

SESSION TWO

# HOW TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE



CHECKING IN

**Was there an insight from your Daily Prayer Journal that was especially meaningful to you this week?**

KEY VERSE

*Cast all your care upon him, for he cares for you.*

1 PETER 5:7 (AP)

**Watch the video lesson now, and follow along in your outline.**

SESSION TWO

## HOW TO PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE

Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven." One of the words in the Bible for "father" is "Abba," which simply means "daddy" or "papa." Abba is a term of endearment, love, intimacy, and security. Jesus was telling us that when you pray to God, you're talking to your Dad.

When you truly know and understand your heavenly Father, it will radically change your prayer life. It will enable you to pray with more confidence than ever before.

• God is a \_\_\_\_\_ Father.

*"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"*  
ISAIAH 49:15 (NIV)

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*  
ROMANS 8:38-39 (NIV)

*Cast all your care upon him, for he cares for you.*  
1 PETER 5:7 (AP)

• God is a \_\_\_\_\_ Father.

*There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle.*  
JAMES 1:17 (THE MESSAGE)

*"I the Lord do not change."*  
MALACHI 3:6 (NIV)

*Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, [God] remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are a part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us.*  
2 TIMOTHY 2:13 (TLB)

*[God] will never go back on his promises.*  
ROMANS 11:29 (TLB)

*My God is changeless in his love for me.*  
PSALM 59:10 (TLB)

• God is a \_\_\_\_\_ Father.

*"I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!"*  
HEBREWS 13:5 (AMP)

*How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!*  
PSALM 139:17-18 (NLT)

◦ God is never \_\_\_\_\_.

*Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.*  
PSALM 27:10 (NIV)

◦ God loves to \_\_\_\_\_.

*“If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!”*  
MATTHEW 7:11 (NIV)

◦ God is \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*  
PSALM 34:18 (NIV)

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.*  
PSALM 46:1 (GW)

• God is a \_\_\_\_\_ Father.

*“Nothing is impossible for God!”*  
LUKE 1:37 (CEV)

*[God] is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—ininitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.*

EPHESIANS 3:20 (TLB)

*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things that God has prepared for those who love him.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (GW)

Are you certain that God is your Father?

*To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

JOHN 1:12 (NIV)

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, then God becomes your caring, consistent, close, competent Father, and you can pray with confidence the way Jesus taught us to pray: “My Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

*You are all God’s children by believing in Christ Jesus.*

GALATIANS 3:26 (GW)

## Discovery Questions

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It's okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

- **Did anyone pray the Salvation Prayer with Pastor Rick? If so, take time as a group to congratulate and pray for that person.**

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- **In this session, we learned that God is a caring, consistent, close, and competent Father. Which of these characteristics has the greatest meaning to you, and why?**

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- **Re-read Ephesians 3:20 on page 43. In this lesson, Pastor Rick said, "Think of your biggest problem, your greatest dream, your most daunting challenge or fear. Not only can God handle it, he can do more than you can even imagine." What are you asking God to do? Is there something you're afraid to ask for or dream of? God can handle it all.**

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- **Psalm 34:18 (NIV\*) says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Has this been true for you? If so, share your experience with the group.**

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## Putting It Into Practice

We don't just want to be hearers of the Word; we also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). This section contains suggestions for your group and for you individually to apply the things you are learning. Be sure to leave time each week to review this material.

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### IN YOUR GROUP PRAY TOGETHER

Take this time to pray with confidence for anyone in your group who may be in a season of heartbreak or experiencing a crushed spirit. You can record your prayer requests in "Our Prayers & Praise" on page 204 of this study guide. This is also a great time to pray for other people in your lives who may be in the midst of a challenging life circumstance or problem.

### IN YOUR LIFE PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE

Turn to "The Ephesians 3:20 Exercise" on page 177. Take a few moments to soak in the truth that God can do more than you can ever ask or imagine. Journal your response to this Scripture. Take your time with this. We will encourage you to share your thoughts with your group as you start the next session.

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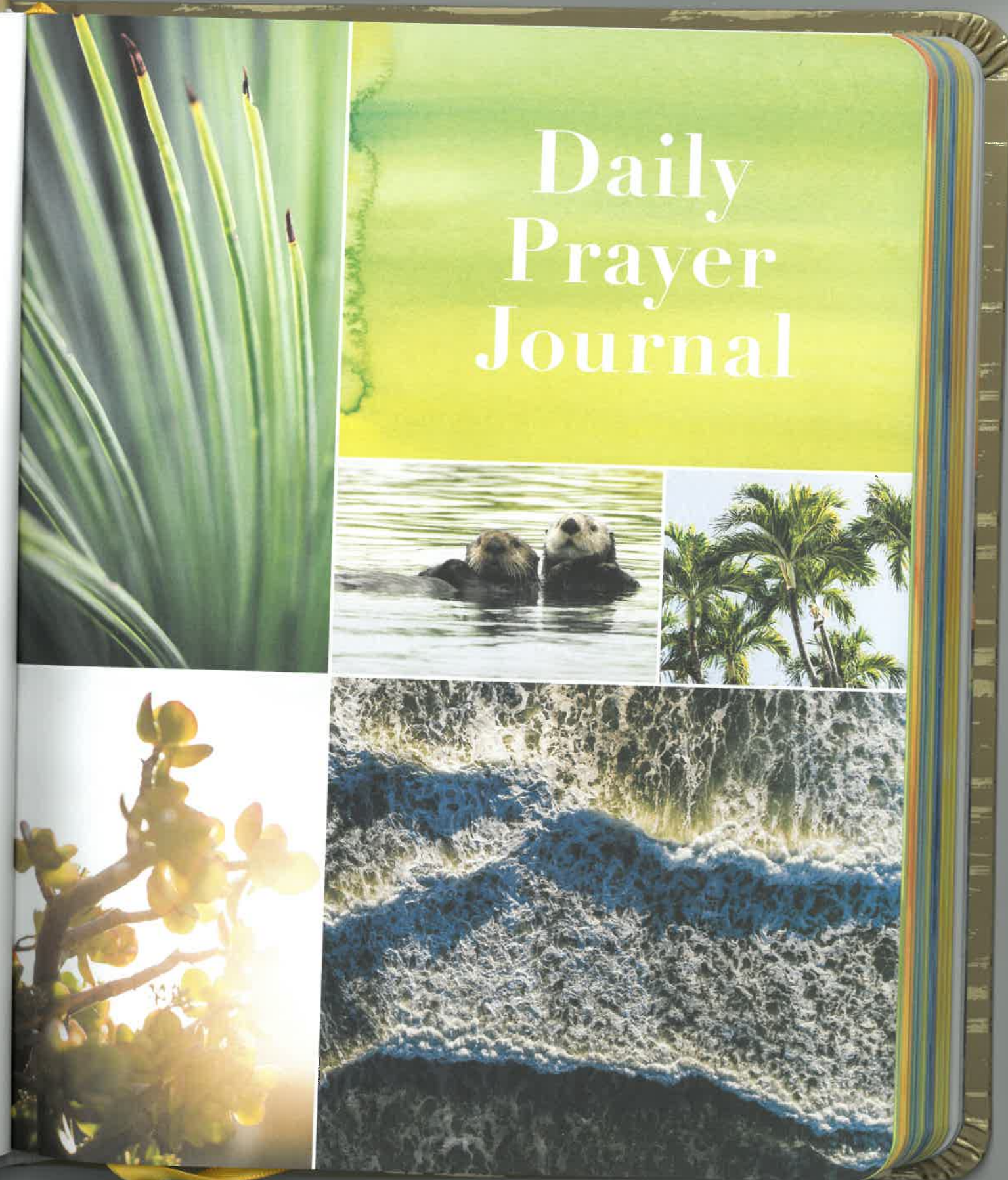
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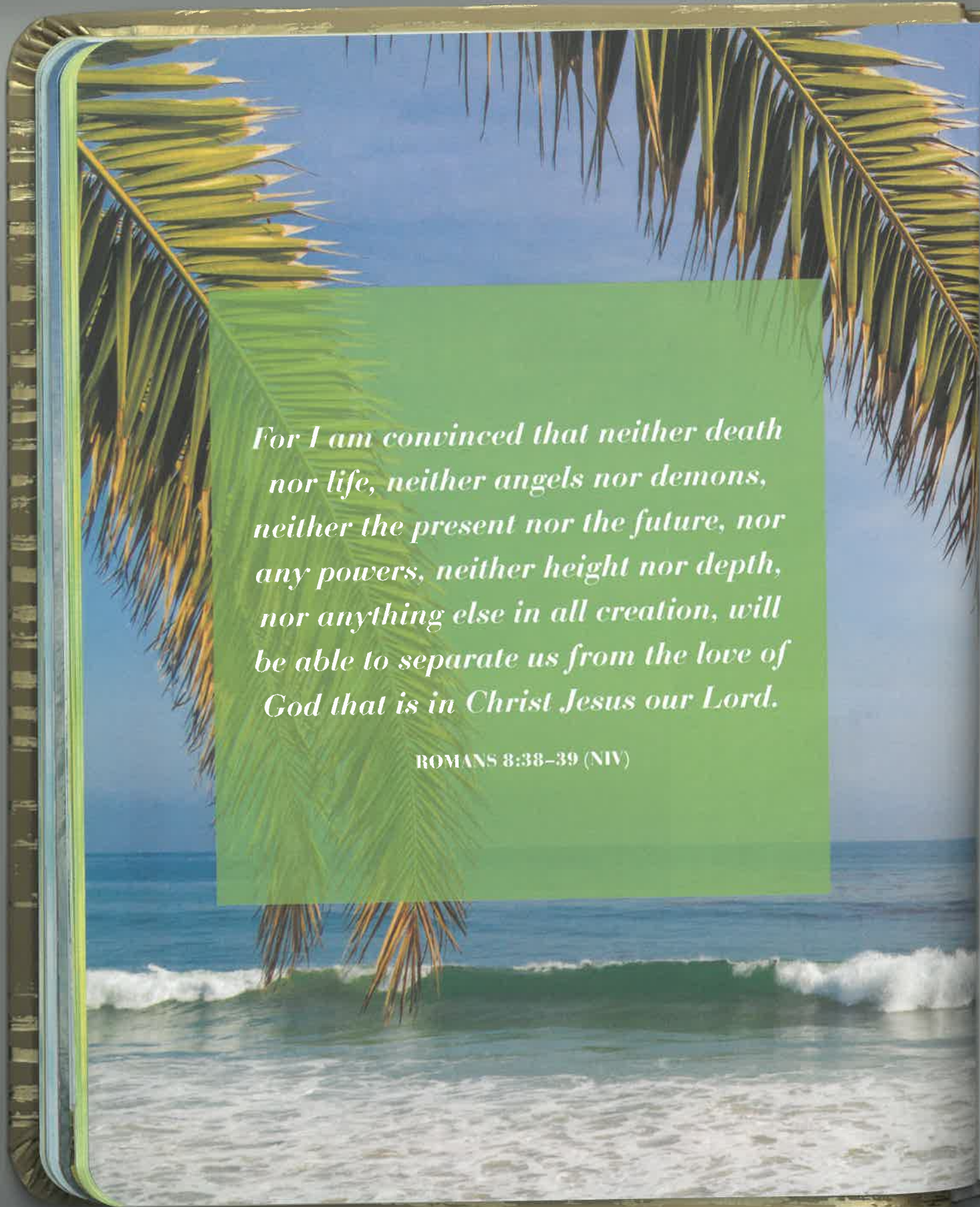
## Daily Prayer Journal

Starting on page 50 you will find Bible verses and daily prayer journal prompts for "How to Pray with Confidence". Take a few minutes every day to read each verse several times, slowly. Emphasize a different word or phrase each time you read the passage. Underline key words or phrases that are especially meaningful to you. Follow the prompts and write down your responses in the journal space provided. Finish with a prayer.

## Before You Go

Update the Small Group Calendar on page 206 of this study guide, as needed. Where you will meet each week, who will facilitate your meeting, and who will provide a meal or snack? Note any changes to your calendar. Also add contact information in the "Small Group Roster" on page 207 of your study guide for new members of your group.





*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

ROMANS 8:38-39 (NIV)

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 8

**What did you hear?**

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?  
What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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**What do you think?**

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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**What is your prayer?**

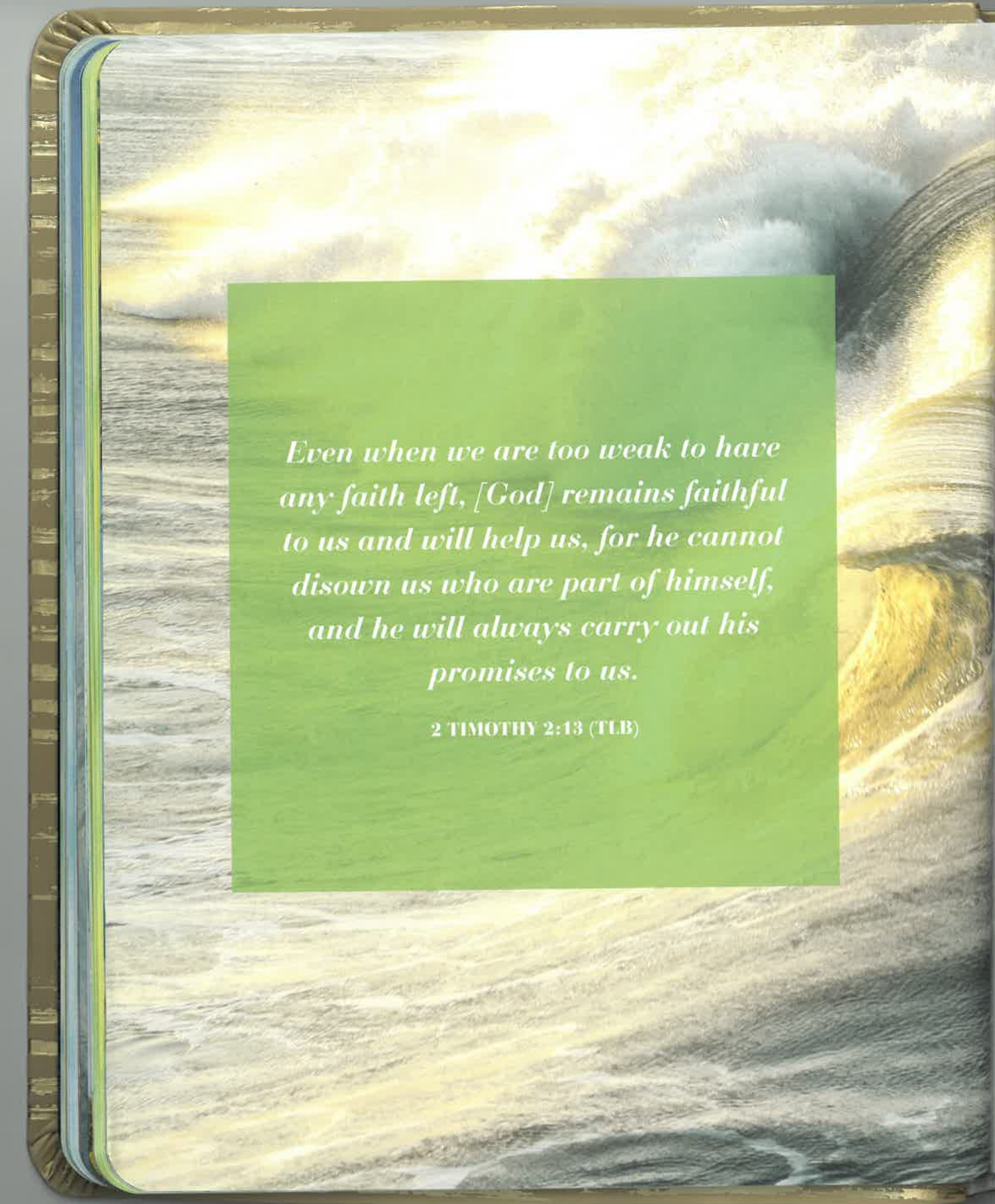
This is where you turn your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute to write a prayer of response to God.

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*Even when we are too weak to have any faith left, [God] remains faithful to us and will help us, for he cannot disown us who are part of himself, and he will always carry out his promises to us.*

2 TIMOTHY 2:13 (TLB)

## DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

### Day 9

#### What did you hear?

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?

What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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#### What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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#### What is your prayer?

This is where you turn your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute to write a prayer of response to God.

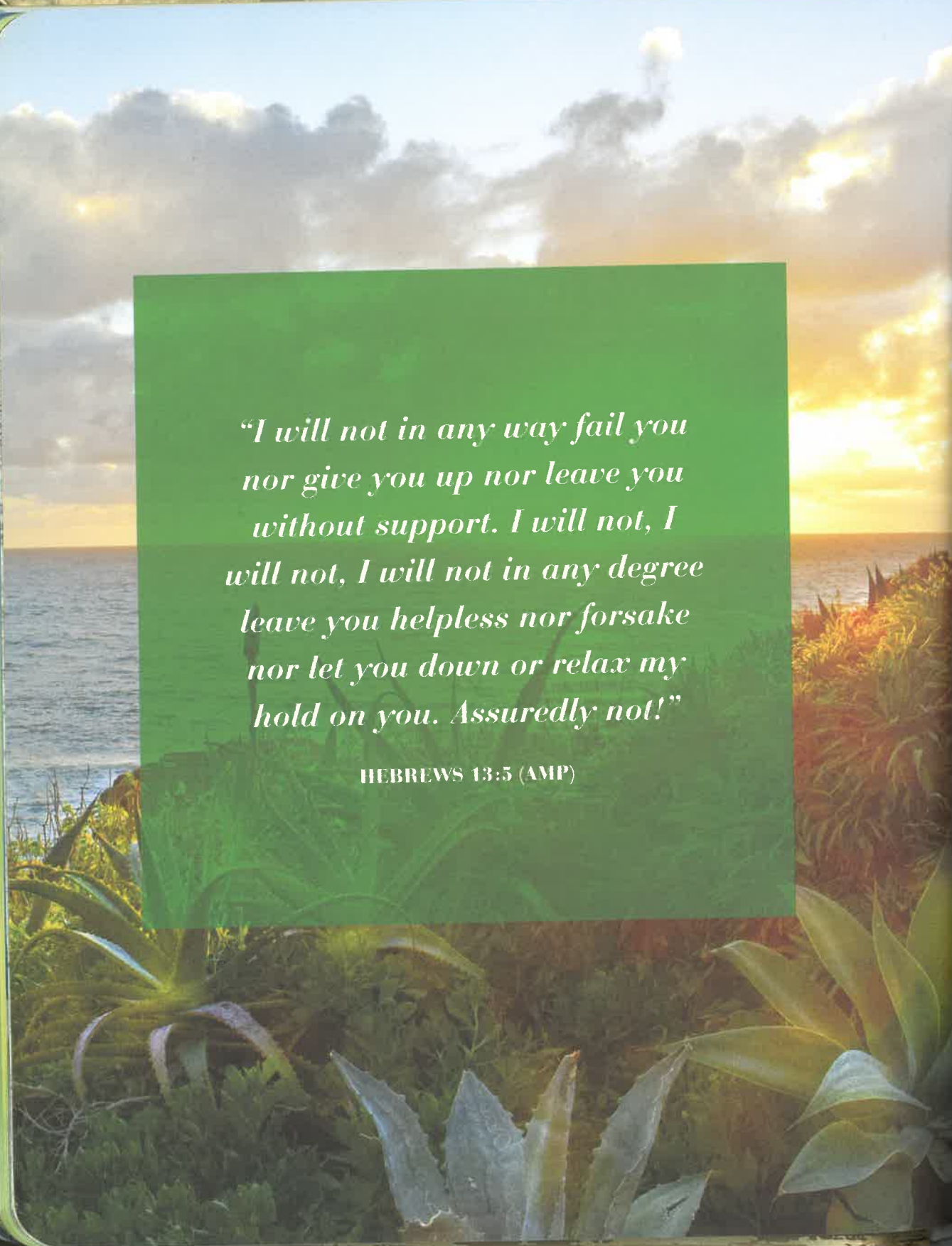
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*“I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let you down or relax my hold on you. Assuredly not!”*

HEBREWS 13:5 (AMP)

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 10

**What did you hear?**

What did God say to you as you read today’s Bible passage?  
What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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**What do you think?**

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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**What is your prayer?**

This is where you turn your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God’s help. It’s up to you. But take a minute to write a prayer of response to God.

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*How precious are your thoughts  
about me, O God. They cannot be  
numbered! I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!*

PSALM 139:17-18 (NLT)

## DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

### Day 11

#### What did you hear?

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?  
What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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#### What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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#### What is your prayer?

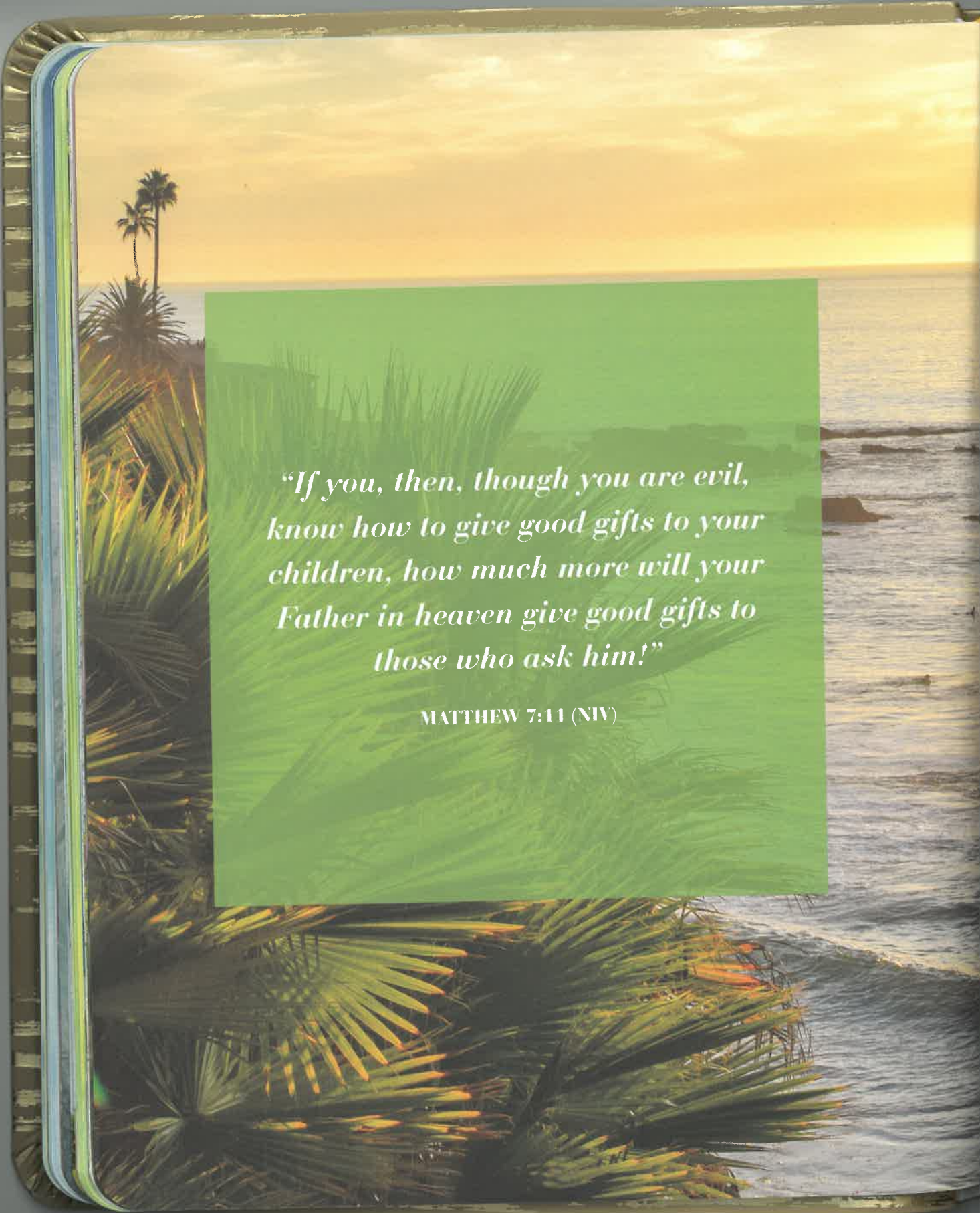
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*“If you, then, though you are evil,  
know how to give good gifts to your  
children, how much more will your  
Father in heaven give good gifts to  
those who ask him!”*

MATTHEW 7:11 (NIV)

## DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

### Day 12

#### What did you hear?

What did God say to you as you read today’s Bible passage?  
What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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#### What do you think?

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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#### What is your prayer?

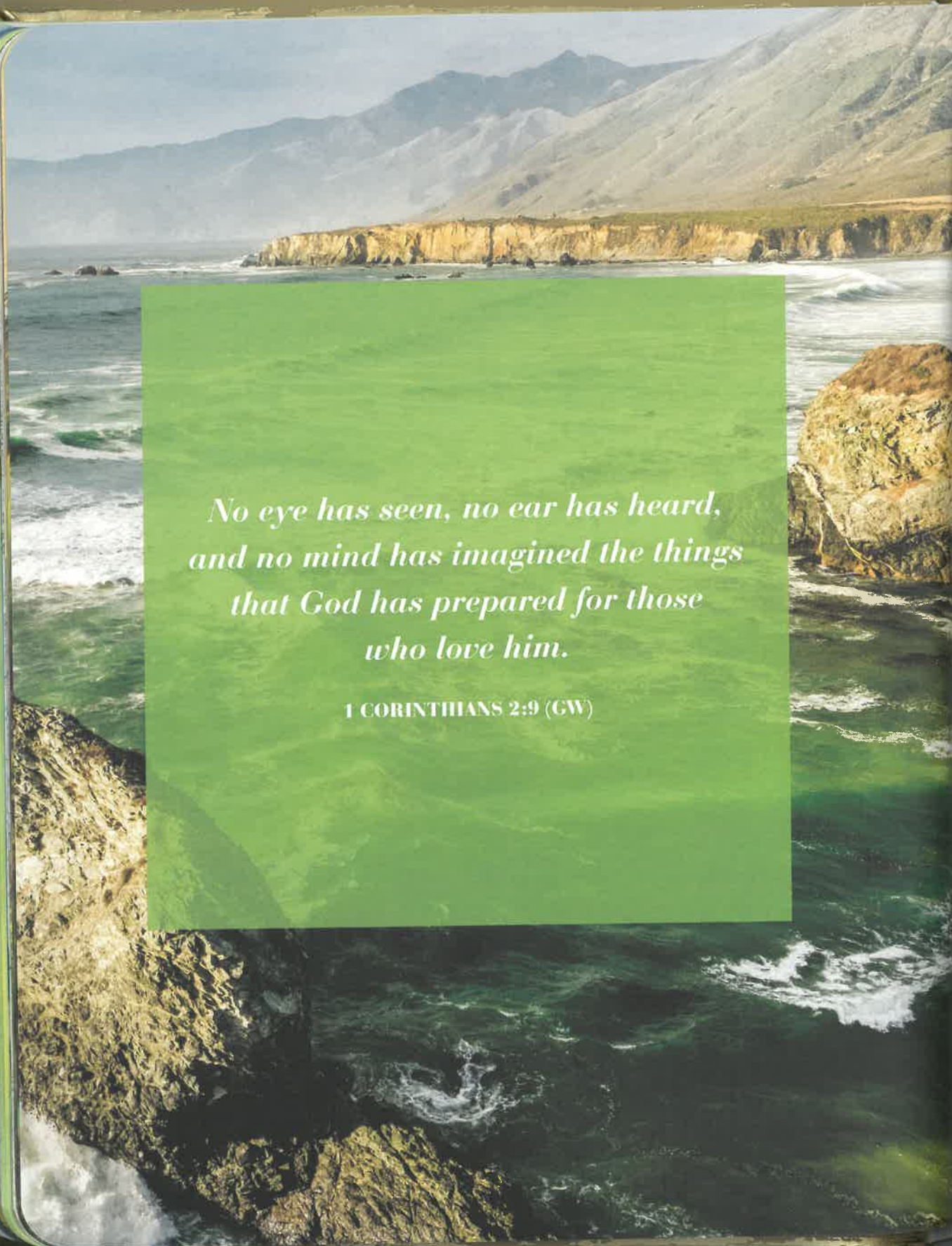
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*No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
and no mind has imagined the things  
that God has prepared for those  
who love him.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (GW)

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 13

**What did you hear?**

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?

What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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**What do you think?**

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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**What is your prayer?**

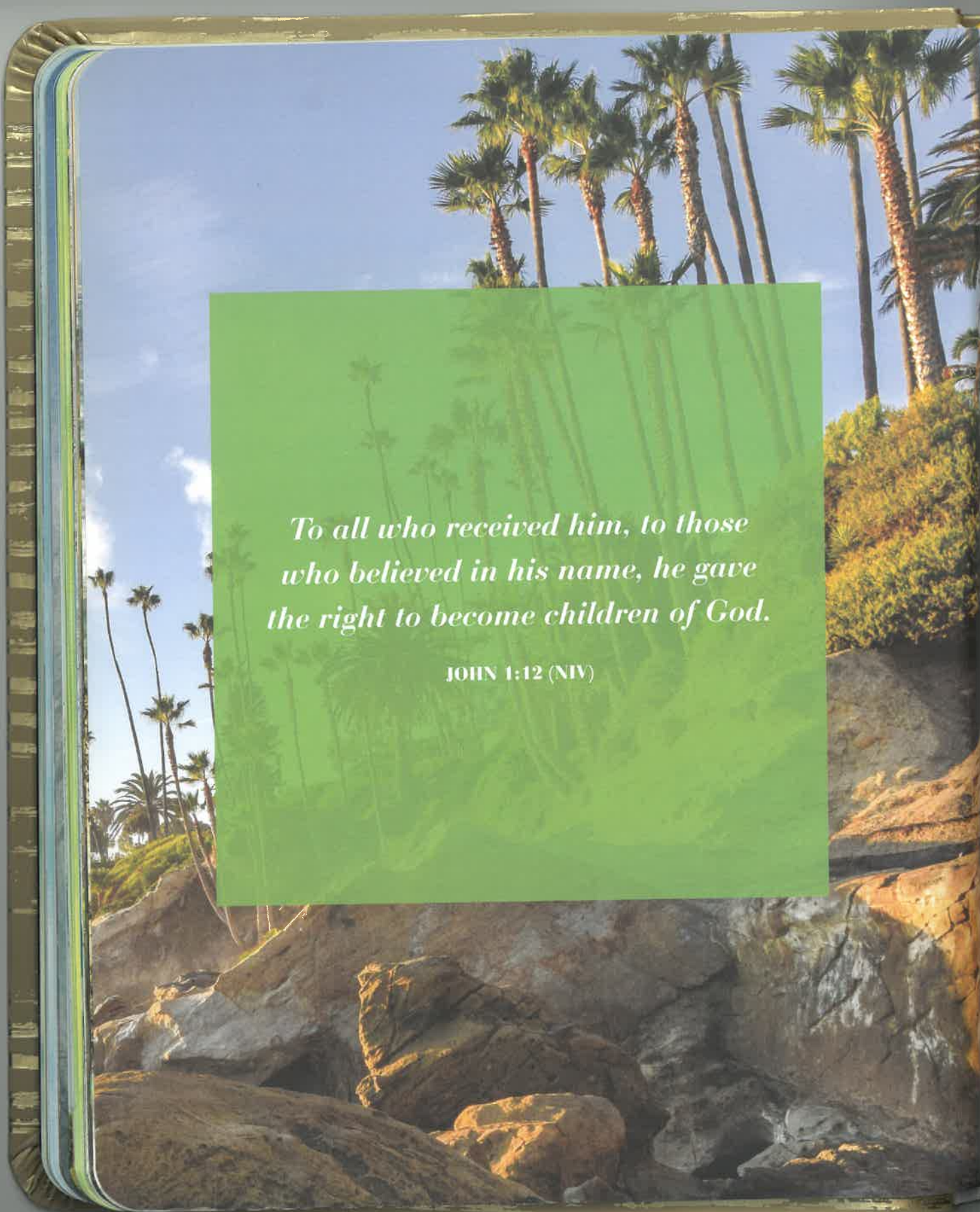
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*To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

JOHN 1:12 (NIV)

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL

Day 14

**What did you hear?**

What did God say to you as you read today's Bible passage?  
What word or phrase was most meaningful to you?

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**What do you think?**

What does this passage mean to you? How does it apply to your life?

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**What is your prayer?**

This is where you turn your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute to write a prayer of response to God.

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