

Inverse Ministries, Inc.

40-Day Devotional Guide

We're delighted that you've made the decision to travel alongside us for the next 40 days. As we journey thousands of miles across the United States during this time, this devotional guide is intended to lead you on your own spiritual journey through God's Word, prayer, and worship. Whenever you are intentional about knowing Christ more intimately, He is faithful to respond. We suggest you spend some time asking God the following questions throughout the next 40 days and carefully listen for His voice. We're with you all the way!

Courageous Questions for Your Journey with God

- Am I in the center of Your will in every area of my life? In every relationship?
- What is Your vision and purpose for my life?
- What or who is hindering me from living out my purpose for You?
- Here is a list of my fears and concerns, Lord. How do you want to transform these fears that paralyze my faith, into fears that mobilize my faith?
- Am I willingly participating in Your methods of refinement as well as Your Divine timeline for this process?
- Is there an area in which I need to be broken? If so, reveal Your desire and process of healing for me in this area.
- What's next on our Journey, Lord? Am I ready for You to take me there? What do I still lack?

During each of the forty days, we have suggested a scripture verse or passage for you to read, followed by some ideas and questions to consider. One simple suggestion we would like to make is that you incorporate keeping a spiritual journal during this time. In the journal, **RECORD** the ways in which the selected Bible verses **RELATE** to your life journey with God and how you might **RESPOND** in prayer to what God's Word says to you that day. The questions are intended to help guide you. We would also appreciate it if you would **REMEMBER** to pray for us as we minister to marriages in crisis during the next forty days.

40-Day Devotional Guide

Day 1

Scripture: Judges 18:5-10 — Spend some time asking the Lord for guidance and direction in the spiritual journey you will be taking for the next forty days. Ask for His will, His blessing, and His discernment.

Day 2

Scripture: Joshua 3 — Every worthwhile journey requires faith. The waters of the Jordan didn't recede until after they Israelites set foot in the river. How does this account apply to the start of your spiritual journey? Is there a "Jordan" in your life that He wants you to cross? In what ways might God be requiring you to step into the floodwaters by faith?

Day 3

Scripture: Luke 9:1-3 — Prior to being sent out on their journey, Jesus gave instructions to the disciples regarding what they should not carry with them. Why do you think He gave them these specific instructions? How might this apply to your journey?

Day 4

Scripture: Proverbs 16:1-3 — Ask the Lord to examine your heart today. Give Him full “permission” to alter your course and to work on your motives and intentions so that they are fully aligned with His perfect will.

Day 5

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21 — What are some of the events or problems in your past on which you tend to dwell? What are the new things that you think God wants to show you or change inside your heart during this time? Are you hesitant to allow Him to do these new things?

Day 6

Scripture: Matthew 16:24-25 — What are some specific ways you must deny yourself and carry your cross on this journey? What does carrying your cross really symbolize at this time? Are there days when the weight of it seems too much to bear?

Day 7

Scripture: Matthew 17:14-21 — Are you facing any “impossible” mountains in your life or in your relationships with others? If so, what do those mountains represent and how does your faith enter into these seemingly impossible scenarios? What is the one step you can take up the mountain today? Be specific. Ask God for the courage to take that first step.

Day 8

Scripture: Nehemiah 1 — In this chapter, Nehemiah makes a confession before God, prior to beginning to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. How did the people’s sins and disobedience impact their lives? How did their sins impact their relationship with God? Spend time allowing God to reveal any unconfessed sin that is destructive to your relationship with Him and others. Confess your sins before God and receive His forgiveness.

Day 9

Scripture: Nehemiah 2 — Following his confession and prayer, how does Nehemiah now move forward toward his purpose? What are the keys to a successful start on Nehemiah’s journey? How does this apply to your life?

Day 10

Scripture: Nehemiah 4 — After Nehemiah begins to lead the people in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, he faces opposition. How does he deal with this problem? What or who may be opposing your journey and what do you need to do in order to press on?

Day 11

Scripture: Mark 5:21-34 — In what ways have you reached out to Jesus this week? How has He responded to meeting your needs and how has His response impacted your faith?

Day 12

Scripture: Jeremiah 1 — This chapter explicitly describes God’s calling on Jeremiah’s life. Can you briefly state what you think God’s purpose for your life is? Focus not just on what God has called you to do, but also focus on who He is calling you to be.

Day 13

Scripture: Micah 6:8 — How do the desired qualities in this verse manifest themselves in your own life? In other words, what does it “look like” to act justly, walk humbly, and love mercy at this point on your journey? What or who are the greatest challenges you face in being a more just, humble, and merciful person?

Day 14

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34 — Make a list of your worries and concerns and how those are hindering your journey with God. Are there people or circumstances that need to be fully surrendered? Give each worry to God in prayer, asking Him to shoulder those burdens on your behalf.

Day 15

Scripture: Romans 8:18-27 — Is there suffering and pain in your life that God seems to be allowing? If so, what are the struggles and the good things that have come about as a result of those trials? How is God using them for good? Give Him thanks for these difficulties and ask Him for the longsuffering to endure them with a hopeful heart.

Day 16

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21 — As you look back over the past two weeks, what are some specific ways God has demonstrated the full measure of His love for you? How do you demonstrate your love for Him?

Day 17

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-6 — Moses encountered God in an unexpected way and in an unexpected place. How has this been mirrored in your journey thus far and what was your response? Are there circumstances in your life right now where God may be speaking to you in an unexpected way or through some surprising circumstances? How can this be considered “holy ground”?

Day 18

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 — Samuel learned an important lesson from God as to what matters most. What do you think God sees when He looks into your heart? What would you say in response to His observations? How has He changed your heart over the last several weeks?

Day 19

Scripture: 1 Kings 4:29-34 — King Solomon was known for the wisdom graciously given to Him by God. Write down at least three situations thus far on your journey where you are in need of God’s wisdom and discernment. Ask God to use His Word, His Holy Spirit, and other Christians to help guide you.

Day 20

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25 — Think about one or two people who have spurred you on toward knowing Christ in a more intimate way. Take time to thank God for these people and write each person a thank you note.

Day 21

Scripture: 1 John 3:21-24 — You have just passed the half-way mark on this spiritual journey. Take some time to thank God for what He has done thus far and go confidently before the Lord and make your requests known to Him for the remainder of this journey. You might find it helpful to go back and review the “courageous questions” listed at the beginning of this devotional guide.

Day 22

Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31 — What are the areas of your life that are in need of God’s hope and a renewal of His strength? Place those before the Lord in prayer today.

Day 23

Scripture: Psalm 51 — This Psalm contains King David’s heartfelt confession of sin. Use this Psalm to guide you in confessing your sins and struggles to God. Ask Him to reveal those subtle areas of your heart where pride often tries to hide out.

Day 24

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-14 — Is there anyone you need to forgive or anyone in your life from whom you need to ask forgiveness? Why wait? Do it today.

Day 25

Scripture: James 5:13-16 — Ask God to place someone on your heart that you can pray for today. Make contact with that person and ask if you can pray with him/her.

Day 26

Scripture: John 4:1-42 — The Samaritan woman in this story was forever changed when she met Christ at the well and her testimony changed the lives of others for generations to come. Ask God for an opportunity to share a portion of the testimony of His love with someone else today.

Day 27

Scripture: John 13:1-17 — Although Jesus was about to face His own death, He reached out and served others. Ask God to place someone in your path that you can humbly serve today.

Day 28

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8 — It is easy to become consumed with our own circumstances. Take the time to focus on someone else in need today. Pray for this person and ask God for a tangible way that He can use you to assist him/her. Then, take action in faith as God leads you.

Day 29

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21 — At the end of this passage, Paul encourages us to “overcome evil with good.” What might that look like in your life today? If there are temptations that are threatening your walk with God, ask for His help so that you can overcome these things.

Day 30

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26 — Which of the fruit of the Spirit has God been developing the most during the past month? Which fruit seems to be slower to ripen? Why do you think this is so?

Day 31

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11 — Paul's testimony as to God's purposes in his life is quite compelling. List at least three ways in which Paul's testimony can be applied to your life. What qualities in Paul do you long for in your own personality?

Day 32

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14 — Paul admonishes believers to rejoice in the Lord, despite their circumstances. How do his words encourage you? When do you find it most difficult to rejoice?

Day 33

Scripture: Hebrews 4:12-13 — Which aspects of God's Word seem to be penetrating your heart the most during this journey? What do you think Paul meant by "dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow?"

Day 34

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30 — What benefits of obeying God are found in this chapter? Are there areas in your life or goals that you need to recommit to God today? Spend some asking God about the things he has "set before you today," and seek Him regarding the choices He wants you to make according to His will.

Day 35

Scripture: Jonah 1 — Jonah wasn't willing to accept God's will and direction in his life so he attempted to run away from Him. Have you run from God at any point during this journey? In the remaining days, ask God to reveal any ways in which you might be trying to deny or avoid what He still desires to do in your life. Ask Him for the courage to change what needs to be changed.

Day 36

Scripture: Psalm 37:1-6 — How do you demonstrate your delight in God? What desires has He fulfilled in the last month? What desires are yet to be fulfilled and why do you think this is so?

Day 37

Scripture: Psalm 40:1-5 — What are the most astounding things that God has done in your life during this time? What does the "new song" in verse 3 represent to you?

Day 38

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22 — Read aloud King David's prayer to God found in this chapter. Declare God's sovereignty and power over all your enemies and trying circumstances.

Day 39

Scripture: Romans 4:18-25 — Abraham's faith stretched far beyond what made sense to the world. He didn't waver in unbelief. Ask God to grant you the kind of faith that is "fully persuaded" and believes against all hope that God's promises will prevail.

Day 40

Scripture: Psalm 139 — Read this Psalm aloud to God. Give Him your praise and thanksgiving for the ways in which He has formed you and the ways He has changed you to be more like Him over the past forty days. Look back over your journal from the last forty days to recount what God has done and write a thank you letter to Him.