

LIFE

AN OPERATING MANUAL

Biblical Instructions for Every Season

Seek God. Trust Jesus. Walk faithfully.

THE FOUNDATION

Saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
Serving God in gratitude for His gift of salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-10

PREFACE

A Starting Point for Every Season

We often hear that life does not come with an instruction manual. Yet God has given us His Word, filled with teaching, wisdom, true accounts, and parables that help us understand who He is and how to live faithfully before Him. Through Scripture, He directs our attention to Jesus Christ and teaches us to walk in dependence on the Holy Spirit.

This manual was created as a quick reference for that journey. Its purpose is to offer a starting point when you are unsure what to do, facing a difficult circumstance, or simply seeking what God has to say about a particular season of life. Whether you need guidance for a decision, encouragement in a struggle, or help fulfilling a responsibility, these pages are intended to direct you back to God.

Life's seasons and responsibilities often overlap, so several sections may apply to you at the same time. Explore the manual freely, drawing from the sections that speak to your circumstances, relationships, and responsibilities. You may also find guidance that helps you encourage or counsel someone else.

Begin wherever your present need leads you. Choose a relevant section, or use the topical guide to find a concern and its corresponding Scripture references. Read the operating instructions, consider the biblical examples, and turn to the passages themselves. The troubleshooting boxes provide additional starting points when a particular difficulty needs your attention.

As you read, take time to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand Scripture, discern what is right, and respond in obedience. Read each passage in its surrounding context, and seek wise counsel from mature believers when you need help applying it. Some circumstances require patient study, continuing prayer, and support from others.

The foundation of this manual is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We serve God out of gratitude for the salvation He has freely given us. Our growth in faithful living rests on His mercy, His truth, and His continuing work within us.

You do not need to have every answer before turning to God. Begin with the question, responsibility, or burden before you today. Open His Word, seek His wisdom, and take the next faithful step.

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 1:5, 22-25;
John 14:26; Galatians 5:16, 22-25.

READ FIRST

Foundation and Intended Use

Life begins with God, our Creator, and finds its proper direction in fellowship with Him. Salvation is His gift of grace, received through faith in Jesus Christ; our obedience and service flow from that gift. Use this manual to return regularly to Scripture, seek God's wisdom, and practice faithful living in the circumstances before you.

- 01 Source of life.** Recognize God as your Creator and sustainer.
Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:24-28.
- 02 Foundation of salvation.** Receive salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-13.
- 03 Reason for service.** Respond to God's mercy with gratitude, love, and obedience.
Scripture: Romans 12:1; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 4:19.
- 04 Primary commands.** Love God and love your neighbor.
Scripture: Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35.
- 05 How to use this manual.** Read Scripture carefully, pray for wisdom, and put its teaching into practice.
Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:5, 22-25.
- 06 When you fail.** Confess your sin, receive God's forgiveness, make necessary repairs, and resume faithful obedience.
Scripture: 1 John 1:9; Luke 19:8; Galatians 6:1.
- 07 God's abiding presence.** Receive the Holy Spirit's help and live in dependence on Him.
Scripture: John 14:16-17, 26; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9-14.

USING THE REFERENCES

Read each passage in its surrounding context. The operating instructions are practical applications of Scripture; dating and empty nesting draw on broader biblical principles. The topical index pairs Scripture references with pages in this manual.

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Read by season, or use the topical index to find guidance and Scripture.

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SECTION 01: DAILY OPERATION

Your Personal Relationship with God

Applies during: Every stage of life.

Your relationship with God is the foundation supporting every other responsibility in this manual. Through Jesus Christ, God gives believers the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, teaches us, helps us pray, and leads us in faithful living. Remain in Christ, attend to Scripture, and depend on the Spirit as you discern what is right and grow in obedience.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Establish regular prayer and Scripture reading. Make room to speak with God and receive His instruction.

Scripture: Matthew 6:6-13; Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- 02

Trust God when the next step is unclear. Seek His wisdom and acknowledge Him in your decisions.

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5.
- 03

Practice worship, gratitude, repentance, and obedience. Bring your whole life under God's care and authority.

Scripture: Psalm 95:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Acts 3:19; John 14:15.
- 04

Participate in the life of a local church. Gather for worship, encouragement, fellowship, and service.

Scripture: Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:24-25.
- 05

Keep fellowship with God central to your service. Attend to Jesus even when responsibilities demand your attention.

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42; John 15:4-5.
- 06

Walk by the Holy Spirit and practice discernment. Seek His guidance, test spiritual claims, and cultivate the fruit He produces.

Scripture: Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16, 22-25; 1 John 4:1.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Jesus' instructions for prayer**

Matthew 6:5-13
- Mary and Martha**

Luke 10:38-42
- The vine and branches**

John 15:1-11



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Spiritual dryness**

Psalm 42
- Distraction**

Luke 10:40-42
- Doubt**

Mark 9:24
- Persistent prayer**

Luke 18:1-8; Romans 8:26-27

NOTES

Reflection and Application

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GENERAL NOTES

KEY LEARNINGS

SCRIPTURES

SECTION 02: INITIAL FORMATION

Childhood, Youth, and Growing Independence

Applies during: The years of developing identity, judgment, and responsibility.

The Bible treats youth as a meaningful season for learning wisdom and practicing faithfulness. Young people can honor God now through their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. As independence increases, develop the judgment to choose what is right even when approval or convenience points elsewhere.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Build character before pursuing recognition. Give attention to the person you are becoming.

Scripture: Proverbs 22:1; 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Timothy 4:12.
- 02

Choose friends and influences carefully. Seek companions who encourage wisdom and faithfulness.

Scripture: Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33.
- 03

Honor parents while learning personal responsibility. Receive instruction and take ownership of your conduct.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 1:8-9; Galatians 6:5.
- 04

Practice wisdom with words, desires, and decisions. Learn to listen, exercise self-control, and consider your path.

Scripture: James 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:22; Proverbs 4:23-27.
- 05

Remember your worth as someone made in God's image. Treat yourself and others with the dignity that truth requires.

Scripture: Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16; James 3:9-10.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Samuel's calling**

1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Daniel's convictions**

Daniel 1:8-17
- Timothy's example**

1 Timothy 4:12-16

TROUBLESHOOTING

- Peer pressure**

Proverbs 1:10
- Comparison**

Galatians 6:4-5
- Temptation**

1 Corinthians 10:13
- Fear of the future**

Matthew 6:25-34

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SCRIPTURES

SECTION 03: PARTNER SELECTION

Singleness, Dating, and Courtship

Applies during: Single adulthood and the discernment of marriage.

Scripture honors both marriage and singleness as settings for faithful service to God. Although it does not prescribe a modern dating process, it gives clear guidance about character, holiness, love, and wise counsel. Enter relationships with honesty and patience, remembering that another person is a neighbor to love and someone accountable to God.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01 Live purposefully in your present circumstances.** Give yourself to the opportunities and responsibilities you have now.
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:17, 32-35; Ephesians 5:15-16.
- 02 Evaluate character, faith, and conduct over time.** Look for the fruit of a person's life and a shared commitment to the Lord.
Scripture: Matthew 7:16-20; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 7:39.
- 03 Establish honest expectations and healthy boundaries.** Practice truthfulness, sexual holiness, and respect.
Scripture: Ephesians 4:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7.
- 04 Seek wise counsel before making a lifelong commitment.** Welcome insight from mature people who know you well.
Scripture: Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 19:20.
- 05 Treat the other person with dignity, patience, and integrity.** Let love govern both your intentions and your behavior.
Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 Timothy 5:1-2.
- 06 Recognize singleness as a meaningful setting for Christian service.** Use its opportunities for devotion to the Lord.
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Ruth and Boaz: honorable conduct in their historical setting**
Ruth 2-4
- Paul's teaching on singleness**
1 Corinthians 7
- The character of love**
1 Corinthians 13:4-7



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Loneliness**
Psalm 62:5-8
- Impatience**
Psalm 27:14
- Misplaced dependence**
Jeremiah 17:5-8
- Rejection**
Psalm 34:18
- Pressure to marry**
1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 35

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KEY LEARNINGS

SCRIPTURES

SECTION 04: HOUSEHOLD SETUP

Newlyweds and Building a Marriage

Applies during: The first years of marriage and whenever a marriage needs renewed foundations.

Marriage joins two people in a covenant that requires faithfulness, love, and continuing care. Scripture directs spouses toward honor, self-giving love, and a shared life before God. Establish household practices that help you serve one another and address difficulties before resentment becomes habitual.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Establish shared habits of prayer, service, and decision-making. Seek a household direction shaped by devotion to God.

Scripture: Joshua 24:15; Colossians 3:16-17; James 1:5.
- 02

Practice sacrificial love and mutual care. Attend to your spouse's good with humility and honor.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21, 25-33; Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 3:7.
- 03

Discuss money, work, family expectations, and responsibilities. Apply biblical principles of counsel, planning, and stewardship together.

Scripture: Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 21:5; 1 Timothy 5:8.
- 04

Handle disagreements without contempt or retaliation. Listen carefully and speak in ways that help repair the relationship.

Scripture: James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-32; 1 Peter 3:9.
- 05

Protect faithfulness, friendship, and intimacy. Give your marriage deliberate attention and honor its covenant.

Scripture: Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5.
- 06

Make forgiveness a regular practice. Extend the mercy you have received from Christ.

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:32.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- The creation account of marriage**

Genesis 2:18-24
- Priscilla and Aquila's shared ministry**

Acts 18:1-3, 24-26
- Instructions for marriage**

Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Peter 3:1-7



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Unspoken expectations**

Ephesians 4:15, 25
- Recurring conflict**

James 4:1-3
- Financial strain**

Proverbs 21:5
- Competing priorities**

Philippians 2:3-4

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GENERAL NOTES

KEY LEARNINGS

SCRIPTURES

SECTION 05: WORKPLACE OPERATION

Careers, Professional Life, and Daily Labor

Applies during: Employment, business ownership, homemaking, study, and vocational transitions.

Work appears in Scripture from the beginning, when God places humanity in the garden to cultivate and care for it. Daily labor offers opportunities to serve others, provide for needs, and exercise the abilities God has entrusted to us. Perform your responsibilities with integrity while keeping your work within a life ordered around God.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Work diligently and honestly. Carry out your responsibilities with care and dependable effort.

Scripture: Colossians 3:23-24; Proverbs 10:4; Ephesians 4:28.
- 02

Serve people through your work. Use your abilities to meet needs and contribute to others' good.

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:28.
- 03

Exercise integrity when shortcuts are available. Refuse dishonest gain and misleading practices.

Scripture: Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 16:8; Luke 16:10.
- 04

Handle authority, ambition, and recognition wisely. Exercise influence through service and humility.

Scripture: Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:3-4; Proverbs 27:2.
- 05

Protect time for worship, relationships, and rest. Recognize both the value and the limits of your labor.

Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 6:31; Psalm 127:1-2.
- 06

Discern when to remain, change direction, or begin again. Submit your plans to God and seek wise counsel.

Scripture: Proverbs 16:3, 9; Proverbs 15:22; James 4:13-15.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Joseph's stewardship
Genesis 39:1-6; 41:39-49

Daniel's integrity
Daniel 6:3-5

Nehemiah's leadership
Nehemiah 2:11-18; 4:13-23



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Burnout**

Mark 6:31
- Unfair treatment**

Romans 12:17-21
- Anxiety during unemployment**

Matthew 6:25-34
- Compromise**

Daniel 3:16-18
- Success crowding out faith**

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

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SCRIPTURES

SECTION 06: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Money, Possessions, and Generosity

Applies during: Every season involving provision and financial responsibility.

Everything we possess ultimately belongs to God, who entrusts resources to our care. Scripture calls us to manage those resources wisely, enjoy His provision with gratitude, and share generously. Review financial decisions for what they reveal about your trust, priorities, and concern for others.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Treat resources as a stewardship entrusted by God. Remember the source of what you have.

Scripture: Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Deuteronomy 8:17-18.
- 02

Plan carefully and live with contentment. Combine responsible preparation with gratitude for enough.

Scripture: Proverbs 21:5; Proverbs 27:23-27; 1 Timothy 6:6-8.
- 03

Practice generosity toward the church and those in need. Give willingly and according to your means.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Hebrews 13:16.
- 04

Examine the influence of greed, fear, and status. Keep wealth from becoming the object of your confidence.

Scripture: Luke 12:15; Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
- 05

Prepare responsibly while trusting God for provision. Plan for foreseeable needs and seek His kingdom first.

Scripture: Proverbs 6:6-8; Matthew 6:31-33; James 4:13-15.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- The rich fool**

Luke 12:13-21
- The widow's offering**

Mark 12:41-44
- The early church's generosity**

Acts 4:32-35



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Debt**

Proverbs 22:7
- Financial anxiety**

Matthew 6:25-34
- Envy**

Hebrews 13:5
- Scarcity**

Philippians 4:11-13
- Attachment to possessions**

Matthew 6:19-24

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SECTION 07: DEPENDENT CARE

Parenting and Raising Children

Applies during: Raising children and supporting their growth toward adulthood.

Children are a gift from God, and parenting carries responsibility for their care, instruction, and formation. Scripture places teaching within ordinary household life and directs parents to discipline without provoking or discouraging their children. Carry out this responsibility with patience, consistency, and dependence on God.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Teach faith through instruction and example. Bring God's truth into everyday conversation and demonstrate its practice.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15.
- 02

Combine loving guidance with consistent discipline. Provide correction aimed at growth, with care for the child's spirit.

Scripture: Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:10-11.
- 03

Listen carefully and respond with patience. Seek understanding before issuing your answer.

Scripture: James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; Colossians 3:21.
- 04

Take responsibility for your own mistakes. Model confession, humility, and reconciliation.

Scripture: Matthew 7:3-5; James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24.
- 05

Adjust your approach as children mature. Apply wisdom in helping them grow toward responsible adulthood.

Scripture: Luke 2:52; Proverbs 20:5; 1 Corinthians 13:11.
- 06

Entrust your children to God while fulfilling your responsibilities. Pray faithfully and continue providing care and instruction.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:27-28; Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 6:4.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Teaching within household life**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- Hannah and Samuel**

1 Samuel 1:20-28
- The prodigal son's father: mercy and welcome**

Luke 15:11-32



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Exhaustion**

Isaiah 40:29-31
- Guilt**

1 John 1:9
- Disobedience**

Ephesians 6:1-4
- Competing influences**

Proverbs 13:20
- Adult children's choices**

Luke 15:11-24

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SECTION 08: COMMUNITY OPERATION

Friendship, Church, and Loving Your Neighbor

Applies during: Building and maintaining relationships beyond the household.

God calls His people into a shared life of love, service, and mutual encouragement. Jesus' teaching extends our responsibility beyond those who are familiar, agreeable, or easy to help. Build relationships in which faith takes visible form through hospitality, truthfulness, mercy, and practical care.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Develop faithful friendships. Become someone who offers love, encouragement, and honest counsel.

Scripture: Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 27:6, 9, 17.
- 02

Offer hospitality and practical help. Welcome others and respond to needs within your reach.

Scripture: Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10; 1 John 3:17-18.
- 03

Listen before speaking. Give others the care of your attention.

Scripture: James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13.
- 04

Address conflict honestly and pursue reconciliation. Speak truth with love and take appropriate steps toward peace.

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:15, 25; Romans 12:18.
- 05

Carry one another's burdens. Share in others' sorrow and offer sustaining help.

Scripture: Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15.
- 06

Extend kindness beyond your familiar circle. Show neighborly mercy and love even toward enemies.

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:43-48; James 2:1-9.

WORKED EXAMPLES

The good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Jonathan and David

1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17

The early church

Acts 2:42-47



TROUBLESHOOTING

Isolation

Hebrews 10:24-25

Gossip

Proverbs 16:28

Resentment

Ephesians 4:31-32

Difficult neighbors

Romans 12:14-21

Fractured fellowship

Matthew 18:15-17

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SECTION 09: LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Serving and Guiding Other Believers

Applies during: Mentoring, teaching, ministry, and church leadership.

Christian leadership carries responsibility for people who belong to God. Jesus establishes service as the pattern for leadership, and the apostles emphasize character, sound teaching, and willing care. Exercise authority with humility, remembering that leaders also need correction, support, and accountability.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Lead through service and example. Demonstrate the conduct you ask others to practice.

Scripture: Mark 10:42-45; John 13:12-17; 1 Peter 5:2-3.
- 02

Handle Scripture faithfully. Prepare carefully and teach what accords with God's Word.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 1:9; James 3:1.
- 03

Remain accountable and teachable. Welcome counsel and appropriate correction.

Scripture: Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 15:31-33; Galatians 2:11-14.
- 04

Protect those entrusted to your care. Attend to their welfare and guard against harmful teaching and exploitation.

Scripture: Acts 20:28-31; Ezekiel 34:2-4.
- 05

Correct with patience and humility. Aim for restoration and understanding.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Galatians 6:1.
- 06

Equip others to serve and grow. Share responsibility and prepare others for faithful ministry.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; Exodus 18:17-23.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Jesus washing His disciples' feet
John 13:1-17

Moses receiving Jethro's counsel
Exodus 18:13-26

Paul mentoring Timothy
2 Timothy 1:3-7; 2:1-2



TROUBLESHOOTING

Pride
Philippians 2:3-8

Overwork
Exodus 18:17-23

Conflict
2 Timothy 2:24-26

Misuse of authority
1 Peter 5:2-3

Dependence on one leader
1 Corinthians 3:5-9

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SECTION 10: OPERATION UNDER STRAIN

Suffering, Loss, and Major Disruption

Applies during: Illness, bereavement, disappointment, crisis, and unwanted change.

Scripture gives suffering people words for grief, questions, endurance, and hope. Jesus Himself experienced sorrow and suffering, and He invites His followers to approach God for mercy and help. During disruption, bring your pain honestly before Him and receive the support needed for the next faithful step.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Bring grief and difficult questions honestly to God. Use prayer to express sorrow as well as confidence.

Scripture: Psalm 13; Psalm 62:8; Matthew 26:36-39.
- 02

Receive help from others. Allow fellow believers to share your burdens and care for you.

Scripture: Galatians 6:2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; James 5:14-16.
- 03

Attend to the next faithful step. Seek wisdom for today's responsibilities.

Scripture: Matthew 6:34; James 1:5; Galatians 6:9.
- 04

Hold to hope when circumstances remain painful. Remember God's love and the promised resurrection.

Scripture: Romans 8:18, 35-39; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- 05

Offer comfort without claiming to know every reason for suffering. Listen, grieve alongside others, and share the comfort God gives.

Scripture: Job 2:11-13; Job 42:7; Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Job's suffering and questions

Job 1-2; 38-42

Lament

Psalm 13; Psalm 42

Jesus at Lazarus's tomb

John 11:17-44

Paul's endurance

2 Corinthians 4:7-18



TROUBLESHOOTING

Despair

Psalm 42:5-11

Anger

Psalm 13

Isolation

Galatians 6:2

Prolonged uncertainty

Romans 8:24-25

Pressure to appear strong

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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SECTION 11: HOUSEHOLD TRANSITION

Empty Nesting and Midlife Changes

Applies during: Children leaving home, changing responsibilities, and reassessing direction.

Scripture recognizes that life contains changing seasons, each requiring wisdom and faithfulness. Empty nesting is a modern description, but its questions about identity, family, purpose, and change fit within biblical teaching on stewardship and trust. Review your responsibilities, release roles that have changed, and seek ways to serve God in the season now before you.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Release adult children with love. Apply biblical principles of family formation, counsel, and personal responsibility.

Scripture: Genesis 2:24; Proverbs 15:22; Galatians 6:5.
- 02

Renew your marriage, friendships, and daily rhythms. Give deliberate attention to relationships and habits that sustain faithful living.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-16, 25-33; Proverbs 27:9; Hebrews 10:24-25.
- 03

Identify opportunities for service. Offer your gifts to meet needs in your church and community.

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10-11; Titus 2:3-5; Galatians 6:10.
- 04

Review priorities and commitments. Ask whether your use of time reflects God's purposes.

Scripture: Psalm 90:12; Matthew 6:19-21; Romans 12:2.
- 05

Adapt to changes in work, health, and family roles. Make plans with humility and seek God's wisdom.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; James 1:5; James 4:13-15.
- 06

Seek purpose in your present responsibilities. Continue doing good with what God has entrusted to you.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17; Galatians 6:9-10.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Naomi's changing circumstances**

Ruth 1-4
- The seasons of life**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- Prayer for wise use of time**

Psalm 90:12-17



TROUBLESHOOTING

- Loss of identity**

Colossians 3:1-4
- Loneliness**

Hebrews 10:24-25
- Regret**

Philippians 3:12-14
- Uncertainty about the future**

Proverbs 3:5-6

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SECTION 12: LEGACY TRANSFER

Grandparenting, Aging, and Finishing Faithfully

Applies during: Later adulthood, grandparenting, and preparation for the end of life.

Scripture gives older believers a continuing place in the life of God's people, including teaching, prayer, encouragement, and testimony. Changing strength may alter how you serve, while your experience of God's faithfulness remains valuable to others. Prepare to finish faithfully by passing on wisdom, tending relationships, and holding to the hope of resurrection in Christ.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

- 01

Tell the next generation what God has done. Share the record of His faithfulness in Scripture and in your life.

Scripture: Psalm 78:4-7; Psalm 71:17-18; Deuteronomy 4:9.
- 02

Offer presence, encouragement, prayer, and wisdom. Support younger generations through patient, faithful involvement.

Scripture: Titus 2:2-5; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Proverbs 16:31.
- 03

Respect your adult children's responsibilities. Apply principles of household independence, humility, and considerate counsel.

Scripture: Genesis 2:24; Philippians 2:3-4; Proverbs 15:22.
- 04

Adapt faithfully to changing strength and independence. Bring your limitations to God and receive help with humility.

Scripture: Psalm 71:9; Isaiah 46:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16.
- 05

Attend to reconciliation and unfinished responsibilities. Pursue peace and make appropriate provision for those in your care.

Scripture: Romans 12:18; Matthew 5:23-24; 1 Timothy 5:8.
- 06

Face death with hope in Christ and the resurrection. Rest your confidence in His victory and promises.

Scripture: John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 50-58; Philippians 1:21-23.

WORKED EXAMPLES

- Lois and Eunice**

2 Timothy 1:5
- Caleb's enduring faith**

Joshua 14:6-14
- Simeon and Anna**

Luke 2:25-38
- Paul's reflections on finishing faithfully**

2 Timothy 4:6-8

TROUBLESHOOTING

- Feeling overlooked**

Psalm 92:12-15
- Family distance**

Romans 12:18
- Declining health**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- Fear of death**

Hebrews 2:14-15
- Concern about legacy**

Psalm 78:4-7

NOTES

Reflection and Application

Section / Topic: _____

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GENERAL NOTES

KEY LEARNINGS

SCRIPTURES

QUICK REFERENCE

When You Need a Starting Point

Use these starting passages to begin prayer, seek wisdom, and identify a faithful response. Return to the relevant section for fuller instruction, and read each passage in its surrounding context.

- 01 When you don't know what to do.** Seek wisdom, examine your motives, and receive counsel.
Scripture: James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 15:22.
- 02 When you have failed.** Confess, receive forgiveness, make restitution where needed, and pursue restoration.
Scripture: 1 John 1:9; Psalm 51; Luke 19:8; Galatians 6:1.
- 03 When you need help.** Receive counsel, prayer, and practical support.
Scripture: Proverbs 11:14; Galatians 6:2; James 5:14-16.
- 04 When someone else is hurting.** Listen, remain present, and offer compassionate care.
Scripture: Romans 12:15; James 1:19; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 1 John 3:18.
- 05 Return to the foundation.** Remember grace, faith in Christ, hope, and love.
Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 13:13.

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Accountability

Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 15:31-33; Galatians 2:11-14

Manual pages: 12

Adult children

Luke 15:11-24; Genesis 2:24; Galatians 6:5

Manual pages: 10, 14, 15

Aging

Isaiah 46:4; Psalm 71:9; 2 Corinthians 4:16

Manual pages: 15

Ambition and recognition

1 Samuel 16:7; Philippians 2:3-4; Proverbs 27:2

Manual pages: 5, 8

Anger

James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-32; Psalm 13

Manual pages: 7, 13

Anxiety

Matthew 6:25-34; Proverbs 3:5-6

Manual pages: 5, 8, 9, 14

Authority

Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:2-3

Manual pages: 8, 12

Boundaries in dating

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Ephesians 4:25; 1 Timothy 5:1-2

Manual pages: 6

Burnout and overwork

Mark 6:31; Exodus 18:17-23; Psalm 127:1-2

Manual pages: 8, 12

Career changes

Proverbs 16:3, 9; James 4:13-15; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Manual pages: 8, 14

Character

1 Timothy 4:12; Galatians 5:22-23; Titus 1:9

Manual pages: 5, 6, 12

Children: raising

Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21

Manual pages: 10

Church participation

Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47

Manual pages: 4, 11

Comforting others

Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; 1 John 3:18

Manual pages: 11, 13, 16

Comparison

Galatians 6:4-5; Psalm 139:13-16

Manual pages: 5

Compromise

Daniel 3:16-18; Proverbs 16:8; Luke 16:10

Manual pages: 8

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide (continued)

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Conflict

James 4:1-3; Matthew 18:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Manual pages: 7, 11, 12

Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11-13

Manual pages: 9

Courtship and dating

1 Corinthians 7:39; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Proverbs 15:22

Manual pages: 6

Death and resurrection

John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Manual pages: 13, 15

Debt

Proverbs 22:7; Proverbs 21:5

Manual pages: 9

Decision-making

James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 8:14

Manual pages: 4, 6, 8, 14, 16

Despair

Psalm 42:5-11; Romans 8:18, 35-39

Manual pages: 13

Discernment

1 John 4:1; James 1:5; Galatians 5:22-25

Manual pages: 4

Discipline: children

Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:10-11

Manual pages: 10

Distraction

Luke 10:38-42; John 15:4-5

Manual pages: 4

Doubt

Mark 9:24; Proverbs 3:5-6

Manual pages: 4

Empty nesting

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 2:10

Manual pages: 14

Envy

Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Manual pages: 9

Exhaustion

Mark 6:31; Isaiah 40:29-31; Psalm 127:1-2

Manual pages: 8, 10

Failure and restoration

1 John 1:9; Galatians 6:1; Psalm 51

Manual pages: 2, 10, 16

Faithfulness in marriage

Genesis 2:24; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:25-33

Manual pages: 7

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide (continued)

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Family distance

Romans 12:18; Philippians 2:3-4

Manual pages: 15

Fear of the future

Matthew 6:25-34; Proverbs 3:5-6

Manual pages: 5, 14

Forgiveness

1 John 1:9; Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:32

Manual pages: 2, 7, 11, 16

Friendship

Proverbs 13:20; Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 27:6, 9, 17

Manual pages: 5, 11, 14

Generosity

2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Hebrews 13:16; 1 John 3:17-18

Manual pages: 9, 11

God: relationship with

John 15:1-11; John 14:16-17, 26; Matthew 6:6-13

Manual pages: 4

Grandparenting

Deuteronomy 4:9; Psalm 78:4-7; 2 Timothy 1:5

Manual pages: 15

Gratitude

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Romans 12:1; 1 John 4:19

Manual pages: 2, 4

Grief and loss

Psalm 13; John 11:17-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Manual pages: 13

Guilt

1 John 1:9; Psalm 51

Manual pages: 10, 16

Health: declining

Isaiah 46:4; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Psalm 71:9

Manual pages: 15

Help: receiving

Galatians 6:2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; James 5:14-16

Manual pages: 13, 16

Holy Spirit: fruit in daily life

Galatians 5:22-25

Manual pages: 4, 6

Holy Spirit: guidance and teaching

John 14:26; Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16

Manual pages: 2, 4

Holy Spirit: indwelling and assurance

John 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:9-14

Manual pages: 2, 4

Honesty and integrity

Ephesians 4:25; Proverbs 11:1; Luke 16:10

Manual pages: 6, 8

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide (continued)

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Hope

Romans 8:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; John 11:25-26

Manual pages: 13, 15, 16

Hospitality

Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10; 1 John 3:17-18

Manual pages: 11

Humility

Philippians 2:3-4; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:2-3

Manual pages: 7, 8, 12

Identity and worth

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16; Colossians 3:1-4

Manual pages: 5, 14

Intimacy in marriage

Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4

Manual pages: 7

Isolation

Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:2

Manual pages: 11, 13

Leadership

Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:2-3; Ephesians 4:11-16

Manual pages: 12

Legacy

Psalm 78:4-7; Psalm 71:17-18; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Manual pages: 15

Listening

James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13

Manual pages: 5, 10, 11, 16

Loneliness

Psalms 62:5-8; Hebrews 10:24-25

Manual pages: 6, 14

Love for God and neighbor

Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; Luke 10:25-37

Manual pages: 2, 11

Marriage and newlyweds

Genesis 2:18-24; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:12-13

Manual pages: 7

Mentoring

2 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:2-5; Ephesians 4:11-16

Manual pages: 12, 15

Money and possessions

Psalm 24:1; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Manual pages: 9

Neighbors: difficult

Romans 12:14-21; Matthew 5:43-48

Manual pages: 11

Obedience

John 14:15; James 1:22-25; Ephesians 6:1-3

Manual pages: 2, 4, 5

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide (continued)

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Parenting

Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21

Manual pages: 10

Patience

1 Corinthians 13:4-7; James 1:19; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

Manual pages: 6, 10, 12

Peer pressure

Proverbs 1:10; Proverbs 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33

Manual pages: 5

Prayer

Matthew 6:6-13; Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 4:6-7

Manual pages: 4, 7, 10, 15

Pride

Philippians 2:3-8; Proverbs 12:15; 1 Peter 5:2-3

Manual pages: 12

Priorities

Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 6:19-21; Ephesians 5:15-16

Manual pages: 7, 8, 14

Provision

Matthew 6:25-34; Matthew 6:31-33; Proverbs 6:6-8

Manual pages: 8, 9

Purpose and service

Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Galatians 6:9-10

Manual pages: 2, 6, 8, 12, 14, 15

Reconciliation

Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 12:18

Manual pages: 7, 10, 11, 15

Regret

Philippians 3:12-14; Romans 12:2

Manual pages: 14

Rejection

Psalms 34:18; Psalm 62:5-8

Manual pages: 6

Repentance

Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 51

Manual pages: 2, 4, 16

Rest

Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 6:31; Psalm 127:1-2

Manual pages: 8

Salvation and grace

Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:9-13; Hebrews 12:1-2

Manual pages: 2, 16

Scripture: reading and teaching

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 2 Timothy 2:15

Manual pages: 4, 10, 12

Sexual holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Hebrews 13:4

Manual pages: 6, 7

FIND HELP WITH...

Topic and Scripture Guide (continued)

Read the passages beneath each topic. Linked manual pages offer fuller guidance.

Singleness

1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35; 1 Corinthians 7:17

Manual pages: 6

Spiritual dryness

Psalms 42; John 15:4-5

Manual pages: 4

Stewardship

Psalms 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Ephesians 4:28

Manual pages: 8, 9

Suffering

Romans 8:18, 35-39; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; Matthew 26:36-39

Manual pages: 13

Temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:22

Manual pages: 5

Time: wise use

Psalms 90:12; Ephesians 5:15-16; Mark 6:31

Manual pages: 8, 14

Trust in God

Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:31-33; James 1:5

Manual pages: 4, 9, 14

Uncertainty

James 1:5; Romans 8:24-25; Proverbs 3:5-6

Manual pages: 4, 13, 14

Unemployment

Matthew 6:25-34; Proverbs 15:22; James 4:13-15

Manual pages: 8

Unfair treatment

Romans 12:17-21; Proverbs 16:8

Manual pages: 8

Wisdom and counsel

James 1:5; Proverbs 15:22; Proverbs 19:20

Manual pages: 5, 6, 8, 14, 16

Work

Colossians 3:23-24; Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 10:4

Manual pages: 8

Worship

Psalms 95:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Exodus 20:8-11

Manual pages: 4, 8

Youth

1 Timothy 4:12; Proverbs 1:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:22

Manual pages: 5

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