

*We're So  
Blessed*



# *We're So Blessed*

*Forty Days of Devotions  
and Activities for the  
WHOLE FAMILY*

*Taylor, Madison, and Logan Cain  
With Jared Johnson*

**KLOVE**  
BOOKS

We're So Blessed: Forty Days of Devotions and Activities for the Whole Family

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Published by KLOVE Books, a partner of Forefront Books.  
Distributed by Simon & Schuster.

Library of Congress Control Number: XXXXXXXXXX

Print ISBN: 978-1-63763-360-1  
E-book ISBN: 978-1-63763-361-8

Cover Design by Bruce Gore, Gore Studio, Inc.  
Interior Design by Bill Kersey, Kersey Graphics

Printed in the United States of America

*For Beau: Our memories of you will keep us  
feeling so blessed until we see you again in  
heaven. We love and miss you, sweet boy.*

## Introduction

If you could have been a fly on the wall in our quaint childhood home in small-town Alabama, you would have witnessed the beautiful chaos in which we Cain siblings grew up. You would have seen the eldest (*and best*) of us, Taylor, skillfully plucking her acoustic guitar and figuring out all the harmony parts to a Steven Curtis Chapman song. You would have seen the middle sibling and glue of the family, Madison, playing with the family video camera while acting out a homemade skit. And you would have seen baby brother, Logan, doing just about anything to get under the skin of his two older sisters. Our childhood was full of wild memories, great laughter, and light. And every bit of that is due to our intentional, loving parents and pastors, Charley and Shari Cain.

Even in the craziness of a home with three children all separated by one year in age, our mom and dad poured their all into each day. They supported our wildest dreams, they worked alongside us on last-minute school projects, and they created core memories for us we will never forget. We were the direct beneficiaries of God-centered family time, and now—as we’ve grown older, gotten married, and have had children of our own—we feel the challenge of establishing God as the head of our own homes.

We feel the challenge of quieting the discord of this world and creating a home for our children to grow not only in stature but in spirit and in truth. We want to cultivate the same deep connections with our growing families that our parents so thoughtfully cultivated with us. That challenge led us to the creation of this

family devotional. Our prayer is that through these daily readings both our own families and yours can glean from God's Word together, notice the blessings of God together, and experience memorable moments and conversations *together*.

*We're So Blessed* is a forty-day, family-oriented devotional to help guide you and your family away from the madness of the world to a place of peace with God. It is an aid to help your family take the time to recognize God's hand in your everyday lives and to realize how truly blessed you are as children of God. This devotional is designed to be enjoyed *together*, and it is written in a way that is attainable and meaningful for all members of the family. Each day of the devotional is composed of three elements:

1. Approachable passages from God's Word
2. Relatable, personal stories from the entire Cain family, our spouses, and our children
3. Meaningful family conversation starters and activities to do as a family

Through each day's reading, we pray that your family feels encouraged by God's Word, you feel *seen* relating to our zany stories, and your family feels inspired to create some unforgettable moments of your own. You can gather around the kitchen table or the living room couch, open this devotional, and let it serve as the launchpad for Spirit-filled conversations and laughter-filled activities that leave your family feeling refreshed, refocused, and reminded that *We're So Blessed*.





## Lost & Found

### Scripture

Parable of the Lost Sheep • Matthew 18:12–14

<sup>12</sup> *“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?”*<sup>13</sup> *And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn’t wander away!*<sup>14</sup> *In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father’s will that even one of these little ones should perish.”*

### Madison’s Hide & Seek (Taylor)

Growing up, Madison wasn’t what you would call a “bad kid”; she was just “curious.” Sometimes she might have been a little *too* curious. After one particular day of playing with family friends, Madison wasn’t quite ready for the fun to be finished. She hoped to spend the night with our friends and keep the good times rolling, but to her disappointment, our parents said, “No, not tonight.” But even though she heard “no,” Madison’s mind began to come up with a plan. She thought to herself, *If I can just hide in the back of our friends’ car, they will drive all the way back home and then I can pop out for a big “Surprise!”*

*moment. We'll all laugh, and they'll be so happy that I'll be able spend the night after all.*

So, without telling a soul, Madison quietly opened the minivan door, crawled like a worm until she was hidden under the back seat, and stayed as quiet as a mouse. Before too long, our family friends loaded into their minivan, cranked the engine, and began the long drive back home. Madison had done it! She had successfully hidden and was now along for the ride. Now she just had to wait for the right moment to pop out and give everyone the biggest surprise of their lives!

Meanwhile, it wasn't long before Mom and Dad realized they hadn't seen Madison in a while. They checked in her bedroom, they checked in the living room, they checked the backyard...no Madison. They checked with the neighbors, and Madison wasn't there either, so panic began to set in. Our parents loaded into our old miNIVan and drove through the neighborhood searching high and low for Madison. When they couldn't find her, they began calling friends to help with their search. They even got the local police department involved, and a full hunt for Madison ensued. With terror in their minds, our parents sped down the highway and eventually caught up to our family friends and waved them over to the side of the road. Little did they know, a very well-hidden Madison lay quietly giggling under the back seat.

"Have you seen Madison?" Dad shouted worriedly. "We haven't seen her since you all left the house. We're getting worried, and we've already called the police!"

"No, we haven't seen her!" they replied.

Finally, to Madison, the moment she was waiting for had come. She wriggled out from under the back seat, jumped up into the

air, and shouted “Surprise!” But to *her* surprise, the look on everyone’s faces wasn’t pure happiness. They all nearly fainted with relief as their worst nightmare was resolved: Madison was not lost but found.

Mom and Dad wanted to be angry, but in that moment, they couldn’t feel anything but pure joy and relief to see sweet Madison’s smiling face again. Dad scooped Madison into his arms and carried her home more thankful than ever to have his “curious” daughter back in his sight. Just like our Dad stopping at nothing to find Madison, our God loves us so much that He will find us when we *too* are lost and far from Him and bring us home safe to His presence. Today’s scripture tells us that it is not God’s will that we should perish, but He desires to bring us “home” to a relationship with Him. And when we are back at home with our God, as verse 13 says, “*He will rejoice.*”

### Reflection Questions

- *What part of the Parable of the Lost Sheep stands out to you?*
- *What do you think of the shepherd leaving his ninety-nine other sheep to find the lost one?*
- *Does Madison’s dad react like the shepherd when Madison goes missing?*
- *God loves us so much that He will come and find us when we’re lost and bring us home safe. How does that make you feel?*



## *Sneaking in Joy*

### Scripture

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ • Colossians 3:1–4, 12–17 ESV

<sup>1</sup> *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* <sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* <sup>3</sup> *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* <sup>4</sup> *When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory . . .* <sup>12</sup> *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,* <sup>13</sup> *bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.* <sup>14</sup> *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.* <sup>15</sup> *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.* <sup>16</sup> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.* <sup>17</sup> *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

### **Taylor's Secret Visitor (Madison)**

In 2015, when Taylor was 26 years old, she went on a mission trip to Honduras. Taylor loved this experience; she played with the local children, sang songs, and helped work on some building projects in the community. However, after she returned home, Taylor found herself very sick. After several days of sickness and no relief in sight, we took her to the hospital. What the doctors discovered was much worse than Taylor and our family had hoped. Her kidneys were in such critical shape that she might have to take powerful medicine for the rest of her life, and she might experience changes that would really break her heart, such as losing her ability to sing.

Taylor had to stay in the hospital for several days, and to help keep her company, our whole family stayed with her. There in her tiny hospital room, we crammed air mattresses and blankets and tried our best to not trip over one another. It was crowded and uncomfortable, and each day brought more frightening news about Taylor's sickness. However, we all made it a point that no matter the discomfort we experienced lying on the floor or the fear we felt in our hearts for Taylor, we would choose to stay positive and believe that God would heal Taylor's kidneys. We did everything we could do to "let the peace of God rule in our hearts," as the scripture above says. We did this by playing games, watching funny movies, telling jokes, and singing songs. We all prayed together and sang praise and worship songs to God throughout the day. When we felt scared, we chose to focus on Jesus and not on all the bad news around us.

Then when the bad news seemed to be at its worst, Logan and I came up with a big idea to help encourage Taylor. We wanted to

bring her a special visitor to cheer her up . . . our family dog, Pepe. However, dogs weren't allowed in the hospital, so we had to be very careful. We went home, gathered up Pepe, the largest suitcase we owned (it helped that Pepe was on the smaller side), and all the dog treats we could carry, and headed back to the hospital. Then we carefully placed Pepe into the suitcase along with several of his favorite treats, and Pepe began to happily chow down as we carried him secretly to Taylor's hospital room.

We walked into the hospital room, placed the suitcase on Taylor's bed, unzipped it—and out popped Pepe! Taylor was so happy to pet her dog and have a sense of “home” even at the hospital. In that moment, Taylor wasn't thinking about being sick, she was thinking about how thankful she was for Jesus and her family. She smiled and hugged Pepe all night long.

Finally, after many scary days, Taylor got the report that she had been longing for: she was healed and could go home! Her sickness miraculously improved and she was able to make a full recovery. Taylor and our family praised God and celebrated the mighty work He had done. All along the way we tried to “be thankful,” “sing hymns with thankfulness in our hearts,” and “let the peace of God rule,” and it helped bring us closer together even in a trying time. Most importantly, when we were most afraid, we “put on love” by encouraging and caring for one another. Sometimes putting on love means playing games together, sometimes it means praying together when times are tough, and sometimes it means sneaking joy (in the form of a dog) into a hospital!

### **Reflection Questions**

- *How can you “sneak joy” into your family?*

- *What is something nice someone in your family has done to encourage you?*
- *What is your favorite way to give thanks to God?*

**Activity**

*It's praising time! Find your family's favorite praise and worship song and crank it up! Sing together and thank God for all the good things He has done for your family. Bonus points if you even add in some dance moves!*

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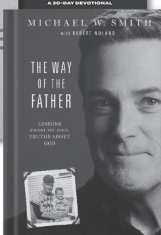
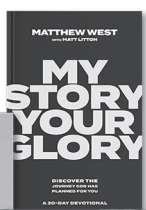
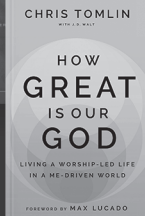
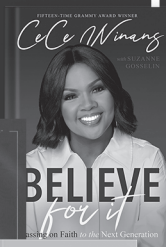
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