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# TENDING THE DREAM: A DEVOTIONAL





A JOURNEY OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR WOMEN  
PURSUING GOD-HONORING DREAMS WHILE  
CULTIVATING HOME AND HEART.

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Welcome Friends,

Before we begin this 7-day journey, I want you to know one thing: **You are not here by accident.** Whether you're navigating a season of waiting, stepping into a new dream, or simply craving a deeper connection with God in the everyday rhythms of home and heart—I'm so glad you're here.

My hope for this devotional is simple but deep: that you would draw closer to God, experience His unshakable grace and steadfast love, and find peace in knowing that His plans are always better than our own.

This space is not about perfection—it's about presence. God's presence in our kitchens, in our laundry rooms, in our garden beds, in our quiet moments with coffee in hand and dreams in our hearts. It's in these “ordinary” places that He so often does extraordinary things.

As we walk through these next seven days together, I pray you'll be reminded that your faith matters, your homemaking matters, and your obedience in the little things is part of a bigger, beautiful story.

Let's tend to our homes and hearts with purpose—trusting the One who planted the dream to also bring the harvest.  
With grace and grit,

Your Sister at the Hearth,



Jess

## Day 1: Small Beginnings

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*"God planted a dream in your heart for a reason. No one else can dream it for you. No one else will accomplish it for you." - Joel Osteen*

Dreams are like seeds planted in the soil of your life. They must be tended to, watered, pruned, warmed by sunlight and maintained in order to thrive. If there's a dream in your heart that you've not taken action on yet, perhaps the dream is a seed gifted to you from the Father himself. If you long to start a business, leave corporate America, buy chickens, learn to sew, be more present with your babies – or whatever it may be, it won't come to fruition without a little bit of work from you.

### The Gardener

But here's the good news: you're not planting alone.

God partners with us in the dreams He plants. In fact, He's the Master Gardener—the One who knows what season your dream will sprout, how deep its roots need to go, and how much light it needs to grow strong. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (**Ephesians 2:10**). Your dream isn't random. It's a part of a greater story.

It can be easy to let fear, doubt, or busyness bury the seed. But God never gives us a dream to mock us—He gives us dreams to grow us. And the most beautiful blooms often take the longest time underground.

So today, ask yourself:

What seed has God placed in my heart?

Have I watered it with prayer?

Have I nurtured it with faith?

Have I surrendered it to the timing of the Lord?

Your job is to tend the soil. God's job is the growth.

### Prayer Prompt:

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Father, thank You for planting dreams in my heart. Help me to recognize the ones You've placed there and give me the courage to tend them faithfully. Show me where to begin and guide each step with Your wisdom. Lord, if this dream is from You, let it grow strong roots in truth, purpose, and grace. Amen.*

## Day 1: Small Beginnings

What is one dream or desire that has been quietly growing in your heart? Write it down, and reflect on how you think God may be inviting you to tend to it in this season. What small step(s) can you take this week to nurture that dream?

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**Use this section to write down something you're grateful for...**

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## Day 2: Faithfulness in Small Things



*“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10, (KJV)*

My husband and I have long dreamed of owning land—a place to put down roots and live out our days. But as a military family, we’ve moved every three years or so, and the dream of acreage has lingered quietly in our hearts for nearly a decade. When we moved into our current home, it came with a 400-sq-ft garden. I remember joking that it would probably die under my watch because I didn’t have a green thumb.

At the time, I didn’t see potential—I saw a burden. Still, the dream of that “forever property” stayed with me, and I continued to pray for it.

One day, as I was praying yet again for the land of our dreams, I felt a clear conviction in my spirit:



*“Why would I give you more, if you choose not to steward what I’ve already given you?”*

The weight of that question landed deeply. I was reminded of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14–30. In it, a master entrusts his servants with different amounts of wealth before going on a journey. Two of them invest what they’re given and multiply it. But one, out of fear, hides his talent in the ground and does nothing with it. When the master returns, he praises the first two and harshly rebukes the third, calling him wicked and lazy.

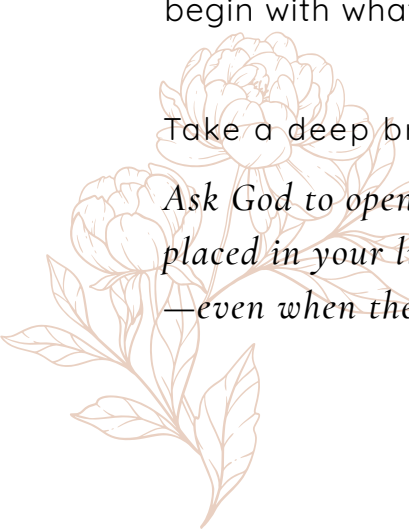
I tried to brush it off. Surely, I wasn’t like that servant—I wasn’t hiding anything. But deep down, I knew. I had been given a space to grow, to learn, and to begin. Instead of embracing it, I’d ignored it. I’d been asking for more while doing nothing with what I already had.

That moment became a turning point. I realized faithfulness starts small—in the overlooked corners of life, in the quiet obedience, and in the willingness to begin with what’s right in front of us.

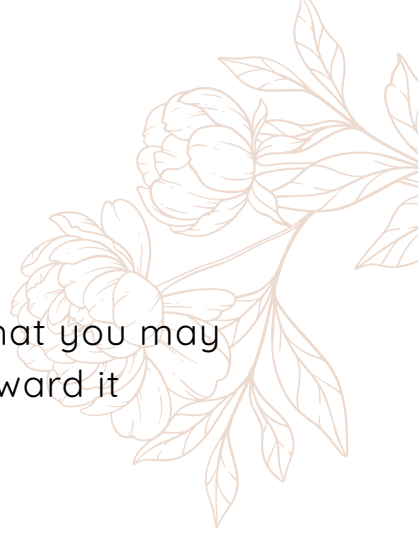
### **Prayer Prompt:**

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Ask God to open your eyes to the gifts, responsibilities, or opportunities He’s already placed in your life. Pray for a heart that is willing to be faithful in the small things—even when they feel mundane, hidden, or unimpressive*



## Day 2: Faithfulness in Small Things



What “small thing” has God placed in your life right now that you may have dismissed or overlooked? How can you begin to steward it more intentionally as an act of faithfulness?

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**Use this section to write down something you’re grateful for...**

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## Day 3: The Waiting Is The Work

*“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40-31 (KJV)*

If you're using this devotional, it's likely because you're a dreamer. You have a longing on your heart that you know God has placed on your heart, but perhaps you're in a season of waiting; a time when you know God hasn't told you "NO" permanently. But, perhaps His answer is, "not right now."

You may find yourself putting things off until the dream comes true. Like, we prayed for a forever home for years. During that same time, I would tell myself, "When we get to the new home, I'll learn to [blank]." If you find yourself there, challenge that thought – why can't you be learning to do [blank] now?

So often, we pray bold prayers – for the next step, the door, or that dream fulfilled. But, God in his mercy, sometimes answers not with the destination, but with a season of pause. Not because he's a cruel God, but because **he's preparing us for what he's prepared for us.**

Consider Joseph. As a boy he dreamt of leadership and influence, but didn't step into that role until after betrayal, slavery and time in prison. Objectively, we can see that every moment between was God preparing him, refining his character, shaping his humility and aligning his heart with God's.

The same can be said for you! The little spark in your heart to start a business, write a book, build a home, leave that job, raise wildly capably children – it's not idle. The time you spend in the waiting room is your training ground. What if God is preparing your heart for what is to come through small habits, unseen faithfulness and quiet obedience?

Don't reject the preparation... Lean in. The Lord is not wasting a second.

### Prayer Prompt:

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Ask God to show you what He's developing in your right now. Pray for strength to remain faithful in your waiting, and for discernment to see the preparation as a gift instead of a delay.*

## Day 3: The Waiting Is the Work

Where in your life do you feel stuck or delayed right now? What is one area God might be preparing you during this season? How can you make the most of this season of waiting

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Today, I'm thankful for . . .

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## Day 4: Sacred Stewardship



*“She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.” Psalms 31:13 (KJV)*

Changing the third pooppy diaper in thirty minutes. Laundry. Dishes. Meal prep. Budgets. Picking up that dirty sock for the fourth time today.

If you’re anything like me, you’ve done all these things and probably thought: Does any of this actually matter? It’s just going to need to be done again... today. The answer, in the eyes of the Father, is yes.

The Proverbs 31 woman is the bible’s description of a what a Godly woman/wife should be like. And, if you’ve read the scripture you know she’s a force to be reckoned with. She’s **the original Trad Wife**. She wasn’t praised for her status in society or at work. She was honored for the sacred way she stewarded her home, her hands, her heart and her time. She willingly worked her hands, not just to get the job done, but do so with a heart of giving and in love. Every action a reflection of her heart before the Lord.

When we bring our full selves – even when we’re unseen, in the unglamorous tasks – God sees it as worship to him.

That’s what I believe sacred stewardship is: Honoring God with what you’ve been given today. Maybe it’s the home that’s too small. The budget that’s tight. A season of transition or uncertainty. Maybe you feel like your dream is hidden under layers of responsibilities that no one else seems to see.

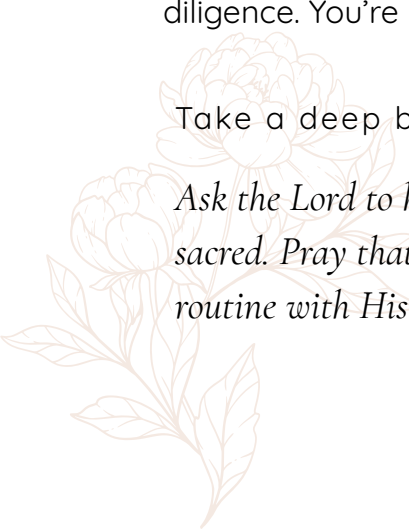
But **God sees**.

And, he’s not waiting for you to do something drastic before he calls it worship. He’s inviting you to see the holiness in folding laundry, tending scraped knees with compassion, preparing meals with care and managing your family’s needs with diligence. You’re not “just” mom/wife waiting. You are a steward of sacred things.

### **Prayer Prompt:**

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Ask the Lord to help you see your daily life through his eyes – not as meaningless, but as sacred. Pray that he would infuse your hands with joy, your heart with purpose, and your routine with His presence.*



## Day 4: Sacred Stewardship



List 3 daily or weekly tasks that often feel mundane or invisible. How can you reframe them as acts of worship and stewardship in this season?

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**Use this section to write down something you're grateful for...**

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## Day 5: Obedience Over Outcome

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

Sometimes the dream God places on our hearts looks bigger than our abilities. Maybe you question your qualifications, or if now is the right time to move to bring your dreams to life. But what if He's not asking you to have all the details figured out? What if he's just asking for your simple obedience?

Deborah's story (Judges 4) is striking not only because she was a female and prophet in a male-dominated era, but because she listened to God's voice – and took action! She called Barak to lead men into battle and yet he hesitated. Deborah, however, remained unwavering. She knew her role. **She knew her God and she OBEYED.**

The outcome wasn't guaranteed from the human perspective. The enemy had 900 chariots and the fear they felt was very real. Deborah wasn't distracted by the odds – she was focused on obedience, because she trusted God would handle the outcome and she walked confidently in her calling.

The same is true for you (and me). Your dreams – the longing buried in your heart may come with uncertainty. But, if God has called you to something, obedience becomes the most important steps, not applause. Not success. Not perfection.

Just a faithful yes.

Sometimes, that yes looks like sending that draft book to an editor. Maybe it's starting a savings account for your dream, even if the dream isn't fully clear.

But here's the promise: **Blessings follow obedience. You don't have to manufacture the outcome. You just must follow the One who's gone before you.**

### Prayer Prompt:

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Ask God for the courage to say yes – to take the step He's prepared you for. Pray that your heart will trust in His character more than you fear the unknown. Surrender the outcome for obedience.*

## Day 5: Obedience Over Outcome

What is one area of your life where God may be calling you to take a step of obedience, even without knowing how it'll turn out? What's holding you back?

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Today, I'm thankful for . . .

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## Day 6: “Bloom Where You’re Planted”



*"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him." – Colossians 2:7a (NLT)*

We all love this idea of “someday.” Someday when the perfect man proposes. Someday when the business is thriving. Someday when the kids graduate... But what if this version of someday is still one or two seasons away?

What if, instead, God is calling you to bloom today – right now? In the middle of filing your taxes, washing dishes, half-finished prayers, late-night tears and all the daily things that seem invisible.

What if, instead of seeing our current season as a holding pen – we swap out our lens and see it as an opportunity to bloom where we’re planted? God doesn’t waste a single moment and the soil he’s planted you in has the nutrients you need to grow – if your roots go deep into Him.

Consider flowers – not every flower blooms on mountain tops. Some sprout up between the cracks on the sidewalk. Others bloom in forgotten corners or in wild, messy fields. The place isn’t always glamorous, yet it spreads its petals the best it can and still glorifies the Creator. Consider, “The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.” Isaiah 58:11.

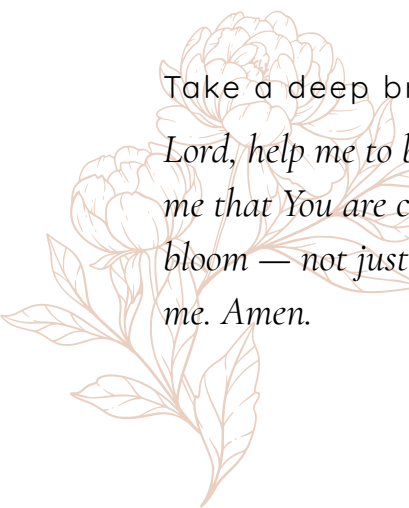
Moving soil, tight budgets, or relational storms can feel like “sun-scorched” ground. Yet God promises to guide you, satisfy your deepest needs, and give you strength to thrive—no matter how barren the circumstances seem.

Your current season — maybe marked by waiting, obscurity, or routine — is not meaningless. It’s holy ground. The work you’re doing today (whether raising babies, holding down a job, homeschooling, scrubbing dishes, or simply showing up) can reflect the beauty of Jesus when done with Him.

### **Prayer Prompt:**

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Lord, help me to be faithful in this season. Even when I don't feel fruitful or seen remind me that You are cultivating something in me. Teach me to dig roots deep in You, so I can bloom — not just when the dream arrives, but right here, right now, where You've planted me. Amen.*





## Day 6: “Bloom Where You’re Planted”

Where has God planted you right now — geographically, emotionally, relationally, or spiritually? What does blooming here look like in this season?

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Today, I’m thankful for . . .

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## Day 7: Tend the Fire

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*"Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord." – Romans 12:11 (NIRV)*

So often, we believe the dream ends at the finish line – the house is built, the business is launched, the calling answered. But, the truth is that that's just the next chapter of stewardship.

### **Dreams fulfilled require tending.**

The fire God places in your heart isn't meant to flare up just once and burn out. It's meant to be nurtured, fed, stoked and kept alive through devotion, obedience and gratitude. When a hearth fire is left untended, it slowly dies out. But, when we stoke the coals, feed the flame and keep the embers warm, it becomes a lasting light – one that warms others too.

Today, you may be walking in the early stages of your dream come true, or you may still be waiting. Either way, this is your charge: **Steward the fire God has placed within you.** Don't abandon prayer after the answer. Don't stop seeking once the doors open. Tend the flame – through scripture, through service and through rest in Him.

Think about the priests in the Old Testament. In Leviticus 6:13, God instructed them to keep the fire on the altar burning continually – it was never to go out. They had to rise early and return faithfully each day to tend it.

Our dreams may not look like Old Testament altars, but they are still places of offering. Your motherhood. Your home. Your work. Your writing. Your ministry. These are altars. And you are called to tend the fire upon them, not just with passion, but with persistence.

### **Prayer Prompt:**

Take a deep breath and allow yourself to be present in his presence.

*Lord, thank You for the dreams You've planted and the ones You've brought to life. Help me **not** to idolize the dream or forget You in its fulfillment. Teach me to tend this fire — to guard it from burnout, feed it with Your Word, and let it burn bright for Your glory. Keep my heart close and my hands faithful. Amen.*

## Day 7: Tend The Fire

**What does tending the fire look like in your current season?**

**What practical steps can you take to keep God at the center as you live out your calling?**

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**Today, I'm thankful for . . .**

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Friend,

As we come to the end of this 7-day journey, thank you for spending time walking through these reflections with me. My prayer is that God has met you right where you are today. I hope He reminded you of His faithfulness, His love, and His purpose for your life.

**You are not alone.** Whatever season you're in—whether you're waiting, rebuilding, dreaming, or simply trying to stay faithful in the everyday—God sees you. He is with you in the quiet moments, in the messy middles, and in the holy work of tending your home and heart.

May you carry forward the truth that God's plans are greater than our own, and that when we offer Him our dreams with open hands, He multiplies what we surrender.

Keep nurturing your faith. Keep tending the fire. And above all, walk in grace—with grit when it's needed—and never stop growing in Him.

Your Sister at the Hearth,

Jess

