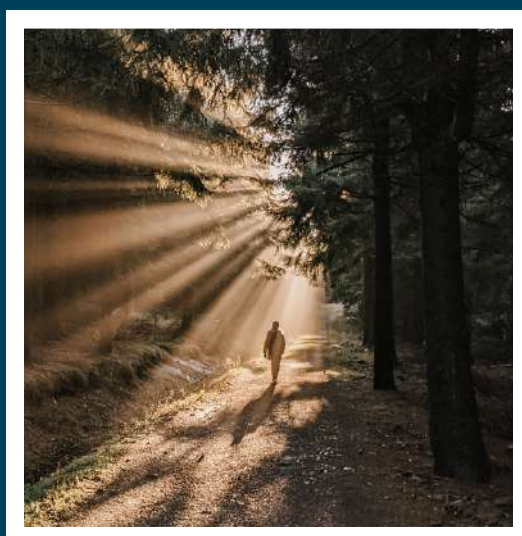


4 STEPS

To Live Out Your Faith Every Day

Intro to the Four Pillars
of Christian Living





Ready to surrender each day to Jesus?

At the Everyday Faith Podcast, we often talk about the four pillars. Here, we're diving deeper—unpacking what each pillar means and how they're designed to help us live out our faith in the everyday moments of life.



Letter from Dan & Jess

Hey there, it's Dan & Jess. We host the Everyday Faith Podcast. Over the years, we've discovered four core themes that have marked the lives of the believers we've interviewed. We've noticed that belief, mission, obedience, and community are the four things that are consistent among those who want a relationship with Jesus. In this e-book, you'll discover examples about how to start with belief, embrace your mission, commit to obedience, and pursue community. At the very end, you'll enter our four-day challenge with these pillars so that you can bring them into your own life.

We are excited for what God is going to speak to you through these next few pages. Enjoy this time of growing closer to God and stretching the muscle of living out your faith, every day.

- Dan & Jess Smith

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Summary

What is Everyday Faith?



What is Everyday Faith?

Everyday faith is different than what it sounds like: it's not just a lifestyle of doing the right things. Instead, it's an **everyday surrender to God**. While the Everyday Faith podcast is where Dan & Jess interview followers of Jesus, the idea of everyday faith actually comes from the Bible.

Here are some Bible verses that encourage believers in Jesus to live out their faith every day:



He said to them,
“**Go into all the world and preach the gospel**
to all creation.”

- Mark 16:15



For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Ephesians 2:10



As the body without the spirit is dead,
so **faith without deeds is dead.**

- James 2:26

What is Everyday Faith?



Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- Matthew 28:19

Everyday Faith isn't about perfection or performance, it's about choosing to walk with God, share His name, and take risks for the Kingdom of God. Through our four pillars, you'll be able to grow as a Christian and follow in the ways of Jesus. **Our four pillars are:**

- 1. Start with Belief**
- 2. Embrace Your Mission**
- 3. Commit to Obedience**
- 4. Pursue Community**



1

Everyday Faith

Start with Belief



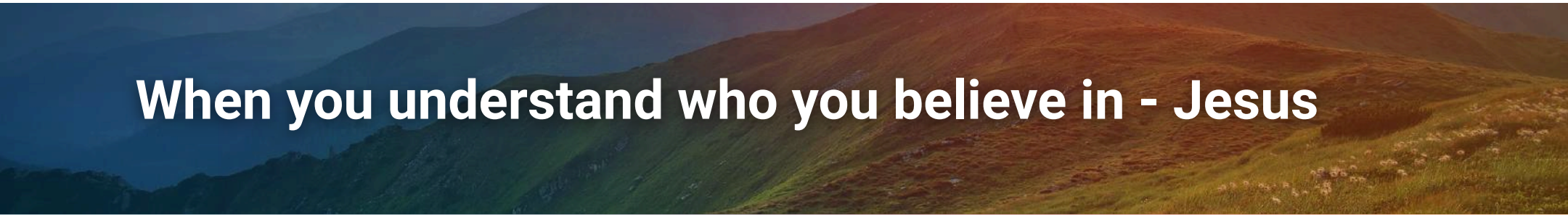
What's So Important About Belief?

1

To live out your faith every day, you must start with belief. Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” We’d like to modify that and say, “Believe in God and you’re halfway to living out your everyday faith!”

In Hebrew and Greek, the word belief means to ‘give yourself over to something’. When you **give yourself over to Jesus** at salvation, your belief system changes drastically!

Why we start with belief...



When you understand who you believe in - Jesus



You see who God is and who He says you are



Believing grows your trust in God's character



Trusting God's character breaks the lies about yourself



Belief lets you live in confidence as God's child

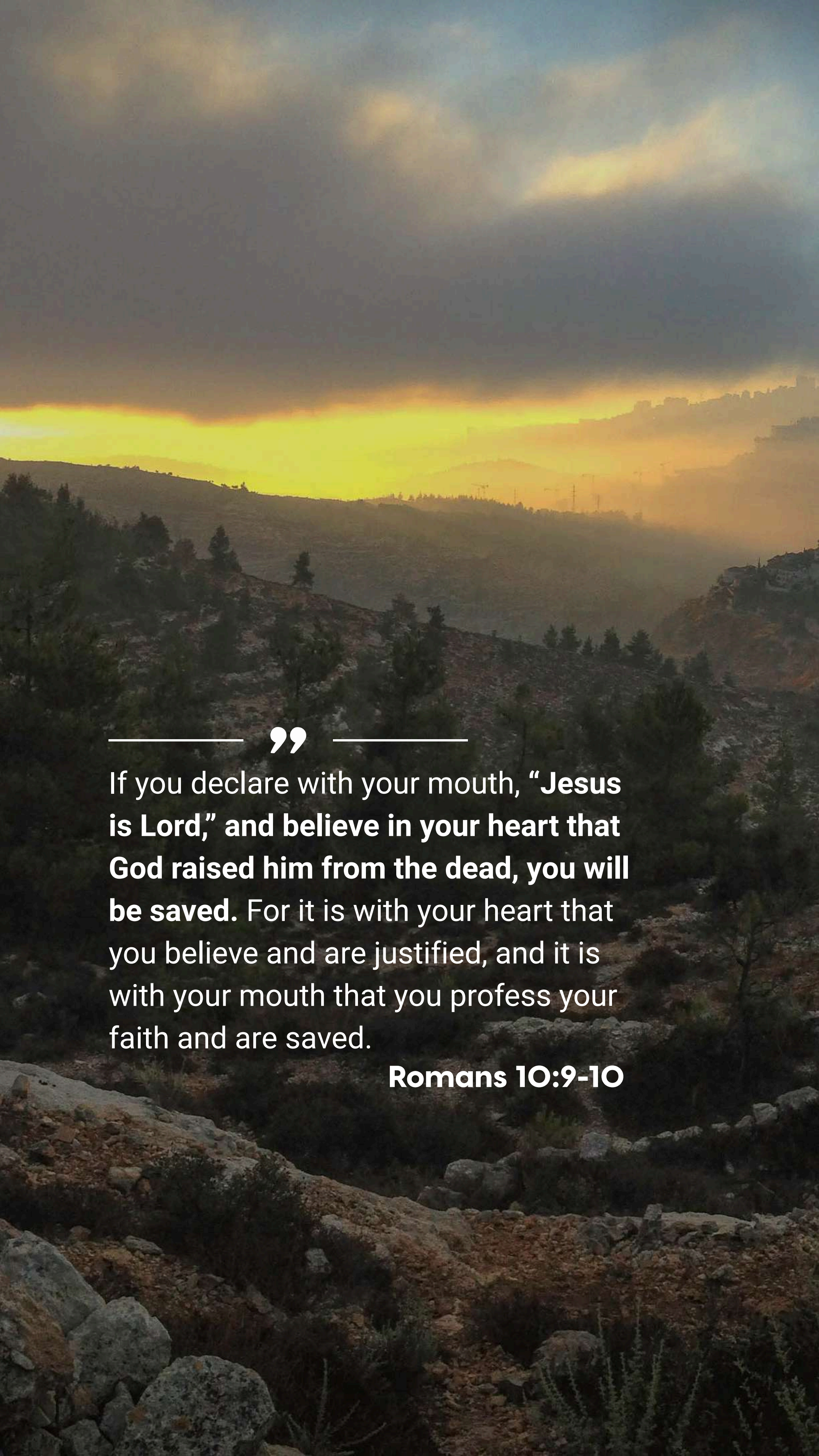
What's So Important About Belief?

1

Bible Verses About Belief

At the Everyday Faith podcast, we define faith as a conviction of truth rooted in trust and understanding, based on the revelation of God and supported by faith in His word. The following pages are some of our favorite Bible verses about belief and faith in God.





———— “ ————

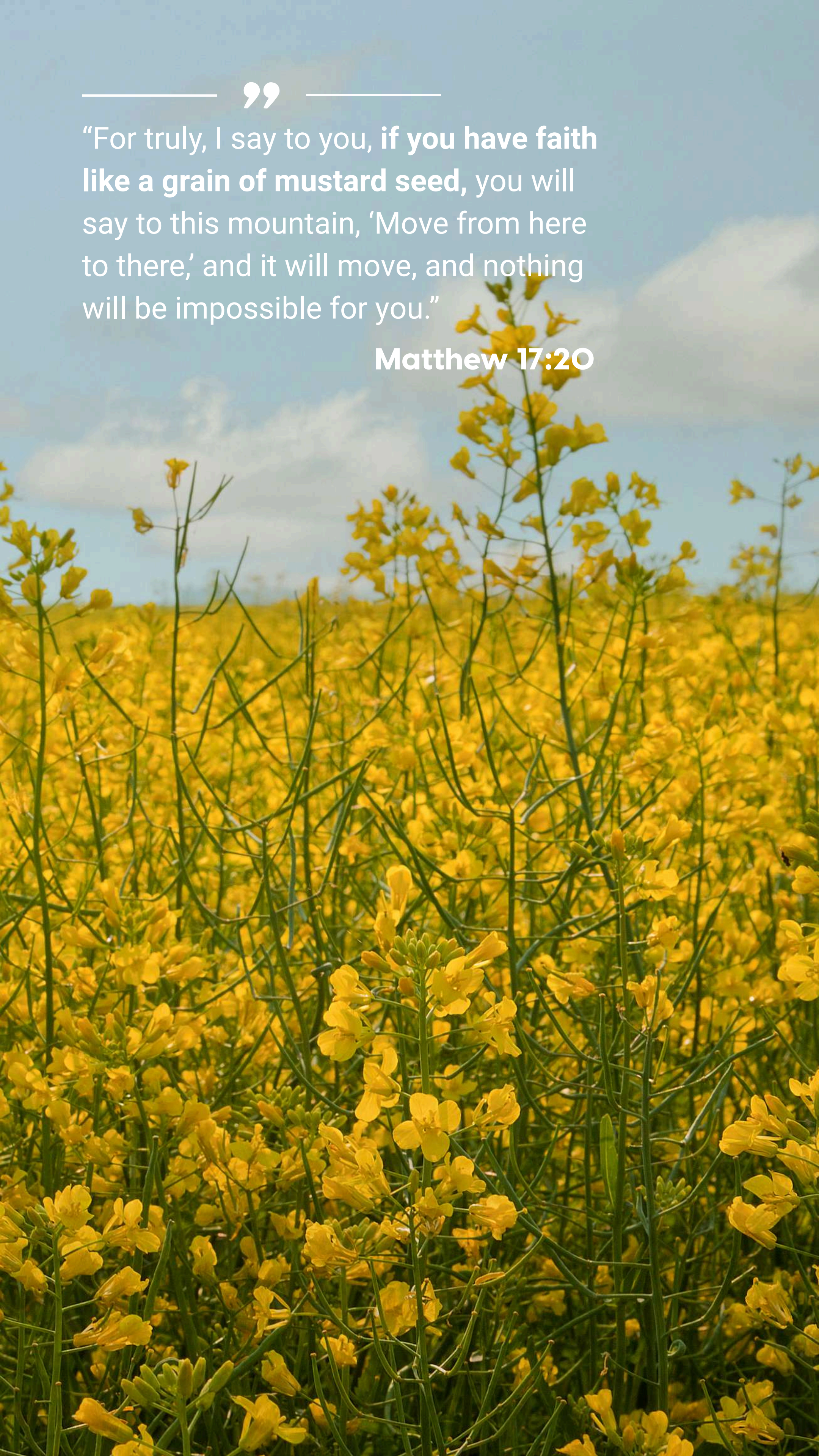
If you declare with your mouth, **“Jesus is Lord,”** and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10

”

“For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:20





”

For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

What's So Important About Belief?

1

Belief is where it all begins. We all have beliefs whether we know it or not. So when you choose to believe in God, it's more than an idea: your belief in God changes everything.

When you surrender your life to Jesus, you are giving your whole heart over to the God who created you! This belief in God transforms you, from the inside out. How you walk, how you talk, how you live, and how you treat others all change as you align your beliefs with God's.

Your belief in God grows by constantly connecting with God. We can do this through a simple thought of gratitude or curiosity. We can connect with God through reading the Bible, praying and being in a faith community.



Everyday Faith

Embrace Your Mission?

Embrace Your Mission

2

Mission is purpose in action. We say to *embrace your mission* because our purpose comes from God. On our own, our accomplishments can be empty. But when we follow God's mission, we find peace, love, and joy. In every season of life, the mission stays the same: to become more like Jesus and share Him with others. Together, let's embrace the mission He has given us.



“

If you're not sharing your faith and you're not telling people about Jesus, he's no longer your first love. **Whatever you're excited about, you talk about.**

”

- Barry Meguiar



What Does It Look Like to Embrace Your Mission?

2

Living your life on mission can look like...



Praying for your server at dinner



Telling someone your faith story



Serving food at a homeless shelter



Starting a weekly Bible study at work or at school



Choosing to live by the principles of the Bible

What Does It Look Like to Embrace Your Mission?

2



Growing in the place of prayer



Choosing to be thankful instead of prideful



Choosing to love your neighbor as yourself

The following pages are some of our favorite Bible verses about embracing your mission.

”

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40

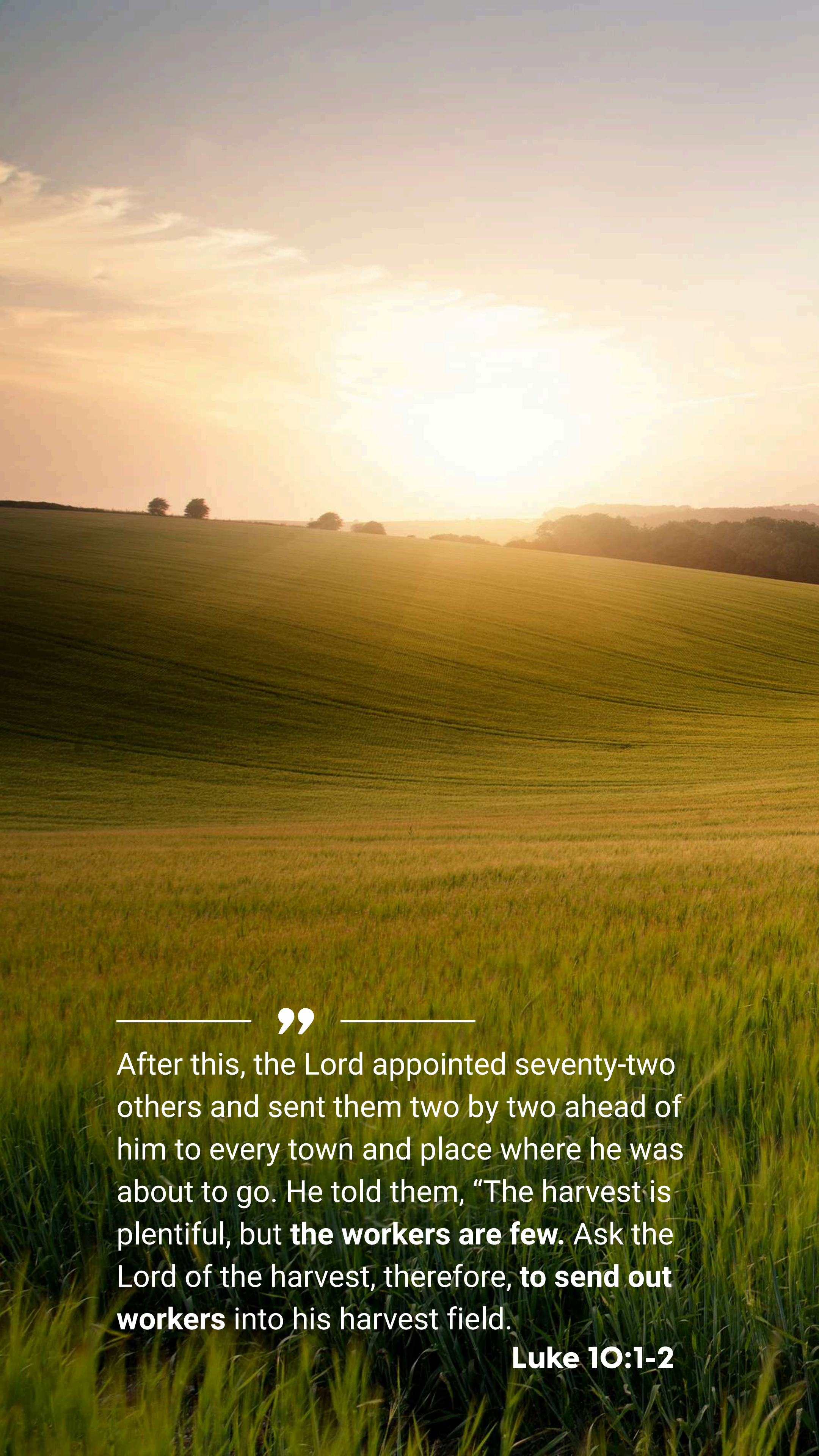




— ” —

For even the Son of Man **did not come to be served**, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

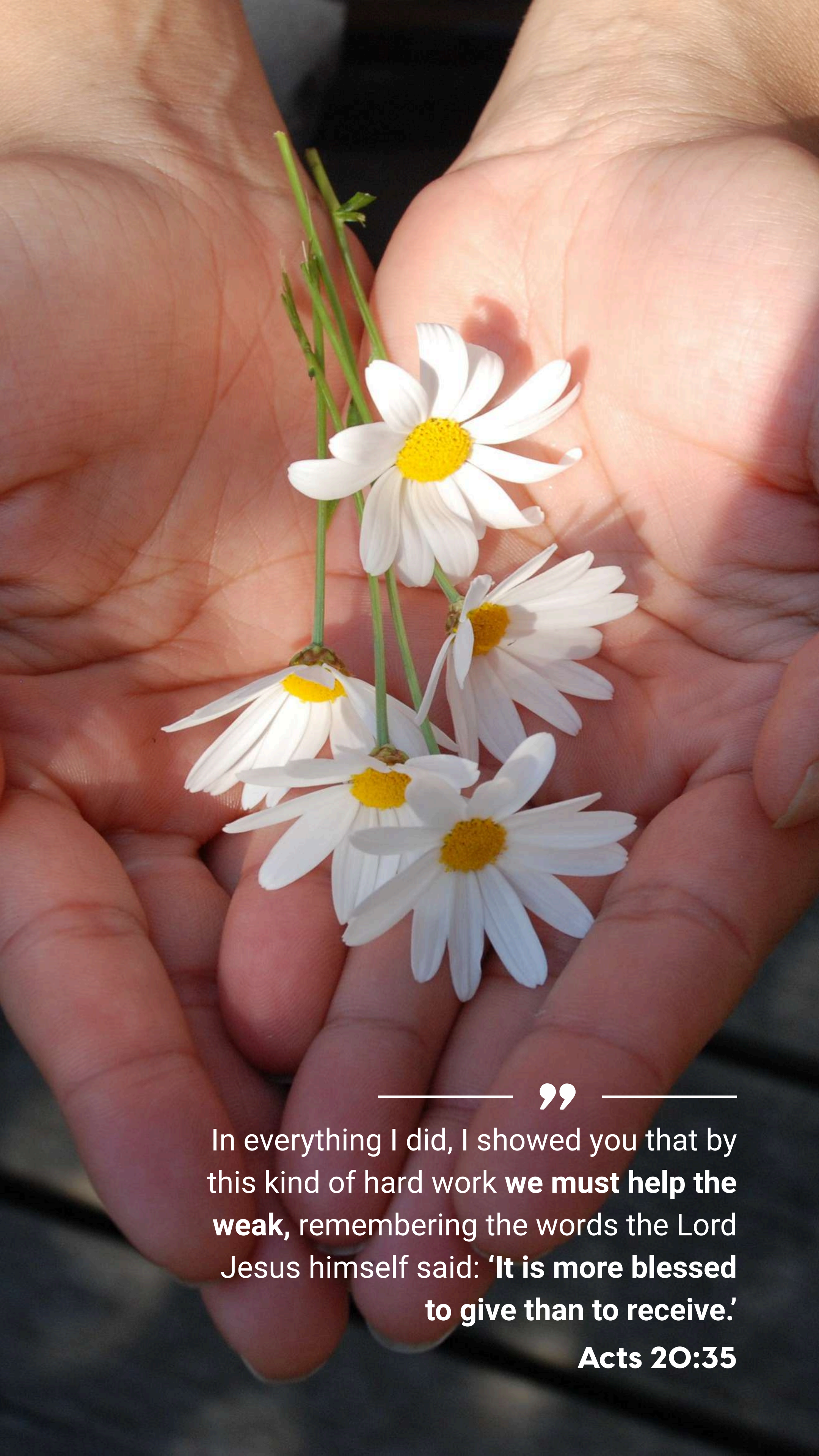
Mark 10:45



——— ” ———

After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but **the workers are few**. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, **to send out workers** into his harvest field.

Luke 10:1-2



”

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work **we must help the weak**, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’**

Acts 20:35

What Does It Look Like to Embrace Your Mission?

3

Remember, we say embrace your mission because we want to follow God's leading. One of the most powerful characteristics we can develop is humility. Why do we mention that? When we humble ourselves and surrender to Jesus, we can learn and embrace our mission that God is wanting to share.

All these verses above are about serving others from overflow. So as you consider what embracing your mission looks like, continue leaning into God to inform what you are believing.

Remember, "You are the only Bible some people will ever read." Embracing your mission is hard, but a joy and a privilege.



Chapter 4:

Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

For some Christians, obedience can feel like a bad word. Some of us get tense or are reminded of not-so-kind authorities. Others of us are inspired to do the right thing to avoid getting in trouble with God. However, obedience to God is a good thing.

In the Bible, stories of obedience to God show us that God knows best and He can keep us out of harm's way. Other stories about obedience to God show us the victory of obeying God's voice and seeing the lost saved. And other times, obedience to God shows us that sometimes living for Jesus is costly and painful. Despite that, obedience to God is still a good thing that every follower of Jesus is called to.



Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Living a life of obedience can look like...




Going on a missions trip in a foreign country



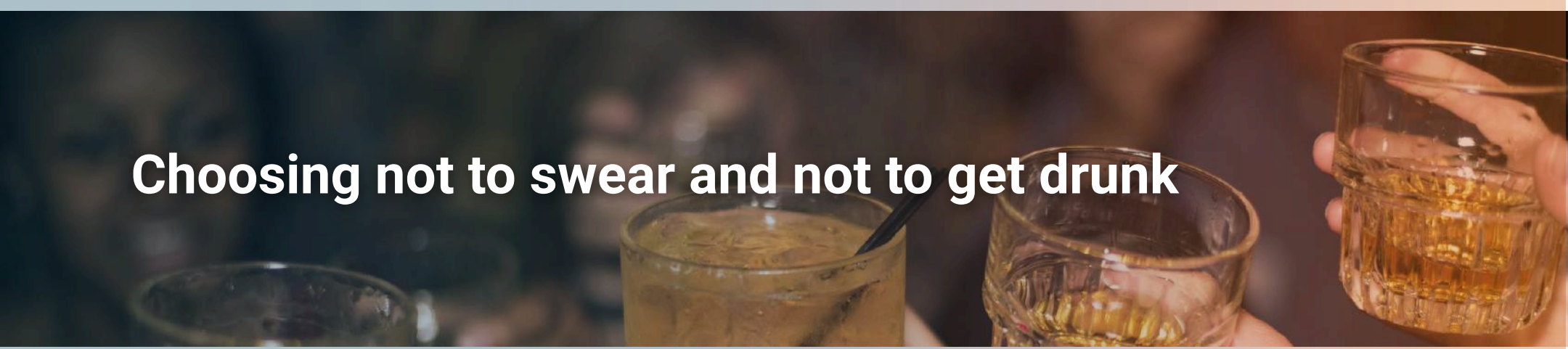
Trying to share the Gospel or your faith story with one person, every day



Following Jesus' commands to take care of orphans and widows



Keeping individual packs of food and toiletries in your car to give to the homeless



Choosing not to swear and not to get drunk



Choosing not to have sex until marriage

Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Some lies we believe about obedience are...

Lie #1

“Obedience is just for pastors and missionaries... so, obedience doesn’t apply to me.”

Truth #1

Because God is so loving and the Savior of the world, we can sometimes forget that Jesus is still Lord. In fact, in the Bible, Jesus is named the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14).

When there’s a king in charge, it’s always in our best interest to obey what he commands. Thankfully, everything that God commands us to do is for the good of the world. Things like forgiveness, blessing those who are unkind to us, and the rules in the Ten Commandments are written for our benefit and the benefit of others.

Living in obedience in all parts of life can set you apart. It opens the door for others to experience Jesus even without talking directly to a pastor or visiting with a missionary.



Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Lie #2

“If I’m obedient to God, I’m going to miss out on fun and happiness.”

Truth #2

This lie has bits of truth in it. Choosing not to get drunk might feel like you’re missing out on fun, but it will also open doors you might not have seen otherwise. Choosing not to have sex until marriage may be a sacrifice for a while, but God authored this rule for the benefit of you and your future spouse. You might feel like you don’t fit in when you choose not to lie and gossip, but the joy that Jesus offers is better than the temporary rush of gossip.

Giving to the poor and taking care of those who are in need may cost you a few dollars each month, but the Bible says it’s more blessed to give than to receive, and it commands us to take care of the poor (Matthew 25:31-40).

Choosing to bless someone who has been mean to you is hard, but it grows your character and devotion to God. Thankfully, Jesus has promised to be with you always, and you’ll never be alone as you’re learning about obedience to God.



Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Lie #3

“Obedience is just a code-word for giving God permission to ask me to do something I don’t want to do.”

Truth #3

As we continue to submit our lives and follow Jesus, our earthly desires change to heavenly desires. While the majority of us aren’t going to be called to a foreign country or have God ask us to give away our life savings, some of us just might hear God ask us to! However, it’s a good thing to follow God’s leadership regardless of how silly it looks.

Ever heard the song “Amazing Grace?” It was written by a man named John Newton. Newton was a former slave trader whose life was radically transformed by the grace of God, leading him to become a Christian minister who fought against slavery. Obedience to God for Newton looked like quitting his job in the slave trade and fighting to free those he used to abuse. Who knows what obedience to God will produce in you!

Obedience to God can look like...



Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4



Pausing your day to pray for others as you feel led



Not watching pornography or movies/television that are dishonoring to God



Praying for someone who doesn't know Jesus every day, until they do



Tithing (giving back to God) 10% of your income




Opening up your home for someone who needs a place to stay



Going out of your way to help someone feel joy



Choosing to be honest rather than lying



Choosing to forgive others quickly when they have offended you

Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Bible Verses About Obedience to God

The following pages are some of our favorite Bible verses about obedience to God.



—— ” ——

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8





— ” —

We know we love God's children if we **love God and obey his commandments**. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.


1 John 5:2-3

— ” —

But don't just listen to God's word.
You must do what it says. Otherwise,
you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:22

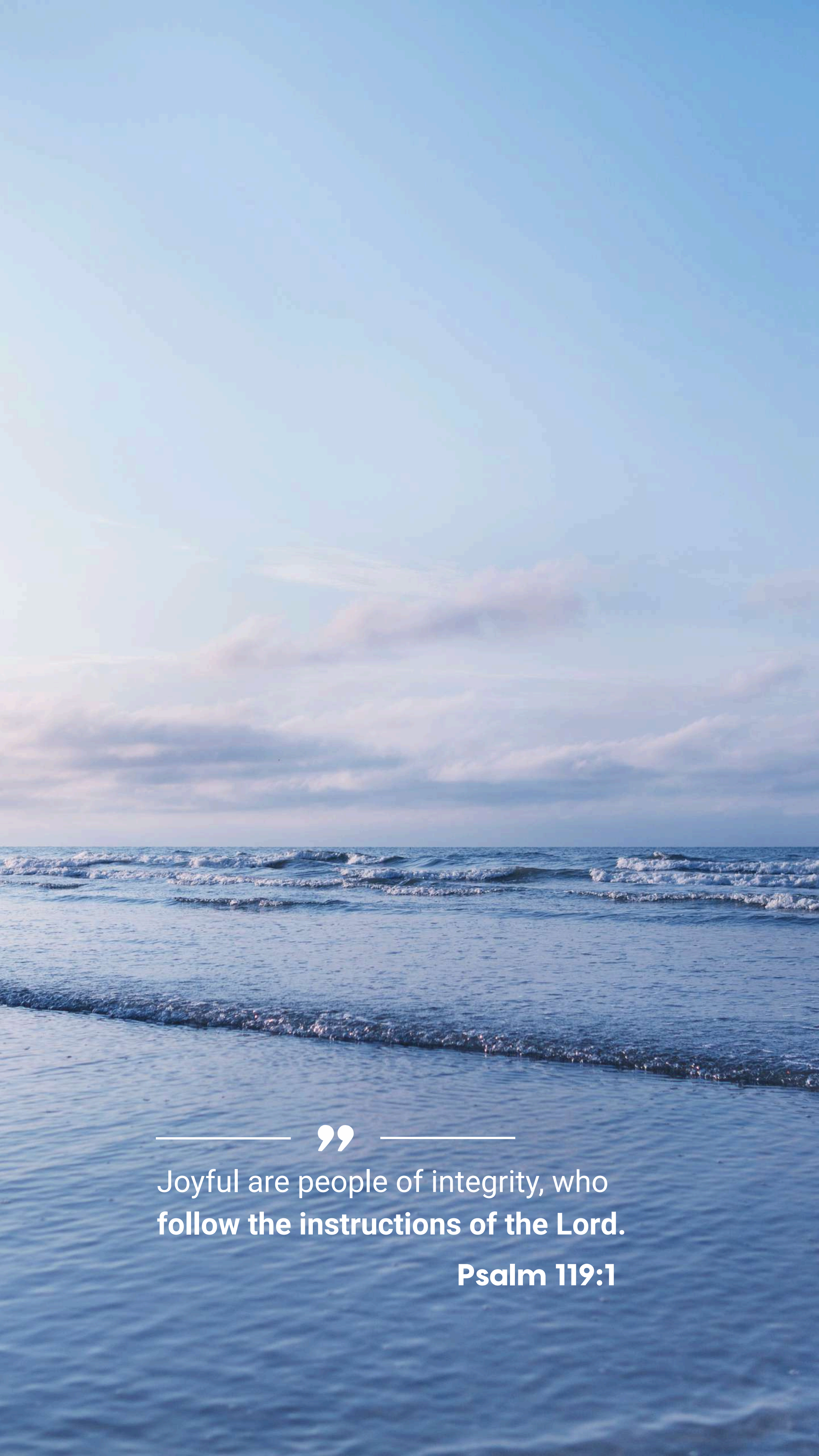




——— ” ———

So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, **listens to my teaching, and then follows it.** It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.

Luke 6:46-48



”

Joyful are people of integrity, who
follow the instructions of the Lord.

Psalms 119:1

Clearing Up Lies About Obedience

4

Obedience to God is a choice that we make every day. It may feel hard, but it's not only good for you, it's good for the whole world. Think about it: if everyone followed the lifestyle that Jesus modeled, we'd have a perfect world. How cool to know that you can help bring the peace that you want to see in the world by being obedient to God!



Chapter 5:

Why We Pursue Community


Why We Pursue Community

5

Bible Verses About Community

As we say, the most important thing to God is a loving relationship with you! We have a God who values relationships and created us to be in relationship. We pursue community because God created us to be in relationship with others! The following pages are some of our favorite Bible verses about community.





— ” —

They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46-47



— ” —

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25



”

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when **brothers dwell in unity.**

Psalms 133:1

Why We Pursue Community

5

Through our shared experiences, testimonies, praying for one another, and encouragement from other believers, we grow stronger and more steadfast in our faith. When we choose to grow together, we help each other to stay accountable, inspired, and faithfully submitted to Jesus.




Chapter 6:

4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

6

Now that you know a bit more about the four pillars of everyday faith, it's time to practice them in real life. As you participate in this challenge, be sure to tag us on social media and even submit your testimonies of what God is doing to  podcast@askaboutmyfaith.com

Day 1: Start with Belief



CHALLENGE: Open your calendar and look at your day. Where can you give God an hour?

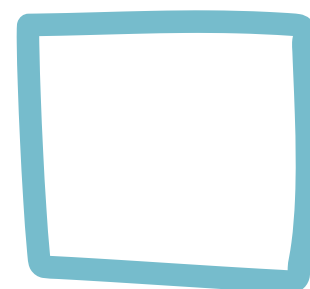
Whether it's right now, first thing tomorrow morning, or late at night, give God one hour of your time. Put it in your calendar, like a meeting, and choose to follow through on spending time with God. You may read the Bible, pray, worship, or confess your sins to God. It's going to be awesome! Ask Him to do a work in you and open your eyes to know Him more.



4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

6

Day 2: Embrace Your Mission



CHALLENGE: This challenge is simple and so powerful. Take a moment, read this prompt, and trust that you hear God.

“Holy Spirit, who in my life can I be praying for today?”

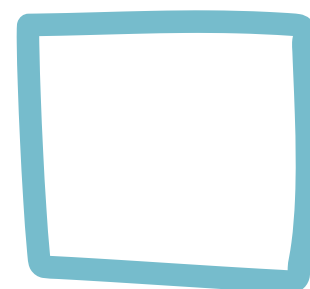
Trust the first name that comes to mind! It could be a family member, a friend, a coworker, a celebrity, or your local pastor. If you know the person well, you can text them to ask how they’re doing and ask them if there’s anything they need prayer for. This challenge for embracing your mission is going to increase your prayer life and help you confront fear.



4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

6

Day 3: Commit to Obedience



CHALLENGE: For this challenge, you're going to be honest and vulnerable with God. Sometimes we think that obedience is outward and generally connected to missions or evangelism. However, obedience also has to do with following the teachings and commands of Jesus.

Ask God out loud,

“Holy Spirit, is there anyone I need to forgive?”

Trust the first thing you hear. Be honest with God about how the person hurt you, how they made you feel, and how you're struggling. Then, make the brave choice to forgive this person, out loud. You can say,

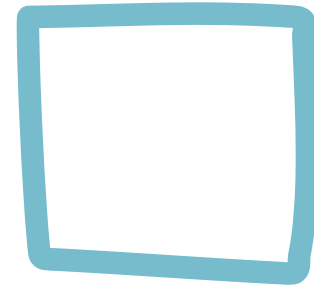
“God, I forgive (say their name here) for (the wrong thing they did). I choose to release them from my judgment and ask that you bless them. In Jesus' name, amen.”



4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

6

Day 4: Pursue Community



CHALLENGE: Your final challenge on the four pillars is to invite someone at church to join you for lunch or dinner after service. If they say, “No”, don’t worry. If they say, “Yes,” congratulations – you’re building community in your church.

If you don’t currently attend a church, your challenge is to find a church in your area and visit! It may feel awkward or uncomfortable, but Christian community is essential to growing in your faith. While online church can be good, meeting in person is always better.



4-Day Challenge: Living Out the Four Pillars

6

Now...let's live out the 4 Pillars of Everyday Faith!

Want to learn more about Everyday Faith?

Download our other [FREE e-books](#) to grow your faith, learn more about prayer, and take your next step toward Jesus.





askaboutmyfaith.com/podcast