

The background of the entire page is decorated with various pink line-art illustrations. These include several different styles of flowers (some with many petals, some with fewer), several leaves of different shapes, and two butterflies. Small circles, resembling bubbles or dew drops, are scattered throughout the design. The text is centered and layered over these illustrations.

BE STILL

Find Hope

MOTHER'S DAY DEVOTIONAL

FairHaven

REGARDLESS OF HOW
MOTHERHOOD IS DEFINED



THE ONE COMMON
THREAD IS INFLUENCE

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD."

Psalm 46:10 ESV

Treasured Women,

This Mother's Day feels a lot different compared to years past. I miss being with you! I am eagerly awaiting the time when we can gather together as a family.

I want to take a moment and acknowledge each of you. Women enter motherhood in many different ways including fostering, adoption, miscarriage, and spiritual influence. Regardless of how motherhood is defined, the one common thread is influence. Whether you consider yourself a to be a "traditional" mom or are a woman pouring into someone's life, I want to recognize the important influence you hold. I also want to recognize this day may be difficult for some. I share in your grief and want you to know I am praying for you. Each of you are unique, fearfully, and wonderfully made and have the ability to shape others. I hope this devotion will encourage you, spark a desire to

grow in your faith, and ultimately influence those around you.

We have written these daily devotions for you to read and reflect upon throughout this upcoming week to help you find hope as you take time to be still before the Lord. Let's dig into God's Word and make the most of this opportunity to grow together into the women God has created us to be.

So, whether you're a mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, or dear friend, remember – the question isn't if you have influence, but rather the type of influence you have. Praying God's peace over you and hoping you have a wonderful Mother's Day.

Many Blessings,

Kelly Carraher
Women's Director

I FIND SHELTER AND REFUGE IN THE LORD



FOR YOU WILL NEVER ABANDON ME

Finding Hope in God's

PRESENCE

Kay Clark

*... and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means,
God with us). (Matthew 1:23)*

I love twinkle lights! For our family, piling in the car to look at lights has always been a favorite Christmas tradition. Decorating with twinkle lights warms my heart! That might explain why I only recently removed the twinkle-light pine garland from our mantel. Yes, it's May! But this Mother's Day I'm celebrating a truth that is wrapped up in the Christmas story. The mother is Mary and the baby, called Jesus, was given the name Immanuel, which means "God with us."

In these days of uncertainty, I've been clinging to "Immanuel" as the anchor of my soul – reminding myself often that "God is with us!" It's a marvelous mystery. God dwells with us every moment. He will never leave nor forsake us. When I feel overwhelmed, I run to Him and shelter in the safest place there is. May these words, based on Psalm 9:9 (written in honor of my mom), bring you a special comfort today.

I find shelter and refuge in the Lord. A place to run and hide. To trust. To

leave a burden. A place of quiet in turmoil. Of rescue in trouble. Of safety in danger. Of comfort in sorrow. I search for You like treasure.

For You will never abandon me. Never forget me. Never ignore me. I trust in Your name. Your mercy. Your wisdom. Your power. Your loving care. I seek You with all my heart. I rejoice! I find ... HOPE!

Are you feeling overwhelmed today?
Can you trust that God is with you in that situation?

Draw an umbrella, signifying shelter in this storm, and beneath it write your worries and concerns. Close by surrendering them to God in prayer as you remember He is always with you.

Kay and Campus Pastor Paul Clark have been married for 39 years. They have three sons, two daughters-in-love and four grandchildren (another due in July). Kay is an Executive Director of a nonprofit, and Titus Mom at the Centerville Campus.

WHILE THE WORLD AROUND
US IS EVER-CHANGING



SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT
JESUS IS THE SAME

Finding Hope in God's

CHARACTER

Kelly Carraher

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him. (Lamentations 3:22-24)

A few short months ago, our lives were busy with the hustle and bustle of our day-to-day. And in an instant, our lives came to a standstill. Changes were coming so quickly it became difficult to process. Many of us began to feel uncertain about what the future held. While the world around us is ever-changing, Scripture tells us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Knowing He is unchanging, despite everything around us, brings peace.

As a mom of five kids, I see value in routines and planning ahead. For our family, it brings stability and comfort. But what if comfort has replaced courageousness? What if routines have stifled opportunities to be still before the Lord? What if my busyness has caused me to miss a divine appointment? This time of isolation has led me into a deeper reflection of my priorities, to surrender parts of my routine that do not have eternal value. I pray that I will be changed during

this difficult time, continuing to grow more deeply rooted in Christ.

Lamentations highlights God's character: loving, compassionate, faithful, merciful. He promises strength to get through each day. Nothing in this world compares to the hope we find in Christ. He is all I need, both the source and the focus of my hope. Indeed, He is worth trusting.

Are there any areas of your life you need to surrender in order to find hope in Christ alone?

Using the alphabet, make a list of God's attributes. (A. Almighty, B. Beautiful, etc.) Close your time in prayer praising God for who He is.

Kelly has been married for 23 years. They have three boys and two girls, ages 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10. Kelly is the Women's Ministry Director at the Centerville Campus.

THE PEACE OF GOD WILL GUARD



YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS

Finding Hope in God's

PEACE

Jacqueline Petty

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

COVID-19 has changed our world. Many of us feel overwhelmed and anxious in this new “normal.” It is challenging to juggle all that life is throwing at us. My own need for control gets the best of me sometimes. The enemy is real and he knows that I am weak right now. He delights when I’m consumed by the fog of anxiety, knowing that I have lost sight of God’s faithfulness. At this point, the battle for my mind is at stake.

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians while in prison. He could have been captive to anxiety, but instead responded in songs of praise. His example teaches us that only God’s armor equips us for the battle that begins in the mind. We find Paul victorious, glorifying Jesus and cheering us on to follow the battle plan for peace.

When I realize my thoughts have been taken hostage, I have learned to surrender my anxieties and replace them with God’s truth. In this discipline, I experience freedom. Instead of spiraling, Lord find me singing:

“Waymaker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the Darkness. My God that is who you are!”

What are you anxious about today?
Have you taken it to God in prayer?

Write Philippians 4:6-7 on a note card, post it somewhere prominent, and commit to memorizing the verses.

Jacqueline and Campus Pastor Jared Petty have been married for 18 years, and they have three boys. She is the Kids Ministry Director at the Springboro Campus.

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD TO



PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES

Finding Hope in God's

PROTECTION

Becky Hoy

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
(Ephesians 6:10-11)*

As women, we make sure our family and loved ones are safe. Protected. We've traditionally provided healthy meals, administered medications and first aid, and enforced the use of safety equipment. Now, we practice social distancing, wear masks, and check on the well-being of family and friends who aren't in our household. We erect a shield of isolation in order to protect the most vulnerable, whoever that may be in our circle.

While our social distancing can seem like a house arrest of sorts, the Apostle Paul was in a real prison, writing about a different kind of protection. The Ephesians author warns that we need something more than a stay-at-home order. We need the armor of God.

This armor is essential to successfully defeat lies and attacks on our identity, our faith, our salvation. And yet, when we claim Jesus as our Savior, we have

access to be fully clothed in the armor of God. (See Ephesians 6:12-17 to read about the full armor). How comforting is it that we already have protection, freely given to us? And all we have to do is put it on.

During times of hardship and uncertainty, when our armor can weaken, Jesus can help with the repairs. What parts do you need to surrender to Jesus and ask Him to restore or strengthen?

Take time this week to send someone a hand-written note to encourage them to "be strong in the Lord."

Becky has been married for eight years. She is a mom and bonus mom to three children, ages 15, 14 and 6. Becky is a sermon series Study Guide Editor, and attends the Northmont Campus.

CHOOSE TO CULTIVATE A MIND
FULL OF GRATEFULNESS



THERE WILL BE LESS ROOM LEFT
FOR NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

Finding Hope in God's

HOPE

Tracy Kempton

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

No matter where you fall on the continuum of how much you are enjoying vs. enduring this period of social isolation, we can likely all agree that this is a time when what is inside each of us, is being tested. For some, the trial is wearing you down. As I search for ways to cope, I've always been amazed by the way the science of my profession of psychology "discovers" concepts that have existed in the Bible all along! Yes, the Bible even teaches us how to endure social isolation.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul describes the loving and close relationship he has with them (1 Thessalonians 2:8), his intense longing to see them (2:17), and their inability to be together (2:18). Sound familiar? Paul doesn't leave us hanging with mere complaints, instead he offers the following advice (5:18): *"Give thanks in all circumstances."* I love this advice, because it gives us a "to do." And not surprisingly, science has indeed backed up this biblical revelation with numerous studies demonstrating the positive effects of gratitude. If giving thanks just seems too hard

right now, ask yourself—what am I focusing on? Thoughts of frustration? Sadness? Regret? Self-pity? What Paul divinely knew is that our thoughts are always actively engaged in something. So, he encourages us to intentionally choose to cultivate a mind FULL of gratefulness—no matter what! And when we do, there is less room left for negative thoughts. So, briefly step away, breathe deeply, and offer to God a prayer of gratitude, and then, work on making this a habit.

What can you do to cultivate the habit of gratitude today and every day?

Take time this week to make a list of all the things you have to be thankful, don't forget the small things, and see how long you can make your list. Share these at the dinner table or with a friend.

Tracy has been married for 34 years, and they have three grown children. She is a Child Clinical Psychologist at WP Medical Center, and is a member of the Kids Ministry Team at the Beaver Creek Campus.

