

# SCENE

## *Graduation is a Rite of Passage To Our Seniors ...*

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**Crossing a threshold from years of hard work and studious  
dedication into a new beginning of a next life stage,**

Remember These Four Words...

Be positive, principled, pro-active, and productive.

**Graduation marks the end of one chapter and the start of a new one.**

*Enjoy your special day because you've earned it! Congratulations.*

- Wishing you nothing but the best as you embark on this new journey.
- This milestone is just a steppingstone for more successes to come!
- You're on your way to seek new vistas, dream new dreams, embark on who you are. Remember to embrace life with passion and keep reaching for the stars.
- The road ahead will have its share of obstacles, but you're incredibly ambitious and strong to overcome anything that comes your way.
- Today is only the first of many amazing moments and I know life has many more in store for you.

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart."

As you make your way in the world  
never lose sight of the things that matter most!  
Before you act, listen. Before you react, think.  
And, before you spend, earn. Before you criticize, wait.  
Before you pray, forgive. And, before you quit, try.

Hopefully, you've had the time of your life at school.

Now that you're graduating, it's a good opportunity to take a look back at the last twelve years, and also look ahead at what's to come. As exciting as graduation season can be — not just for you as the graduate, but for your family and friends who get to see their loved one achieve a major milestone — it can also be overwhelming. Giving yourself a moment to reflect can help ensure that you'll continue on in your journey to adulthood with confidence. Graduation Bible verses are one way for faithful Christian graduates to take stock as they say goodbye to one chapter and begin another.

*Enjoy your special day because you've earned it! Congratulations.*

If you're experiencing some uncertainty or just need encouragement, reading these Bible verses for graduates can help you stay grounded and serve as a source of inspiration. If you've had God in your heart, He has been present and has seen your growth. As you read these encouraging Bible verses, allow your faith to bring you empowerment, inspiration, clarity, and confidence. Your future success is yours to create, but the wisdom you draw from this graduation scripture can only help carry you through.

**1 Timothy 4:12**

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, [and] faith..."

**The Good News:** Youth is not a downfall. Use what others perceive as innocence as a fresh start to set an example and learn more about the world.

**Proverbs 16:3**

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."

**The Good News:** Continue on in your path with faith as a big part of it. It'll help you reach your goals.

**Colossians 3:23**

"Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people."

**The Good News:** It's so easy to focus on people around you, but never lose sight of the fact that God is your constant. Have God in your heart every step of the way.

**Psalms 20:4**

"Let God grant what is in your heart and fulfill all your plans."

**The Good News:** No matter what you're striving for or what you desire, God will lead you there.

**Proverbs 16:3**

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."

**The Good News:** Continue in your path with faith as a big part of it. It'll help you reach your goals.

*We are so proud of you!*

# Growing Deeper Spiritually

## Treasure Hunting

By Denise Willock

My mother shared with me recently that she had finished reading the Bible through for the first time in her 90 years of living. I had seen how throughout the past year, she had stuck to her Bible Reading Schedule faithfully. It was the first thing she did in a day, as able. If something did come up, she would catch up with her reading as soon as possible. Thus, she accomplished the goal in 2024 she had set for herself. I am very proud of her for doing so.

But what is the benefit of reading the whole Bible through, you might ask. I can think of many. I often have thought of the truths in the Bible as hidden from view. Like the tabernacle of the Old Testament wherein God dwelt was not appealing to the eye at first glance, as maybe the Old Testament looks to many. It was a tent of goat hair, with a covering for the tent out of rams' skin dyed red and a covering of porpoise skins above. But inside were boards overlaid with gold, hooks of gold, ornamented gold furniture, fine twisted linen of blue, purple, scarlet, there was some bronze and silver, but a lot of gold! It was beautiful. And the Old Testament, far from being the dusty old boring text many may think, is full of beautiful treasures, "indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:3-6

Some of the treasures I have found include the Psalms to pray and to find comfort and release in our times of pain, Books where we can gain wisdom and understanding to guide our day to day living, and insightful examples of those who followed God, and those who did not.

But for me, the heightened understanding of the Gospel's truth of God's redeeming love that I have gained by reading the whole Bible are worth more than silver or gold. We see our holy and loving Creator God making a way to bring us back into relationship with Him after the fall of sinful man, from beginning to end.

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# TREASURE HUNTING CONTINUED

From God's shedding the blood of an animal to cover sinful Adam and Eve's nakedness with the animal's skin, foreshadowing the blood of Christ that would cover our sin.

- To providing a way of escape, as the world was to be judged of its sinfulness with a worldwide flood, with an Ark to save lives, foreshadowing Jesus, the Ark of our salvation.
- To the willing sacrifice of Isaac, who figuratively was brought back from the dead-foreshadowing Jesus who willingly sacrificed himself for us and was raised from the dead.
- To the sacrifices in Leviticus that covers all manner of sins committed against a holy God: sins bringing guilt, sins of omission, unintentional sin, Grain offerings, peace offerings -All of which foreshadow Jesus, the Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice, that takes away the sin of the world once and for all.
- To the deliverance of Moses- foreshadowing our Deliverer from sin's bondage, Jesus, and the One to lead us to the promised land of life in the Spirit of God both now and in eternity.
- To the promised son of King David, the Messiah, Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- To the prophets pleading with the people to repent and turn back to God.

We see the loving intent of our Holy Creator God being redemption and reconciliation with Himself. This depth of knowledge of our redeeming God brings certainty of God's plan and His love for us. The good plans He has for us to bring us a hope, and a future with Him in glory. What riches are to be found in the whole of God's Word!

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Doug Brown

As spring flowers bloom, May brings a season of celebration for our graduates, who've worked diligently to achieve their goals and now step into a new stage of their lives. We have many outstanding seniors who have grown up among us and within our church fellowship. We celebrate them this month.

Their journey mirrors our spiritual walk with Christ, where we, too, progress from one level of faith to another, growing closer to God's purpose for our lives and learning new lessons, moving on to new stages that He has in store for us. Just as graduates transition from classrooms to new horizons, we are called to progress in our faith. In Philippians 3:13-14, Paul reminds us, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus." Let's embrace this forward momentum, leaving behind doubts and fears, and pursue a deeper walk with Christ.

Our graduates also remind us that growth requires steadfastness. Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages us to "run with endurance the race that lies before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." Each step in our spiritual journey—whether through prayer, Bible study, or serving in a ministry—prepares us to move forward with the Lord and not give up. This month, we will honor our graduates with a special recognition service on May 18th. Join us to celebrate their achievements and pray for their future. Let's also commit to taking the next step in our walk with the Lord. Consider joining or starting a new Bible study or serving in a ministry. Additionally, on May 18th, immediately following our worship service, we will host a ministry fair where you can explore the various ministries and service opportunities available within our fellowship.

**Congratulations, graduates of all types!**



The three weeks leading up to Resurrection Sunday found the 3rd-6th Grades Growth Group, (led by Donna Kaye Brady and Nancy Bird), using their investigative skills to unlock the clues to the Resurrection Sunday Escape Room.

### Mystery #1 was **"WHY DID A DISCIPLE BETRAY JESUS?"**

It was Thursday night, the Last Supper, the night of Jesus' arrest and the night before His crucifixion. Jesus said that one of His disciples would betray Him. But why?

### Mystery #2 was **"HOW DID THE WORLD'S MOST INNOCENT MAN GET A DEATH SENTENCE?"**

Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane after Judas betrayed Him. What would the religious leaders accuse Jesus of, when he had done nothing but teach love and wisdom, and healed hundreds of people? Let's see what happened on that dark and fateful night.

### Mystery #3 was **"What did Jesus have to say to all of us?"**

Rome was about to crucify an innocent man, sent by corrupt religious leaders. But God makes good out of the worst of things. He had plans to show His love in the end. Let's go to where Jesus was crucified. He said some things to his Father and to those around him, and they remain relevant today.

### Mystery #4 was **"Was it really one miracle after the other?"**

Jesus referred to His death as the dark hour. But as soon as He died, things began to change. Miracles began to occur! Let's go back to that Good Friday and watch what transpired...

After successfully using their ciphers and solving the weekly codes, they used ALL the clues to enter the final code to solve the Resurrection Sunday Escape Room. They received their key to the Kingdom of Heaven, and learned about the evil that was present, the forgiveness of Jesus, the Resurrection, the promise that God would be with us forever, and the Steps to Salvation that are offered to us all.



*Praise the Lord from the earth...*

Your mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars... Psalm 148:7, 9

*Where Does the Time Go?*

While it is daytime, I must continue doing the work of the  
One who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

**John 9:4**

**Most of us can look around and find reminders of good intentions.** We readily see areas where we never followed through to reach a goal. The seldom-used exercise equipment needs dusting. A piano, intended to fulfill our dreams of happy family sing-a-longs, sits silent.

**The books piled on the nightstand remain to be read.** And the laptop computer we intended to take on vacation to write a novel is still in its original packaging. More important, there are the children in our family who wait for our attention. Every child has gifts and abilities waiting to be developed – but that takes time.

**To tap into potential takes intentional, concerted efforts, it doesn't just happen.** Time for meaningful interactions and activities doesn't always "appear" to us as we juggle a full day of appointments and other commitments.

**The time God gives to us is ours to spend – we determine how to use it.** We can fill it with life building activities, or we can let it sift through our finger's hour by hour, day by day, week by week, until before we know it, an entire year is gone and very little accomplished.

**As long as you are alive, your time – 24 hours, 1,440 minutes, 86,400 seconds a day – will be spent.** It is up to you to decide how you are going to spend it. Accept the challenge to make every moment count! When you take a child, family member or friend to an appointment, make it an adventure, a time to listen, learn and share Gods wisdom. Is there a free hour when you can sit quietly and read a chapter or two in one of the books on your nightstand?

**Look at what you have planned for today and set your priorities according to the goals you have set for your life.** Do the same thing tomorrow and the next day. It won't be long before your life will begin to be more productive and more fulfilling.