

# COME AND SEE

John 1:39

PROVIDED BY THRIVE LADIES MINISTRY  
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, KANNAPOLIS, NC

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FROM THE PASTOR'S WIFE

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## This Garden of Life

BY ANDREA MURRAY

It's Spring! I'm so excited to see things growing and blooming again. My allergies aren't as happy as I am, but I am VERY happy when things are growing.

We moved into our house over 2 years ago, and I've been struggling to find a good place to grow any flowers. The red, clay dirt is VERY hard. I've worked on a small flower bed in front of my house and worked new dirt into it a little at a time, but it's still not doing very well.

First, the dirt was hard and packed and full of old pieces of brick and cement from the remodeling of the house. I have dug and pulled and sifted and sorted and added and thrown out, but it's slow going trying to get those plants to grow.

Then there's the issue of the lack of sunlight. My house front faces the southwest. This means it gets zero morning sunlight and only some evening light, as the sun is going down. I have a small deck off the back of the house, but it's hidden from that sunlight by the shadow of the house. So, I've tried to improvise. I tried tomatoes in a bucket

I sunk in the ground with good dirt. Still not enough light. I've tried deck plants, but only that one little corner gets light, so I've had a struggle there too. It just seems like it's hopeless.

Then, the other day, my hunny asks, out of the blue, "What size would you like your raised flower beds to be? 2'x4' or 3'x5'?" First of all, I didn't even ask for raised beds! I asked for window boxes to hook on the deck rail and porch rail. And then, secondly, beds?! As in more than one?! My heart started pounding and I got so excited. The very next day, he went to Lowe's on his day off and came home with treated deck boards, fencing to put in the bottom, felt paper sheeting to put over the fencing bottom, and 10 (yes, I said 10) bags of dirt! He had even Googled how to build them! He built them both within 24 hours and they are now leveled out back in the sunny area just waiting for me to get the seeds and plants! That was the softest, richest, loosest dirt I've seen since I moved here! I can hardly wait to get my hands dirty and get those things filled! That means work, but I'm looking forward to it!

These beds have reminded me of life. It gets really hard sometimes. Everything gets packed in and filled with "junk" and bits and pieces that take up space and time, but don't help with growth at all.

The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen." As I get older in the Lord, I need to keep the soil of my heart loosened instead of packed hard and tight, emptied of the "stuff" of life that takes up space but doesn't help me at all, and in a place where the light of God's love and Word can enlighten, strengthen and warm me. The purpose is to bring Him glory!

I'm afraid so often we don't see the "stuff" we're allowing in as harmful until we find ourselves in a dark place in our life, surrounded by pseudo peace, joy and love, and feeling very alone. It's then that we take inventory of our surroundings only to find out we have been backed into a dark corner, or have sunken down in despair below our burdens, and can't even see a ray of hope. Digging back out

COME AND SEE

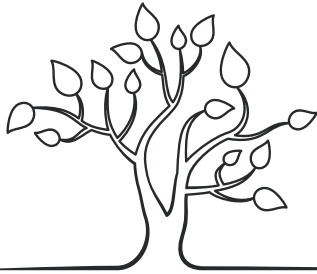
of the pit is harder than avoiding the pit in the first place. It's not impossible, just hard.

Sometimes we need to "start over" ... like giving up on the hard bed out front and switching gears to the beautiful raised beds. Sometimes we need some new direction and constructive criticism ... like, there's no sun there and it's just not

working. Sometimes we just need our surroundings stirred up ... like getting fresh, loose soil to begin anew.

How's your life garden? Are you growing? Are you stuck? Have you hardened yourself just to survive? How about a fresh start! Get back in God's Word and really let it stir you up! Get back in church. Get back on your knees. Get back

around encouraging friends. Ask God to show you the "stuff" that's packing you in but not helping anything. It might take hard work at first, but the end result will be a life that abounds with God's blessings and presence and a warmth and glow that only comes from spending time in the "Son" light. Colossians 2:7: "Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."



Names of God

ADONAI  
CHRIST  
FATHER  
JUDGE  
LIGHT  
MESSIAH  
SAVIOR

ALMIGHTY GOD  
CREATOR  
GOOD SHEPHERD  
KING  
LORD  
MOST HIGH  
STRONG TOWER

ALPHA  
EL ROI  
HELPER  
LAMB OF GOD  
LORD OF HOSTS  
OMEGA  
TRUTH

S E H P P A A H V X E W R T H L S X Z E  
Z A L E N V L L G G P L E E P I T F L F  
T B V R C A G M D I O D L N H G R B S E  
F Y J I O N O U I R N P Y A O H O V E L  
G N I K O I J Z D G E T I U R T N R B B  
C O P K R R K O M R H S S Q J K C O N P  
C H R I S T F N B P S T P O B A T T Z Y  
G O O D S H E P H E R D Y W M K O A Q V  
C G U L O B D B M F G E A G I L W E M O  
A G H S D O G F O B M A L H O F E R V L  
D A T R E H T A F D O G S R P D R C Z E  
O S A T R U T H X Z V E D L W L S C O Z  
N H Q I X H Y A I R Z M L K J D A N D W  
A B W Y Z E B U G F T O I Z B F J G T B  
I K N W J Y X B V I O B K J G L Y C K F



## Who Is In Your Boat?

BY REBECCA SCOTT-FIELDEN

Sometimes it's all just too much and the chaotic storms on the global stage and in our personal lives can really rock our boats! Storms blow in as a job or financial crisis, family relationship or marital problems, caregiver stress, extreme parenting, addictions, health crisis, chronic health condition, grief, or...you name it. How about the inundating flood of poverty, pandemic, war, violence, and division we see daily in the media?

When we're in the middle of a storm we often panic, struggle through it, hope it will pass, and sometimes, even abandon ship. And still, the storm rages on. We stress and worry, focusing on the size of the storm and find ourselves powerless, barely treading water. How can we find peace in the storms that rage out of control?

The disciples panicked and worried too. When turbulent waves crashed into their small boat, violently hurling them side to side, and the sea quickly filling their craft, they yelled and ran to find Jesus for help—only to find Him asleep. They interpreted His slumber and peace to mean that He didn't care. In their panic, they forgot Who was in the boat with them. When Jesus awoke, He asked them why they were afraid and rebuked them for their lack of faith (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-40), and commanded the wind and sea, "Peace. Be still." (Mark 4:39).

Twelve years ago, I found myself sailing, full speed ahead, with seemingly no one at the rudder, straight into a tumultuous

storm when my daughter, Lexie, began having seizures and was diagnosed with what the doctors referred to as a "catastrophic epilepsy." Each crashing wave brought with it, hosts of other bizarre physical symptoms, cognitive decline, ER and hospital admissions, failed medications, myriads of experimental treatments, testing, surgeries, and additional diagnoses, including a rare genetic variation. Her prognosis, grim.

And the storm still rages. I am utterly powerless against this storm. God hasn't calmed the storm in the way I asked Him to; but He is in the boat with me and He is faithful to sustain me, meet my needs, and so much more. In the midst of this storm, He has shown me what it means to fully rely on Him and to trust Him. He continues to grow my faith, allows me to witness His power perfected in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9), and I experience His peace; a peace that defies explanation and understanding, that rests in the beauty and calm in the eye of the storm. It is that faith in knowing Who is in the boat with me, that gives me peace and allows me to see what He is doing in the midst of it.

Who is in your boat? When we see nothing but dark, stormy clouds and only want the storm to pass, we need to remember our greatest need is His presence. Jesus desires for us to trust and lean on Him; He steps in, meets our needs, grows us and our faith. He can do what we are powerless to do.

"BE STILL AND KNOW  
THAT I AM GOD."  
PSALM 46:10

Revelation 21 reveals that one day, when Jesus appears, He will make all creation new, joining heaven and earth as one. He will wipe away every tear and destroy death at last and that the sea will be no more. The "sea" in ancient Israelite imagery is a place of primeval chaos, where monsters dwell. To remove the sea reminds me of His promise that the chaos and storms in this life will also, "be no more." (Revelation 21:1-27).

So, yes, on this side of heaven we will be faced with tumultuous storms, that is a certainty. But be assured God is still on the throne and in control. There is nothing He is not aware of. There is nothing He doesn't care about. He is Lord over the wind and the waves. One day, He will speak the words that will make the storms cease. Peace will come.

Psalm 46 describes the utter chaos of the world, and then leads us to a place of calm and stillness, of knowing that God is still God. To know this, is to experience the peace He offers us on this side of heaven.

So, be still and know, He is God.

Prayer:

God, although I don't always understand my circumstances, You do. Nothing is too difficult for You. So today, I will rest in that. I acknowledge that You are in control, and because of that, I don't have to fear tomorrow. Today, I choose to rest in Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.



**PSALM 46:10**



## But God Meant it for Good

BY LAURA JANE HUNTER

A few months ago, my daily bible reading hit me hard...harder than normal. The truth is I always find what I need from scripture; but that day, I was so overwhelmed with God's truth that I found myself crying almost uncontrollably.

I had been studying the life of Joseph in Genesis. It is an account in scripture that many of us are familiar with and have read numerous times; but that day when I began to read Genesis 50, it was different.

I continued to read about Joseph who had been betrayed by his family, left to

die, and continued to suffer for many years yet still forgave his brothers and restored their relationship.

That truth in itself is amazing and we should strive to give that kind of love and forgiveness to our friends and family! But then I read the words, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good..."(Genesis 50:20). The tears began falling. I began to think of all the evil around us today and how many times we give in to the fear and surrender to the enemy.

I, myself, am guilty of this and I think that's why it hit me so hard. When I read

those words, I realized something that I have known all along...God can take anything and use it for good! It is so easy to give up and live defeated in this sinful world but God CAN use the world's evil for good! He can turn things around for us! He can restore broken relationships! He can bless us beyond any stretch of the imagination! "For with God nothing shall be impossible."(Luke 1:37). Even when the vilest things are happening around us and in our lives, we must continue to believe that God can use them for good!

I hope you find comfort in this like I did.  
GOD CAN AND IS ABLE!

# Favorite & Easy **SPRINGTIME** Recipes

- **BLT CHICKEN SALAD**  
(LOW CARB + GLUTEN FREE)
- **COWBOY BUTTER DIPPING SAUCE**
- **BREAKFAST ON A STICK**



## **BLT CHICKEN SALAD**

Yummy picnic salad!

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 5 strips of crisp, cooked bacon, chopped into bite size pieces.
- 1/4 c chopped green onion
- 1/2 c quartered cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 c mayonnaise
- 1/2 tsp black pepper

Directions:

1. In medium saucepan, cover chicken breasts with cold water.
2. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover & simmer for 14 min. Cool & shred.
3. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, green onion & black pepper.
4. In a large bowl, combine shredded chicken, mayo, green onion & pepper mixture, tomatoes & bacon.

Enjoy immediately or store in the refrigerator in an airtight container for up to 4 days.

## **BREAKFAST ON A STICK!**

For a fun twist on breakfast, insert a popsicle stick into a peeled banana, then roll into yogurt. Cover the yogurt with your favorite breakfast topping (chopped nuts, granola, toasted coconut, seeds, or breakfast cereal). They can even be chilled or frozen!

## **COWBOY BUTTER DIPPING SAUCE**

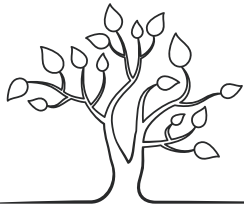
For dipping your favorite gilled meats!

- 6 Tbsp melted butter
- Juice and zest of half a lemon
- 4 cloves minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- 2 Tbsp fresh chopped parsley
- 1 Tbsp freshly chopped chives
- 2 tsp minced thyme
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- Salt and fresh ground pepper

Directions:

1. In small bowl combine melted butter, lemon juice, garlic, mustard, cayenne, and paprika. Whisk to combine.
2. Stir in parsley, chives, crushed red pepper flakes, thyme, and season with salt and pepper.

Serve the cowboy butter sauce with grilled meats, like steak or chicken bites, for dipping. Enjoy!



Women in The Bible Trivia

1. Which books of the Bible are named after women?
2. What was the name of Mary's cousin whose baby was born just months before Jesus?
3. Who was Abram's wife?
4. What elderly widow saw Baby Jesus at the temple?
5. Who was Isaac's wife, the mother of Esau and Jacob?
6. What woman was Jacob required to marry before he could marry her younger sister?
7. What woman helped the Israelite spies who were scouting out her city of Jericho?
8. What barren woman was given a child after she pleaded at the temple, and what was her child's name?
9. What woman brought lavish gifts when she came to visit King Solomon?
10. What were the names of Naomi's daughters-in-law?
11. What were the names of Timothy's mother and grandmother?
12. What woman conspired with her husband to lie about the sale price of some land?
13. In the book of Acts, who was the businesswoman who dealt in fine purple fabrics?
14. What woman, along with her husband, accompanied Paul to Syria?
15. What woman acted quickly to avert much bloodshed after her husband disrespected King David?

**TEXT YOUR ANSWERS TO 704-680-2613 TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!  
BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME!**

# Notes and Journaling

- Does it seem like Jesus is asleep while you encounter a stormy situation? Consider that, perhaps, he is waiting for you to exercise your faith.
- How does your perspective and faith change when you feel alone or isolated?
- How have you seen a storm become an opportunity for Christ to work a miracle in your life?
- How is Jesus' presence comforting in the midst of your storm? How does His presence impact how you respond to your circumstances?
- **READ** Mark 8:26 (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-40)
- **WRITE or DRAW** your thoughts:



# His Perfect Peace

## 21-Day Bible Reading Plan

IntentionalByGrace.com

- \_\_\_ Isaiah 9:6-7
- \_\_\_ Luke 1:76-79; Luke 2:14
- \_\_\_ Philippians 4:4-9
- \_\_\_ Mark 4:37-41
- \_\_\_ John 14:26-28
- \_\_\_ John 16:19-33
- \_\_\_ Numbers 6:22-27
- \_\_\_ Isaiah 26:3-4, 12
- \_\_\_ Psalm 119:165; Romans 8:5-6
- \_\_\_ Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:19-20
- \_\_\_ Colossians 3:12-17
- \_\_\_ Matthew 10:34-39
- \_\_\_ Ephesians 6:13-18a
- \_\_\_ Galatians 5:22-25
- \_\_\_ Psalm 29:10-11
- \_\_\_ Psalm 34:13-15
- \_\_\_ Romans 14:14-19
- \_\_\_ Romans 12:14-18
- \_\_\_ Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:9
- \_\_\_ James 3:16-18
- \_\_\_ Proverbs 3:1-2, 13-17

### Questions to answer each day:

1. How can you summarize this passage in two to three sentences?
2. What does this passage teach you about peace?
3. What is the Lord specifically leading you to do in response to this passage?

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk in obedience to this passage.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 6** - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 10AM IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH

**MAY 9** - MOTHER'S DAY & BABY DEDICATION

**JUNE 5** - AWAKEN COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY WITH GLENDA WESSON - 10AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL & ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**JUNE 21-25** KID'S CAMP \*SEE CHRISTY FOSTER OR CALL THE CHURCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

**THRIVE! LADIES BOOK CLUB IS RESUMING!**

BEGINNING SATURDAY, MAY 8TH @ 10:00 AM  
\*\*MEETINGS WILL TEMPORARILY BE HELD IN THE COLLEGE ROOM IN THE LEFT HALL AT THE REAR ENTRANCE OF THE CHURCH.

*"IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY"*

BY LISA TERKEURST

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:  
REBECCA FIELDEN 704-680-2613

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICE  
704-933-8006  
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COUNSELING CENTER AT CONCORD  
704-786-9205  
[HTTPS://WWW.COUNSELINGGCENTERATCONCORD.COM](https://www.counselinggcenteratconcord.com)



"SOMETIMES LIFE IS SO HARD YOU CAN ONLY DO THE NEXT THING. WHATEVER THAT IS, JUST DO THE NEXT THING. GOD WILL MEET YOU THERE."

--ELISABETH ELLIOT

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