. Her joy, however, turned into sorrow when her child suddenly fell ill and died.

Despite her pain, she went to Elisha to tell him what had happened. Elisha asked her through his servant:  
"Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?"  
She answered, "It is well."

In a region like this, where stories of war and loss are all too common, this message is deeply relevant. Peace is not the absence of conflict or challenges. It is the presence of an unshakable trust in the One who holds all things in His hands.

True peace is found in Jesus Christ, the source of peace, who promised:  
"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

**Prayer.** Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for the peace we have received through Jesus Christ. May Your peace reign even in the midst of wars, revolutions, and challenges.

Help us to be carriers of this peace to others, reflecting the calm and assurance that only You can provide. In the name of Jesus, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen



# Be the Good Samaritan in Someone's Story

Day 08



***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.***

The story of the Good Samaritan is one of the most compelling illustrations of mercy in the Bible. A man, left beaten and near death by robbers, lay helpless on the side of the road.

While a priest and a Levite chose to pass him by, it was a Samaritan—an outsider in the cultural context—who stopped, cared for his wounds, and ensured he received the help he needed. The Samaritan saw beyond societal divides and acted with compassion, embodying the very heart of mercy.

Today, the Christian body of Christ continues to live out the story of the Good Samaritan in profound and tangible ways. One of the clearest examples is how believers have risen to care for Syrian and Iraqi refugees. In the wake of devastating wars and persecution, countless men, women, and children were displaced from their homes, fleeing violence and losing everything.

Amid this humanitarian crisis, the Church in the Middle East became a refuge—providing shelter, food, clothing, and emotional and spiritual support to those in desperate need.

This mercy is a reflection of the love and compassion we have received from God Himself. Out of His great mercy, God sent Jesus Christ to die for us, offering forgiveness, healing, and new life. Just as we have been recipients of this unmerited grace, we are called to extend it to others, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

As we think of the refugees who have faced unimaginable hardships—leaving behind their homes, losing loved ones, and struggling to rebuild their lives—we are reminded of the Samaritan's actions. He did not simply feel pity; he acted. Similarly, the body of Christ has not just acknowledged the suffering of refugees but has stepped into their stories with open hearts and hands, providing a glimpse of God's mercy in action.

This calling is not limited to large organizations or grand gestures. It is lived out in the small, consistent acts of kindness that each believer can offer—whether through donating resources, volunteering time, offering prayer, or simply being a listening ear to someone in need.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the abundance of mercy you have shown us through Jesus Christ. Teach us to see others through the compassionate eyes of Christ and to act boldly in love and mercy. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

# I am a vessel of honor.

Day 09



**But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to the molder, 'Why have you made me like this?' Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?**

**(Romans 9:20, 21)**

In Arab culture, the image of a potter shaping clay resonates deeply. Pottery has been part of our heritage for centuries, symbolizing creativity, purpose, and beauty. In Scripture, God is portrayed as the ultimate Potter, shaping us into vessels of honor for His glory and service. This timeless metaphor carries profound meaning for our spiritual lives.

To be a "vessel of honor" means allowing God to purify and mold us into instruments fit for His holy work. It requires that we set aside anything that hinders our spiritual growth—sin, pride, fear, or doubt—and live lives marked by holiness, humility, and surrender.

Just as a potter works tirelessly to refine and perfect the clay, God works within us to transform our hearts and prepare us for His purposes.

In our region, where challenges like conflict, uncertainty, and hardship can weigh heavily on our hearts, this message offers hope. It reminds us that God is actively shaping us through every trial and blessing. The pressures we face are not wasted; they are part of His refining process, making us vessels ready to carry His love, peace, and truth to a hurting world.

Imagine the clay resisting the potter's hands, questioning the design, or doubting the purpose. Yet the clay must trust the potter's skill, knowing that He envisions the final masterpiece. Similarly, we may not always understand God's ways, but we can trust that His plans are perfect and that He is shaping us for a holy and eternal purpose.

As vessels of honor, we are called to reflect God's glory in our daily lives—whether in our families, communities, or places of work. We are His instruments to bring hope, reconciliation, and love to a region that deeply longs for His peace. This is not just a personal calling; it is a collective mission to shine as lights in a world that often feels dark.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, You are the Potter, and I am the clay. Thank You for shaping me into a vessel of honor for Your glory and purpose. Help me to trust Your work in my life, even when the process is challenging.

Purify my heart and strengthen my spirit so that I may reflect Your holiness and serve as an instrument of Your peace and love in my community. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

# A Home Built by the Lord

Day 10



**Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. (Psalm 127:1)**

In Arab culture, the home is the cornerstone of society—a place where traditions are preserved, values are instilled, and hospitality thrives. Families strive to create homes filled with love, joy, and prosperity. They invest in education, provide material comforts, and cherish moments of celebration. Yet, as the Psalmist reminds us, our efforts are in vain without God at the center.

The home is not just a physical structure but a spiritual sanctuary, the first institution ordained by God. When the Lord builds the house, it becomes a dwelling place for His presence, a refuge of peace amid life's storms. A home founded on the rock of Christ's salvation will not crumble, no matter its challenges. It will stand firm, radiating hope and faith to all who enter.

In Arab families, children are considered a great blessing, a heritage from the Lord. They are like arrows in the hands of a warrior entrusted to us to guide and nurture. Our role as parents, grandparents, or guardians is to provide for their physical needs and lead them to the cross. When we introduce our children to Jesus, we entrust them to the One who knows and loves them more than we ever could. He nourishes their souls with the bread of life, quenches their thirst with living water, and guards their steps in every circumstance.

How often do we rely solely on our strength to protect and provide for our families? We lock doors, make plans, and worry endlessly. Yet, the truth remains: What good is my watchfulness if the Lord is not the guardian of my house? Only God can truly protect and bless our homes.

When His Spirit dwells within, our homes become beacons of light in our communities, places of love, hospitality, and faith.

Let us surrender our families and homes to the Lord, trusting Him to build, guard, and guide. Let us pray fervently for our children, teaching them to walk in righteousness and preparing them to be a light in the world.

**Prayer,** Lord we thank You for the gift of our families and children. Help us to make our homes sanctuaries where Your presence dwells. Guide our children to the cross, protect them in all their ways, and fill them with Your Spirit. Build our homes on the foundation of Your Word and Your love so they may stand firm and reflect Your glory. In Christ's name. Amen.



# When the Brook Runs Dry

Day 11



**Depart from here and turn eastward, and hide by the brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it shall be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there... And it happened after a while that the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. (1 Kings 17:4, 7)**

In the Arab world, where water symbolizes life, the image of a drying brook strikes a profound chord. For centuries, communities have depended on rivers, springs, and oases, and the drying up of water is more than an inconvenience, it's a crisis. Similarly, in life, we all face moments when the "brooks" we rely on, our resources, relationships, or opportunities, suddenly disappear.

Elijah, a prophet of great faith, faced such a moment. After boldly confronting King Ahab and Jezebel, God instructed Elijah to find refuge by the brook Cherith. There, God provided for him in miraculous ways: water from the brook and bread brought by ravens. But then, the brook dried up.

Did this mean that God had abandoned Elijah or broken His promise? No. Instead, it marked a transition in Elijah's journey, an opportunity for deeper faith and greater dependence on the Lord.

In our region, many families and communities know the pain of loss, whether through war, displacement, or economic hardship. The drying up of resources can feel like the end of hope. Yet, just as Elijah discovered, God's provision is never limited to a single brook.

When one source runs dry, He leads us to another. In Elijah's case, God sent him to Zarephath, where a widow provided for him, showcasing the power of God's provision even in unlikely places.

When life's brooks dry up, we often wrestle with emotions of fear, doubt, and even anger. We ask, "Lord, what does this mean? Why has this happened?" Yet, in these moments, God invites us to trust Him more deeply, to listen for His guidance, and to discover the new paths He has prepared for us. He is the God who turns deserts into streams and valleys into springs of life.

In our culture, resilience, and community are deeply valued. When one "brook" dries up, we come together to find solutions and support one another. This reflects God's heart for His people: that we lean on Him and extend His care to others during times of need.

**Prayer,** Lord When the brooks of my life run dry, help me to trust in Your unfailing provision. Remind me that You are the source of all blessings and that You guide me to deeper waters. Teach me to listen to Your voice, even in moments of silence, and to walk with faith and courage. May I also be a source of hope and support for those around me, reflecting Your love and faithfulness. Amen.

# The God Who Restores

Day 12



**When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream.  
(Psalm 126:1)**

In the Arab world, the experience of displacement, loss, and longing for restoration is deeply familiar. For centuries, our lands have seen turmoil, and our people have endured trials, from physical captivity to emotional and spiritual struggles. Psalm 126 speaks directly to this collective longing: the joy of restoration and the miraculous intervention of God that feels almost too good to be true—"like those who dream."

Captivity is not limited to exile in a foreign land. It can manifest in the loss of success, health, relationships, or spiritual vitality. Yet, the Lord is a God of restoration.

He does not merely return us to where we were; He leads us to something even better. As the Psalmist says, "He restores my soul; He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." (Psalm 23:3)

In our culture, the idea of God's visitation resonates with stories of His intervention during seasons of drought, despair, and difficulty. His power to restore is boundless—whether it's renewing hope in war-torn regions, healing broken families, or bringing peace to troubled hearts. He transforms mourning into joy, sickness into health, and bondage into freedom.

Imagine a family displaced by conflict returning to their homeland after years of hardship, finding not only their home intact but also their community and hope restored. This is the image of God's restoration—a promise that He will not leave us in our captivity but will magnify His work in and through us.

Waiting for the Lord's visitation requires faith, patience, and a heart surrendered to His timing. Trust is not always easy when the days are long and the nights are filled with tears. Yet, the same God who restored Zion promises to bring joy to our hearts, laughter to our mouths, and songs of praise to our lips. His arm is never too short to save, and His timing is always perfect.

**Prayer.** You are the God who restores. In our times of captivity, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, help us to trust in Your perfect timing. Restore our souls, fill our hearts with joy, and magnify Your work in our lives. May we see Your hand guiding us and feel Your presence carrying us. In You, we find hope, peace, and victory. Amen.



# From Rejection to Redemption

Day 13



**Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? (Matthew 21:42)**

In the Arab culture, where honor and societal approval hold significant weight, rejection can feel like a deep wound. It might come from family, friends, or community. When our abilities are dismissed or our dreams are belittled, it can leave us feeling devalued, ashamed, and uncertain about our place in the world. How often do we allow rejection to shape our identity? Slowly, doubt seeps into our hearts, paralyzing us. We might retreat inwardly, harboring resentment or pride, convincing ourselves that those who dismiss us are unworthy of our talents. Yet, this reaction distances us further from our true calling and blinds us to God's higher purpose.

The story of the rejected stone reminds us of a profound truth: God's ways are not like the world's. The stone the builders deemed unworthy became the cornerstone—the most essential part of the structure. Similarly, when we are overlooked or discarded by others, God sees immense value and purpose in us. He does not measure us by worldly standards but by His divine plan for our lives.

Throughout Scripture, we see God choosing the rejected to accomplish His purposes. Moses, a man of faltering speech, was chosen to lead the Israelites. David, the youngest and least likely among his brothers, became a king after God's own heart. And Jesus Himself, despised and rejected, became the Savior of the world.

In our context, think of those in our society who are marginalized or undervalued—the refugee struggling to rebuild their life, the widow dismissed by her community, the young person with big dreams but little support. God does not forget them, and neither should we. Like the cornerstone, their potential can anchor something great when placed in God's Hands.

When rejection comes, let it not define us. Instead, let it refine us, drawing us closer to the One who never rejects. Through Him, our weaknesses are transformed into strengths, our failures into testimonies, and our pain into purpose.

**Prayer,** In moments when we face rejection and doubt our worth, remind us that You see our value. Help us find our identity in You, not in the fleeting opinions of others. Transform our pain into purpose and our struggles into testimonies. Use us as cornerstones in Your work for Your glory and the building of Your kingdom. Amen.



# Nourished for Eternity

Day 14



## **I am the bread of life. (John 6:48)**

In Arab culture, bread is more than just food—it is a symbol of life, sustenance, and community. Often referred to as "Eish," meaning "life" in Arabic, bread is a daily necessity that sustains families and brings people together. A meal without bread feels incomplete, reflecting its profound significance in our lives.

But bread does not come to us without effort. Consider the journey of a single loaf: a grain of wheat is planted deep in the earth, enduring the darkness and pressure of the soil. It grows over time, facing the harshness of the elements, only to be harvested, threshed, and crushed into flour. It is then kneaded and subjected to the fire, transforming into the bread that nourishes us. This process mirrors the hardships and transformations we face in life.

When Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life," He pointed to nourishment far greater than earthly bread, sustenance for our souls, and eternal life. Just as our bodies cannot survive without bread, our spirits cannot thrive without the Word of God. Without this divine bread, we become spiritually malnourished, weak, and disconnected from God's eternal promises.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, endured a process far more painful than the making of a loaf. He bore the sins of humanity, faced rejection, humiliation, and physical torment, and ultimately laid down His life on the cross. Yet, through His suffering, He rose victorious, offering Himself as the sustenance that fills the deepest hunger of our souls. His sacrifice grants us life—life abundant and eternal.

In Arab culture, sharing bread is an act of hospitality, a sign of care and community. Similarly, as we partake of the Bread of Life, we are called to share it with others. When we feast on His Word daily, our lives become a testimony of His love, a reflection of His grace, and an invitation for others to taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Let us not neglect this heavenly bread. Just as we prioritize our physical nourishment, we must prioritize our spiritual sustenance through

**Prayer,** Lord Jesus, thank You for being the true Bread of Life. The source of nourishment for my soul. Help me to seek You daily, to be filled with Your Word, and to grow in faith and love. May my life reflect Your goodness, drawing others to the Bread that satisfies for eternity. Amen.



# Bearing Eternal Fruit

Day 15



**It will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. (Jeremiah 17:8)**

In Arab culture, the image of a flourishing tree is one of resilience, beauty, and provision. Palm trees that thrive even in the harsh desert symbolize strength and vitality and are deeply admired in our society. Similarly, a fruitful tree is an emblem of abundance, steadfastness, and continuous giving—a reflection of what God desires for our lives in Him.

A fruitful life of ministry is not the result of convenience or coincidence but a natural outcome of a believer deeply rooted in Christ. Ministry is not confined to specific programs or structured events but becomes a way of life woven into our daily interactions, hospitality, and service to others—hallmarks of Arab culture. Just as a tree planted by streams of water thrives regardless of external conditions, so does the believer who draws daily from God's Word spirit.

Jesus' last command, "Go and make disciples of all nations", echoes in the hearts of His people today, calling us to rise to His mission. In Arab tradition, when a guest or host calls upon someone, it is an honor to respond swiftly.

Yet, how often do we hesitate when God calls? Like the bride in the Song of Solomon, we sometimes say, "I have taken off my robe; how can I put it on?" (Song of "Solomon 5:3). We delay, weighed down by distractions, comfort, or fear. But the Lord's call is urgent and His fields are ripe for harvest.

In the Arab world, we understand the importance of collective strength and community. Bearing fruit for God's kingdom is not a solitary journey, it is a shared mission. God plans that no part of the land remains barren but that His knowledge and glory flood the earth as waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). Whether through hospitality, storytelling, prayer, or acts of kindness, God has given each of us unique ways to participate in His redemptive work. Are you ready to embrace this honor?

When we remain connected to Christ, we will bear fruit even in seasons of drought. Just as a well-rooted tree draws unseen strength from the soil beneath, so we draw strength from Christ, whose presence sustains us through every trial.

**Prayer.** Lord You have planted us by Your living streams, nourishing us to bear fruit for Your glory. Help us to cast aside excuses and distractions, rise from our slumber, and move in obedience to Your call. May we reflect Your glory in every corner of our lives, sharing Your love and truth with the world. Teach us to trust in Your provision, to bear fruit in every season, and to live for the honor of Your name. Amen.

# The Harvest is Plenty

Day 16



**Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Matthew 9:37-38)**

In the Levant area, harvest time is a season of both joy and diligent effort. Fields of golden wheat, flourishing olive groves, and lush vineyards stand as symbols of provision, abundance, and God's blessing. However, these gifts would go to waste without dedicated workers to gather the crops and bring in the harvest.

Jesus uses this imagery to call us to His mission. The world is full of people longing for truth, peace, and salvation, but they need someone to share the Gospel. Like farmers, we are invited to labor in God's fields, sowing seeds of hope and reaping a harvest for eternity.

It may seem overwhelming, but we are not alone. God equips and strengthens us for the work. Whether it's sharing His love with a neighbor, serving in church, or praying for those in need, every effort matters in the Kingdom of God. As we embrace this call, let us remember the joy of the harvest and the lives transformed by the message of Christ. The fields are ready; will you answer His call?

**Prayer,** Lord of the harvest, thank You for calling me to labor in Your fields. Equip me with courage, wisdom, and love to share Your message. Send more workers to gather the harvest and let Your name be glorified. Amen.

# Awaken My Heart, Lord

Day 17



**I “slept but my heart was awake. Listen! My beloved is knocking: “Open to me, my sister, my darling, my dove, my flawless one. My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night.” (Song of Songs 5: 2)**

In Arab culture, the night holds a special place in our social and emotional lives. It is often the time when families and friends gather, staying up late, visiting, and sharing stories. We pass down wisdom and lessons not through books, but through conversations and the experiences of others. These lively and meaningful moments strengthen bonds, but they can also leave little room for reflection, solitude, and reconnecting with God.

This passage speaks directly to our hearts. The bride hears her Beloved knocking in the quiet of the night, but she hesitates. Her heart is awake, yet she delays opening the door, caught in her own comfort and distractions. This hesitation reflects a spiritual reality many of us face: while we value relationships and community, we often forget the ultimate relationship, the one with our Redeemer, who patiently waits for us to respond to His call.

Negligence and spiritual apathy can slip into our lives in subtle ways. In our culture, where family honor and community traditions are deeply rooted, it is easy to rely on the achievements of the past or the faith of our ancestors. We might feel content with the memories of a glorious history of service or spiritual fervor, yet fail to seek fresh encounters with God.

As Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:12, we must not rest in the past but “press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of [us].”

Another challenge is how we manage our time. Late-night socializing, while a cherished tradition, can leave us spiritually exhausted and distracted. Like King David, who stayed behind during a time of war, we may become idle and lose focus on God’s calling (2 Samuel 11:2).

Furthermore, the social settings we frequent may influence us in ways we don’t realize, drawing us away from holiness if we are not vigilant (Ephesians 5:11).

In Arab society, where stories and shared experiences often take the place of personal reading and reflection, we may neglect the practice of sitting quietly with the Word of God. Yet time is a sacred resource that, when dedicated to meditating on Scripture, can transform our hearts and minds.

**Prayer,** Lord remind me to make time for You, my Beloved. Awaken my heart to Your gentle knock and draw me out of any spiritual slumber. Help me to manage my time wisely, to reflect on Your Word, and to seek Your presence above all else. May I be steadfast in fellowship with Your people and diligent in my walk with You. In Jesus name, I pray.

# Reflecting His Light

Day 18



**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.  
(Matthew 5:14)**

For centuries, shepherds and travelers in the East relied on the moon's light and the guiding North Star to navigate the vast deserts and rugged mountains at night. These lights were their lifeline in the wilderness, ensuring they reached their destination safely. Similarly, Jesus calls us to be the light of the world—a guiding presence in a world overshadowed by chaos, confusion, and fear.

Today, our world feels like a vast desert of uncertainty. We face challenges that test our faith and pull us toward despair. But just as the shepherds of old trusted the light to lead them through the dark, we must place our trust in Christ, the eternal Light who has overcome the darkness.

This Light within us is not meant to remain hidden but to radiate outward, guiding others toward hope and truth. Faith is the source of this light; if we do not cultivate our faith through prayer, Scripture, and reflection, our light grows dim, and our inner well runs dry.

Faith is not merely an intellectual belief or an emotional experience. It is a living, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. It is the light that shines through us because He dwells within us.

Unfortunately, in our daily routines, we may treat this light as a private treasure hidden in our hearts rather than allowing it to shine for others. Just as the moon reflects the sun's light to illuminate the night, we are called to reflect the glory of Christ to a world longing for direction and hope.

In our Arab culture, people often socialize late into the night, gathering under the light of the moon or the glow of lanterns. Imagine if our lives became those guiding lights, drawing people not just to social connection but to the eternal truth of Christ. Imagine being the beacon that helps someone find their way back to God, much like the North Star leading a lost traveler home.

Jesus reminds us that we are visible, unhidden, and impactful, like a city on a hill. The chaos and struggles of the world around us do not have to define the state of our hearts. Even in times of fear and uncertainty, we are called to shine brightly, reflecting His light and love. Our identity in Christ empowers us to stand firm, bringing hope and peace to a world in need.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us to be light in this dark world. May our lives reflect your love and truth, becoming a guiding light for lost or weary people. Let us shine brightly, like the North Star, pointing others toward the eternal hope and peace in You. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

# Witness to His Glory

Day 19



**She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. (John 20:14-15)**

In the Arab world, devotion and loyalty are cherished virtues, mainly expressed through action and resilience in facing challenges. Mary Magdalene exemplifies these virtues in her unwavering faith and determination to seek the Lord, even in her grief. Her story is one of love, courage, and a faith that transcended societal norms, making her the first witness to the most glorious moment in history—the resurrection of Christ.

Mary's faith and devotion were evident in her steadfast presence at the tomb. As darkness surrounded her, she wept, seeking her Lord's body. She could have been paralyzed by fear, overwhelmed by grief, or discouraged by the societal limitations placed on her as a woman in her time. Yet, she persevered, speaking to angels and engaging with the One she believed to be a gardener until Jesus revealed Himself to her with a simple yet powerful word: "Mary."

This moment reminds us that faith is not about perfection but persistence. Mary's tears did not indicate a lack of faith; instead, they were an expression of her deep love and longing for the Savior. Her faith led her to remain in His presence, even when all seemed lost, and it was rewarded by being the first to encounter the risen Christ.

In Arab culture, storytelling is a powerful tool for passing down values and truths. Mary Magdalene's story invites us to see ourselves in her journey.

Like her, we are called to bear witness to the resurrection through words and a life that reflects the hope and power of the risen Lord. Despite challenges, societal expectations, or doubts, we are called to proclaim that He is alive and His victory is eternal.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your glorious resurrection. Plant in my heart a faith that perceives the truth even when it is unseen. Let me hold on to You, the living Savior, with unwavering devotion. In Your name, I pray. Amen.



# The unleashing language of Christ's love

Day 20



**That you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:18-19)**

In the Arab world, love is often expressed in rich and diverse ways: through words of affirmation, acts of service, shared meals, and warm gatherings. Our cultural fabric values connection and hospitality, but humans often find themselves longing for a love that fully satisfies—a love that transcends time, circumstances, and human limitations.

Each person has a unique way of giving and receiving love, and these "love languages" shape how we experience relationships. However, even the most heartfelt expressions of love can sometimes leave us feeling unfulfilled. People may misunderstand our needs or fail to reciprocate. Over time, these unmet expectations can lead to sadness, confusion, or even loneliness.

But Christ offers us a love unlike any other—a love that is steadfast, unchanging, and unconditional. The language of His love was spoken on the cross, where He gave Himself completely for us, without conditions or limitations. This love doesn't depend on our worthiness, nor does it falter with changing seasons or circumstances. It is a love that fills every void, heals every wound, and provides security and peace.

In our cultural context, where family, community, and shared stories hold immense value, the love of Christ speaks to the deepest needs of our hearts. His love is not fleeting or situational; it is the kind that roots us, grounds us, and sustains us through every trial.

It is the love that enables us to rise above hurt and disappointment, empowering us to share this divine love with others.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, Thank You for the unchanging and unconditional love You have given us through Jesus Christ. Teach us to rest in the fullness of this love and to reflect it in our relationships with others. May we live as testimonies of the width, length, depth, and height of Your love, showing the world the richness of Your grace. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.



# Faith that remains strong

Day 21



## **If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3)**

In the Middle East, where the weight of history, traditions, and ongoing conflicts often shapes our daily lives, faith becomes both an anchor and a testimony. Life's challenges—be they personal struggles, societal pressures, or national crises—can feel like mountains too great to overcome. Yet, Jesus assures us that even a mustard seed of faith has the power to move these mountains.

These "mountains" are not just obstacles; they symbolize the emotional, psychological, and spiritual struggles we face amid a world filled with uncertainty. Whether it is the pressure of providing for our families, enduring societal instability, or confronting personal doubts, our faith calls us to stand firm and trust the One who holds everything together.

In the face of these trials, steadfast faith is not passive; it is active, refined like gold in the fire. This faith does not deny the reality of hardship but refuses to be overwhelmed by it.

Instead, it fixes its gaze on the perfect God revealed in Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. It presses forward, refusing to be paralyzed by fear, and clings to the promise that those who honor God will be honored by Him.

Our cultural traditions teach us to value resilience and community, but a relationship with God is the foundation for true steadfastness. When our earthly foundations are shaken, our heavenly foundation remains unmovable. Like a tower built on solid ground, we can stand firm amidst the storms of life, bearing witness to a faith that is both active and impactful.

This journey of faith is not easy. It demands perseverance, trust, and a willingness to let go of past fears and failures. It calls us to press on, trusting that God is working all things for good. As believers, we are called to shine as witnesses, especially in times of suffering, showing the world that faith in Christ is a source of hope and a transformative power that overcomes every obstacle.

**Prayer,** Heavenly Father, When the foundations of our lives and world seem to crumble, help us remain steadfast in our faith.

Grant us the courage to face challenges with the assurance that You are our refuge and strength. Mold us through trials, and make us witnesses to the power of Your love and promises. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

# Anchored by the goodness of God

Day 22



**The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him. (Nahum 1:7)**

In the heart of Arab culture, our stories often highlight human struggle, resilience, and redemption. Yet, no matter how much we seek to portray ourselves as good or noble, the Bible reminds us of a profound truth: "There is none who does good, no, not one." (Romans 3:12).

This acknowledgment humbles us as it reveals that genuine goodness is not found in us but in God alone.

As humans, we are deeply flawed. Our lives are marred by sin, selfishness, and mistakes that strain relationships and bring pain to ourselves and others. But the Lord, in His perfect goodness, did not leave us to perish in our sin.

Through Jesus Christ, He revealed the depth of His goodness, offering us grace, forgiveness, and the gift of new life. This goodness is unchanging, unlike human efforts that falter and fail.

In the Arab context, where extended families and communities face shared challenges and joys, God's steadfast goodness becomes a source of hope. Whether we endure the pain of loss, financial struggles, or the trials of everyday life, God's goodness is a stronghold, a safe refuge that we can trust. It is a goodness that meets us in our deepest pain and lifts us above our brokenness.

God's goodness invites us to reflect it in our relationships. Just as God, in His mercy, extends kindness and forgiveness to us, we are called to be living testimonies of His goodness to those around us.

This is not superficial goodness based on appearances or societal expectations but transformative goodness that flows from knowing and abiding in Christ.

Let us, as individuals and as a community, be known for lives anchored in the goodness of God. May we point others to Him, the source of all that is good and perfect.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, You are the essence of perfect goodness, unchanging and steadfast. In a world filled with brokenness, we seek refuge in You. Help us trust in Your goodness, even in the most difficult moments.

Transform our hearts so that we may reflect Your love and mercy to those around us. Teach us to live as living testimonies of Your goodness, drawing others to the stronghold of Your grace. In Jesus Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

# Finding peace in the arms of Christ

Day 23



***Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.  
(Matthew 11:28)***

In Arab culture, hospitality is a sacred tradition. Opening our homes, serving food, and offering comfort to guests is a way of showing care and love. Imagine walking into a home after a long, exhausting journey—a home where a warm meal awaits you, a soft place to sit, and someone to say, "Rest here, you are safe." This image mirrors what Jesus offers us. He extends an invitation not to His home, but to His heart, where we can find true rest and peace.

Life in our region often feels like a balancing act. Family responsibilities, work pressures, and societal expectations can weigh us down, leaving us physically and emotionally depleted. In the midst of these challenges, Jesus calls us to Him, saying, "Come to me." He doesn't place conditions or requirements on His invitation. Whether we feel inadequate, broken, or overwhelmed, He invites us to unload our burdens and experience His peace.

This rest isn't just physical, it's a profound spiritual rest that refreshes the soul. Jesus promises to carry the weights we cannot bear alone. In a world filled with noise, unrest, and pressure to perform, His peace stands in stark contrast. It's a peace that quiets the heart, calms the mind, and strengthens us for the journey ahead. Jesus invites us to let go of our struggles and rest in the safety of His presence.

As we carry the weight of our daily lives, we must remember that Jesus is not only a Savior but also a companion who walks beside us, sharing our load. Like a host who welcomes us with generosity, He invites us to let go of our struggles and rest in the safety of His presence.

**Prayer.** Lord Jesus, we are weary and burdened by the demands of life. Thank You for Your open invitation to rest in You. Teach us to trust in Your care and release our burdens into Your capable hands.

Help us find the peace and strength we need in Your loving embrace. In Your name, we pray. Amen.



# The Blessing of Contentment

Day 24



## **But godliness with contentment is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)**

In the heart of Arab culture, we are often taught to value family, hospitality, and the importance of shared moments over material wealth. Growing up in this environment, I was often reminded by my mother, "Be grateful for what you have," a wisdom that has stayed with me throughout my life. It echoes not just in my family's teachings, but also in God's Word, where He calls us to trust that what we have is enough when we are aligned with Him.

It's easy to get caught up in wanting more, whether it's more wealth, more possessions, or more recognition. But, if we are honest with ourselves, we know that these things don't fill the deeper need in our hearts. The world offers us the illusion that happiness can be found in what we lack, but the Bible teaches us something different. Contentment comes when we understand that God's provision is perfect. It's not about having everything, but about trusting that with God, we have enough.

In our Arab homes, there is great joy in sitting down to a simple meal with loved ones, sharing not just food but laughter, stories, and prayers. These moments remind us that life's most precious blessings are often simple. It's not the size of the meal, but the love and unity shared in those moments that bring peace to the heart. And this is where true contentment lies, not in what we don't have, but in what God has already given us.

1 Timothy 6:6 reminds us, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." True contentment is about recognizing that all we truly need is found in God's provision and care. It's not about endlessly chasing after what the world promises will make us happy. Contentment is a choice to trust in God's timing, to find peace in His presence, and to be thankful for the blessings we already have.

Contentment does not mean we stop striving for growth or improvement, it means we stop measuring our value based on what we have or what we have accomplished. It means recognizing that our worth is not in our possessions but in our relationship with Christ.

In Arab culture, family and community are often seen as the most important treasures, and in the same way, God calls us to value the things that truly matter, our relationship with Him, our loved ones, and the peace He gives us in every circumstance.

**Prayer,** Lord, help me to stop chasing after more and start seeing the blessings You have already given me. Teach me to trust in Your provision and to be content with what You've provided. May I find peace in Your presence and the relationships You've blessed me with. Thank You for Your love, care, and for always providing exactly what I need. Amen.

# True Riches in Christ

Day 25



**By faith Moses, when he came of years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God ... esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.  
(Hebrews 11:24-26)**

In the days of Moses, Egypt was the wealthiest and most powerful civilization in the world, just as the United States holds a similar position today. Imagine the luxury Moses could have enjoyed, having the status of the son of Pharaoh's daughter, living in a palace with endless wealth. Yet, he chose something far greater: to endure hardship and be aligned with the people of God, rejecting the temporary comforts of Egypt.

In today's world, we see companies like Apple, Microsoft, and Nvidia—new entrants into the "3 trillion market cap club"—representing immense wealth and power.

If Moses had lived in our time, he would have been one of the wealthiest people in the world. But he chose to live for something eternal, God's promises over the fleeting riches of this world.

Hebrews 11 reminds us that there are two groups of people of faith: those who conquered kingdoms and did mighty works, and others who were persecuted, stoned, and tortured. The common thread? For those the world was not worthy to them. Their faith in God and the eternal reward was far greater than anything the

Reflecting on this today, we must ask ourselves: Do we live up to this standard? In our Arab culture, we are often taught to value family, success, and wealth, but is the world truly worthy of us, or are we simply blending in with the 8 billion people on earth, chasing after fleeting riches? What is more valuable to us—living for the glory of Christ or the comforts of the "Egypt" around us?

Moses understood that the riches of Egypt were temporary, and so should we. Christ offers us something far greater, something eternal, where the treasures of this world pale in comparison. As believers, we must be willing to let go of worldly success and embrace the suffering and sacrifice that may come with following Christ, knowing that our true reward lies in Him.

**Prayer.** Lord Jesus, we are truly grateful for the love and grace You've shown us. Enrich our hearts with Your beauty and eternal riches, so that the treasures of this world may seem like nothing in comparison to knowing You. Help us to live for You, seeking Your kingdom above all, and to see the temporary riches of this world as rubbish in light of the surpassing greatness of Christ. Amen.



# Lessons from the Olive Tree

Day 26



**If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root... (Romans 11:17-24)**

The olive tree is deeply ingrained in the Middle East's history; it is a powerful symbol of endurance, nourishment, and peace. In Romans 11, Paul speaks of the wild olive shoot being grafted into the cultivated olive tree, representing the Gentiles being welcomed into God's family.

Just as a wild branch is grafted into the nourishing root of an olive tree, we too have been grafted into God's promises through faith in Jesus Christ.

This grafting process is an act of grace. The wild branch, once disconnected, now draws life from the same root that supports the whole tree. Similarly, we, who were once far from God, are now part of His Kingdom, receiving grace through Christ. Our identity is no longer defined by our past or our origins but by our connection to the root Jesus, the source of life and strength.

This powerful metaphor resonates in our region, where olive trees are more than just plants; they are a source of life, a sign of peace, and a heritage passed down through generations. Like the olive tree, we are called to grow deep roots in God's Word and His love.

As we draw nourishment from our faith, we must also bear fruit, sharing God's peace, grace, and love with those around us.

Remember that our connection to the root "Jesus" sustains us. Through Him, we have the strength and ability to endure life's trials, just as the olive tree thrives in harsh conditions. And just as the olive tree provides oil for light, healing, and food, our lives are meant to shine and nourish the world around us, reflecting God's grace and goodness.

**Prayer,** Lord thank You for grafting us into Your family and making us part of Your kingdom through Jesus's sacrifice. Help us remain rooted in Your love and grace and teach us to bear fruit that reflects Your grace. May we always share the nourishment we receive with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# Honoring our Elders

Day 27



**Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. (Ruth 1:16)**

In Arab culture, the family is the heart of society, and caring for elders is seen as a sacred duty. The story of Ruth and Naomi exemplifies this deep commitment. Naomi, a widow, had lost everything, but her daughter-in-law, Ruth, chose to stay with her, refusing to leave her alone in her grief. Ruth's loyalty and love transcended cultural norms and expectations. She cared for Naomi not out of obligation, but out of a deep, selfless love.

This story teaches us that caring for the elderly is not just about providing for their physical needs but also about offering emotional and spiritual support. Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi in a time of hardship reminds us that true care goes beyond convenience and requires sacrifice. Naomi, in turn, witnessed God's faithfulness through Ruth's unwavering commitment.

In the Arab world, we often see similar examples of multigenerational families living together, where caring for parents and grandparents is considered an honor. As we care for our elderly, we are called to reflect the same compassion, loyalty, and faithfulness that Ruth demonstrated. It is an opportunity to honor those who have paved the way for us and to show them God's love through our actions.

**Prayer.** Lord thank You for Ruth and Naomi's example. Help us to care for our elders with love, patience, and respect, reflecting Your heart for the vulnerable. May we honor them as You honor us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# The Courage to Ask

Day 28



**But I said, 'I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God. (Isaiah 49:4)**

In Arab culture, where dignity, pride, and self-reliance are highly esteemed, asking for help, especially financial help, can feel like a mark of shame. It's as if seeking assistance diminishes our worth or exposes a weakness we'd rather keep hidden. Yet, Isaiah's words remind us of a more profound truth.

Isaiah acknowledges the feeling of futility in human effort but shifts the focus to God's faithfulness. It is not about what we can accomplish alone but about trusting that our ultimate provision and reward come from Him.

In the early Christian community, we see a radical model of interdependence and mutual care: "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had" (Acts 4:32). This wasn't just about sharing resources; it was about embodying a trust in God's provision and creating a culture of humility and generosity.

By asking for help, they broke down walls of pride and isolation, fostering a sense of family where everyone's needs were met.

In our lives, asking for help can be one of the hardest things to do. Whether it's financial assistance, emotional support, or even guidance, the fear of being judged or seen as weak can hold us back. Yet, God calls us to live in a community of faith where vulnerability is not a sign of weakness but an act of courage and trust. Remember, Our worth is rooted in being children of God, loved unconditionally, and provided for abundantly.

**Prayer,** Lord we come before You with hearts that sometimes struggle to trust in Your provision. In a culture that values strength and independence, we often feel hesitant or ashamed to ask for help. Teach us that our worth is not measured by what we can do or provide but by Your grace and love for us. Give us the courage to seek support when we need it and to humbly accept the care of others. Help us build communities where generosity and compassion reflect Your kingdom. Thank You for being our provider through every season of life. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



# A reflection of God's grace

Day 29



**She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
(Proverbs 31:20)**

In Middle Eastern culture, the table is more than just a place for food; it is a space of connection, community, and blessing. The kitchen, often seen as the heart of the home, is where love and tradition come together to create meals that nourish both body and soul.

Women, in particular, hold a special role in this sacred rhythm, embodying hospitality as they prepare meals that reflect care, generosity, and cultural heritage. The woman in Proverbs 31 is described as a beacon of resourcefulness and compassion: “She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy” (Proverbs 31:20). This verse reminds us of the profound connection between hospitality and faith.

Just as many women across the Arab world prepare tables overflowing with food to welcome guests, God calls us to open our hands and hearts to those in need. Hospitality, at its core, is a reflection of God’s own generosity and love.

The tradition of welcoming guests, feeding the hungry, and ensuring that no one leaves empty-handed is deeply ingrained in Arab culture. Whether it’s a family meal, a feast for a celebration, or a simple offering of tea and bread, these acts of hospitality demonstrate a profound spiritual truth: when we share what we have, no matter how small, God blesses it and multiplies its impact.

Jesus Himself modeled this for us. He often shared meals with others, breaking bread with sinners, the marginalized, and His closest followers.

The feeding of the 5,000 reminds us that even when resources seem scarce, God provides abundantly. Similarly, when we open our homes and hearts to others, we participate in His mission of love and care. Let us remember that hospitality is more than just serving food, it is an act of worship.

As we gather around our tables, let us remember that hospitality is more than just serving food, it is an act of worship. When we extend our hands to the needy, whether through a meal, a kind word, or a warm embrace, we reflect the heart of Christ. In doing so, we create spaces where God's love is tangible, where burdens are shared, and where blessings flow freely.

**Prayer,** Lord thank You for the gift of hospitality and for the women who so lovingly prepare meals that bless their families and communities. May we use our gifts to serve others, just as You have served us. Fill our hearts with Your love and generosity, so we can continue to open our hands to those in need. Amen

# The Provider and Protector: A Man's God-Given Role

Day 30

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**But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.' (1 Timothy 5:8)**

In Middle Eastern culture, the role of a man as the provider and protector of his family is deeply rooted in tradition and faith.

This role reflects God's design for men to be the cornerstone of their households, ensuring their families are nurtured, sheltered, and guided truthfully. A man's strength is not only in his physical ability but also in his steadfast character, sacrificial love, and unwavering responsibility.

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, embodies this role beautifully. Despite the uncertainty and challenges surrounding Mary's miraculous pregnancy, Joseph protected her dignity and obeyed God's call.

As a carpenter, he provided for his family through honest labor, ensuring Jesus grew up in a stable and loving home. He fled to Egypt to protect them from Herod's wrath, demonstrating the courage and foresight of a true protector.

Being a provider and protector goes beyond physical strength or material wealth. It is about creating an environment where children and loved ones feel safe, valued, and supported.

A true protector leads not through control but with humility and self-sacrificial love, seeking God's wisdom and strength to overcome challenges.

In today's world, where the pressures on men can be overwhelming, it is crucial to affirm and encourage them in their God-given roles.

As wives, children, sisters, and mothers, we are called to support the men in our lives with words of affirmation, prayer, and respect, enabling them to reflect God's love and care in their leadership.

**Prayer.** Heavenly Father, We thank You for the men You have placed in our lives. Strengthen them to be providers and protectors, reflecting Your love and care. Give them the wisdom to lead with humility and courage to overcome challenges. Help us to honor and support them in their calling. In Jesus' name, Amen



# **Inheritance in the Arab World: A Perspective on Justice and Faith**

Day 31

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**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 of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9).**

In the Arab world, Islamic Sharia law governs inheritance for Muslims, Christians, and ethnic minorities holding the nationality of the country they reside in. Under Sharia law, males are entitled to two inheritance shares, while females receive one. Women are often considered among the poorest of the poor, as their families frequently deprive them of their rightful inheritance.

The situation sometimes escalates further, with cases of betrayal and even murder, to prevent the inheritance from passing to a daughter's husband and children. Fraud and manipulation are also common occurrences.

Families often pressure women to relinquish their share of the inheritance in favor of their male siblings. In some cases, a male family member, typically the eldest brother, seizes the inheritance of both male and female siblings, claiming his role as the firstborn or the one who contributed significantly to building the family's wealth alongside their father.

Such practices represent a profound injustice faced by women and other family members, compounded by both biased laws and familial oppression.

The Bible provides an unambiguous stance that inheritance is a right shared equally by sons and daughters. This principle is evident throughout Scripture, from the Old to the New Testament. Men and women are equal in value and their earthly and eternal inheritance.

Today, God calls us to focus on the blessings of our eternal inheritance, as earthly inheritance is temporary and fleeting, often causing discord within families. Instead, we are reminded of the importance of belonging to God's family.

Similarly, Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians:

"So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir" (Galatians 4:7).

What a privilege it is to witness the justice of heaven through the eternal inheritance granted to believers, which far surpasses any earthly inheritance. However, this does not absolve us of the responsibility to be just toward women. On the contrary, it motivates us to obey God and honor women as equals to men.

**Prayer,** Lord I thank You for the eternal inheritance You have granted me, that I may be called Your child and an heir in heaven. Thank You for salvation, without which I would not have understood Your Word and law. Please help me exemplify equality and respect in my interactions with everyone.



## **Giving Information**

We sustain the projects at ACCTS through your prayers and giving. We appreciate your partnership and support!