



DAY 41

Reading and Devotional Guide

This devotional is a companion to *Day 41: New Life Begins Now*. It includes 41 days of readings from the book and reflections to help you carry the book's themes into daily life.

Bring a **journal or notebook** with you on this journey. Each day includes a *Practice* step. Sometimes it will be a question to answer. Other times it will be a small action to take. Writing your reflections will help you see how God is at work and give you something to return to later.

Go **one day at a time**. If you miss a day, don't feel pressure to catch up. Just continue the next day. Transformation comes through persistence, not perfection.

Most of all, expect God to meet you. The same God who brought life on Day 41 in Scripture is still bringing new life today in you.

Chapter 1 – Moses: The Mountain and the Mess

Day 1 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 7–11

Scripture: Exodus 24:15–18

Reflection: Moses stepped into the cloud on Mount Sinai, surrounded by mystery and silence. Forty days stretched before him, yet the story reminds us that “forty” is never the end—there is always a Day 41. What looked like wilderness and waiting became the beginning of something new.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to trust the mystery of your presence even when I can't see the plan.

Practice: Spend five minutes in silence today. Simply pray: “Here I am, Lord.”

Day 2 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 11–16

Scripture: Exodus 24:16

Reflection: For six days Moses waited in silence before God spoke. The people below grew restless, but God was not late. Waiting has a way of revealing what lives in our hearts—whether we lean into trust or reach for substitutes.

Prayer: Lord, help me to see waiting as your invitation, not your absence.

Practice: Write down one place where you are waiting. Pray for patience, not speed.

Day 3 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 16–19

Scripture: Exodus 24:17

Reflection: From below, Israel saw fire on the mountain and trembled. From within, Moses experienced glory. The same presence looked like destruction to some and transformation to others. The call is to trust that God's fire does not come to consume us but to refine us.

Prayer: Lord, help me see your presence not as threat but as life.

Practice: Think back on a fearful season where you later saw your growth. Thank God for that refining fire.

Day 4 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 20–23

Scripture: Exodus 32:1

Reflection: While Moses met with God, the people crafted a golden calf. Their impatience turned blessing into idolatry. Communion with God requires trust that his unseen presence is greater than any visible substitute.

Prayer: Forgive me, Lord, for the times I have loved your gifts more than you.

Practice: Identify one “golden calf” in your life—something good that has taken God's place. Release it in prayer.

Day 5 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 23–27

Scripture: Exodus 32:11–14

Reflection: Eddie Rester shared how leaving ministry felt like facing a giant. His Day 41 came when God called him back with courage to lead again. His story reminds us that valleys are not the end; they are where God calls us forward.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the testimonies that remind us valleys don't last forever.

Practice: Pray for someone you know who is facing a valley right now.

Day 6 – Reflection

Today's Reading: pp. 27–28

Scripture: Exodus 32:19; 34:29

Reflection: Moses shattered the tablets in anger, but God rewrote them. Brokenness did not end covenant—grace did. Later, Moses came down the mountain shining, proof that God's presence transforms even shattered moments. What would it look like for you to trust God to rewrite what has been broken?

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, that my failures do not erase your faithfulness.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response; pray over it.

Day 7 – A Blessing

Today's Reading: p. 28

Scripture: Exodus 33:14

Reflection: Even after rebellion, God promised Moses: “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” His greatest gift was not land or power but himself. May you carry that blessing—that God's presence is covenantal, not conditional. He does not abandon his people.

Prayer: Lord, let me treasure your presence above every other gift.

Practice: Take a slow walk today. With each step, pray: “You are with me.”

Chapter 2 – David: When Giants Fall

Day 9 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 29–34

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:10–11

Reflection: For forty days, Goliath's taunts filled the valley and Israel's fear grew heavier. Fear echoes until it drowns out memory of God's faithfulness. David enters not as the

strongest, but as the one who refuses to let fear set the terms.

Prayer: Lord, help me face the valleys where fear echoes loudest.

Practice: Write down one giant that keeps shouting in your life. Beneath it, write one memory of God's faithfulness that answers it.

Day 10 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 35–39

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:24

Reflection: Israel's army had armor, weapons, and promises—but fear paralyzed them. Their inaction mirrors how we freeze, even when God has equipped us. The valley reveals not the size of the giant but the size of our trust.

Prayer: Lord, unfreeze my faith when fear tempts me to do nothing.

Practice: Name one area where fear has kept you stuck. Take one small step in faith today.

Day 11 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 39–42

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:32

Reflection: David wasn't the obvious choice. Overlooked and mocked, he still stepped forward when no one else would. Responsibility drew him out of the crowd. Courage was not about proving himself—it was about answering God's call.

Prayer: Lord, give me courage to step forward when responsibility calls my name.

Practice: Identify one place in your life where responsibility is calling you to act. Commit to a first step.

Day 12 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 42–44

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:47

Reflection: Before the stone flew, David declared that the battle belonged to God. His

confidence was not in the sling but in God's presence. Communion is trusting that our lives are carried by the same God who carried David.

Prayer: Lord, remind me that the battles I face are yours before they are mine.

Practice: Choose one burden today and hand it back to God in prayer. Say aloud: "This belongs to you."

Day 13 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 45–47

Scripture: Psalm 23:4

Reflection: Rafe Grigar endured forty days separated from his son, Zeph, by a false protective order. Prayers and faithful friends carried him through the silence. His Day 41 came with reunion and healing, a reminder that love speaks louder than fear and God's presence never leaves.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Rafe's testimony of your faithfulness. Remind me that even when giants shout loudest, your love speaks louder still.

Practice: Think of someone who feels separated from what they love. Pray for God's presence to hold them until their own Day 41 comes.

Day 14 – Reflection

Today's Reading: p. 48

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:50

Reflection: The giant fell with one stone, but the real victory was faith that dared to act. Fear freezes, but faith moves. Where do you need to stop waiting for certainty and step out in trust?

Prayer: God, give me courage to move when you call, even if the outcome is uncertain.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response; pray over it.

Day 15 – A Blessing

Today's Reading: p. 49

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:52

Reflection: When David stepped forward, the whole army found courage again. One act of faith rippled outward. May you know today that your obedience will never end with you. Courage multiplies.

Prayer: Lord, let my courage spark courage in those around me.

Practice: Encourage someone today by telling them how their faith has inspired you.

Chapter 3 – Elijah: When the Fire Goes Quiet

Day 16 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 51–55

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:3–4

Reflection: Elijah should have been celebrating after fire fell on Mount Carmel. Instead, fear drove him into the wilderness. The prophet who stood bold on the mountain was undone under a broom tree. Even the strongest can collapse when the fire goes quiet.

Prayer: Lord, when I am weary and afraid, remind me that I am not a failure—I am loved.

Practice: Write down one place of exhaustion in your life. Offer it honestly to God.

Day 17 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 56–60

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:5–8

Reflection: God didn't shame Elijah for being too tired. Instead, an angel brought food and water—twice. Before purpose, God gave provision. Strength for the journey begins with grace, not grit.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to receive your provision without shame.

Practice: Take time for one act of true rest today—nap, eat slowly, or breathe deeply.

Day 18 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 61–64

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:8–9

Reflection: Forty days in the wilderness led Elijah to Mount Horeb. Stripped of illusions, he discovered God was not finished with him. The call is to trust God's leading even when we feel empty.

Prayer: Lord, when I feel I have nothing left, remind me you are still leading.

Practice: Take a short walk today. With each step, repeat: "You are leading me."

Day 19 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 64–67

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11–12

Reflection: Elijah expected God in the wind, earthquake, and fire. Instead, God came in a whisper. Communion is not in spectacle but in stillness. To hear a whisper, we must lean close.

Prayer: Lord, quiet my heart so I can hear your whisper.

Practice: Spend ten minutes in silence today—no words, no noise, just listen.

Day 20 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 67–71

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11–12

Reflection: At twelve, Charles Robinson sat in despair, ready to end his life. In the silence, God whispered, "*Don't do it. I have something for you.*" That whisper became his Day 41—liberation, hope, and a future no darkness could erase.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Charles's story and for your whisper that still speaks life.

Practice: Pray for those facing silence and despair. Ask God to whisper hope into their lives today.

Day 21 – Reflection

Today's Reading: pp. 71–72

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:13

Reflection: God's question, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" was an invitation, not condemnation. Sometimes the most healing thing we can do is answer honestly. What would it mean to answer God truthfully today?

Prayer: Lord, give me courage to answer you truthfully.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response; pray over it.

Day 22 – A Blessing

Today's Reading: p. 72

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:18

Reflection: Elijah thought he was alone, but God reminded him there were seven thousand still faithful. God sent him back into mission, no longer isolated but renewed. May you know you are not alone, and courage rise in you to step forward.

Prayer: Lord, surround me with the reminder that I am not alone. Give me courage to take the next step.

Chapter 4 – Jesus in the Wilderness: Tested and True

Day 23 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 73–77

Scripture: Luke 4:1–2

Reflection: Fresh from baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The same Spirit who named him beloved also led him into testing. The wilderness clarifies identity.

Prayer: Lord, when the path feels desolate, remind me your Spirit is still leading.

Practice: Think of one current struggle. Ask, "What are you forming in me here?"

Day 24 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 77–82

Scripture: Matthew 4:3

Reflection: The enemy's first attack was on identity: "If you are the Son of God..." Jesus didn't debate his sonship—he rested in it. We often let circumstances challenge what God has declared.

Prayer: Father, anchor me in your love when other voices make me question who I am.

Practice: Write down 1 John 3:1 and carry it with you today.

Day 25 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 82–85

Scripture: Matthew 4:4

Reflection: Hungry after forty days, Jesus refused to turn stones into bread. The call is to trust God's Word more than quick fixes. Real life is sustained by God's voice, not shortcuts.

Prayer: Lord, teach me to hunger for your Word more than for easy answers.

Practice: Read Psalm 23 slowly. Let each line feed your soul.

Day 26 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 86–89

Scripture: Luke 4:5–7

Reflection: Offered power without the cross, Jesus refused. Communion with the Father meant obedience, not compromise. The kingdom is not built on shortcuts but on surrender.

Prayer: Lord, keep my heart loyal to you alone.

Practice: Ask yourself: where am I tempted to trade faithfulness for ease? Pray over it.

Day 27 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 89–92

Scripture: Matthew 4:11

Reflection: Kay Eck walked through the wilderness of infertility—prayers unanswered, waiting heavy. God met her with unexpected provision: the support of her husband, two stepsons, and later, the birth of Ellie. Her story reminds us that God is always with us.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Kay's story and for the reminder that with you, we can step boldly into living out your purpose.

Practice: Pray for someone waiting on God in a painful season. Ask that they feel God's presence today.

Day 28 – Reflection

Today's Reading: p. 93

Scripture: Matthew 4:11

Reflection: After the testing, angels came and cared for Jesus. The wilderness is not endless. God's provision restores us after trial. Where do you need to trust that angels will come?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that I am never left alone in the wilderness.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response; pray over it.

Day 29 – A Blessing

Today's Reading: p. 93

Scripture: Luke 4:14–15

Reflection: Jesus left the wilderness in the Spirit's power. His scars from hunger became strength for his mission. May your wilderness become preparation, your scars become testimony, your healing become hope.

Prayer: Lord, take what I've endured and make it fuel for mission.

Practice: Write one lesson from your wilderness. Ask God how to use it for another's healing.

Chapter 5 – Jesus and the Disciples: From Scars to Sending

Day 30 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 95–99

Scripture: John 20:19

Reflection: The disciples locked themselves away, afraid of Rome's power. Fear didn't just protect them; it imprisoned them. But even locked doors can't keep out the risen Christ. He enters our closed spaces and speaks peace.

Prayer: Lord, step into the locked places of my life and bring your peace.

Practice: Write down one locked door in your heart. Ask Jesus to enter it today.

Day 31 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 100–103

Scripture: John 20:19–21

Reflection: Jesus' first words were, "Peace be with you." Nothing around them had changed, but peace changed them. We often wait for peace to follow resolution, but Jesus offers it in the middle of the storm.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, breathe your calm into the unrest of my heart.

Practice: Take three deep breaths. With each exhale, whisper: "Peace be with me."

Day 32 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 103–105

Scripture: John 20:20

Reflection: Jesus showed his scars. They were not erased but transformed. Scars became his testimony. Our call is to let our scars speak of resurrection, not shame.

Prayer: Lord, give me courage to stop hiding my scars. Use them as testimony of grace.

Practice: Write down one scar—physical, emotional, or spiritual. Offer it to God for his purposes.

Day 33 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 106–109

Scripture: John 20:25

Reflection: Thomas struggled to believe. Jesus didn't shame him—he drew him closer. Communion is found in honest doubt that brings us near to Christ. Doubt can be a doorway to encounter.

Prayer: Jesus, meet me in my doubts and make them doors to deeper trust.

Practice: Journal one question you have for God. Pray honestly without hiding.

Day 34 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 109–111

Scripture: John 20:28

Reflection: In this chapter's story, the writer shared how doubt became faith when Christ met them personally. Like Thomas, their questions turned into worship. Their Day 41 came when doubt deepened into declaration.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for turning questions into encounters with you.

Practice: Recall a season when doubt grew into faith. Thank God for the growth.

Day 35 – Reflection & Blessing

Today's Reading: p. 112–113

Scripture: John 21:12

Reflection: On the beach, Jesus fed his disciples breakfast. Grace came not in thunder but in bread and fish. He restored them with presence, not lectures. Where might Jesus be restoring you in ordinary ways?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for showing up in ordinary moments with extraordinary grace.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response; pray over it. Encourage one person today with the hope of Christ.

Chapter 6 – The Thread Pulled Tight

Day 36 – The Story

Today's Reading: pp. 115–118

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1

Reflection: From Moses to David, Elijah to Jesus, and the disciples—the thread is the same: forty days of testing, then Day 41 of new life. These are not scattered tales but a single pattern of God's faithfulness, and your story is stitched into the same fabric.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for weaving my life into your great story.

Practice: Write down two Day 41 moments when God carried you into something new.

Day 37 – The Mirror

Today's Reading: pp. 118–122

Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6

Reflection: Every story shows failure and fear—but also the God who stays. Israel rebelled, David faltered, Elijah despaired, the disciples hid. Still, God's presence never wavered. Faith is anchored not in our perfection but in God's persistence.

Prayer: Lord, thank you that my weakness never cancels your presence.

Practice: Sit in quiet for five minutes, repeating with each breath: "You are here."

Day 38 – The Call

Today's Reading: pp. 122–127

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20

Reflection: The thread is now in our hands. Moses carried covenant, David courage, Elijah God's word, the disciples resurrection. Day 41 is not a story to admire but a calling to live. The question is not whether God has a mission—it's whether we will join him.

Prayer: Lord, place your mission in my hands and give me courage to carry it faithfully.

Practice: Ask God to put one person on your heart who needs hope. Commit to reach out this week.

Day 39 – The Communion

Today's Reading: pp. 128–130

Scripture: Isaiah 43:19

Reflection: God promises, "See, I am doing a new thing!" Through every wilderness, the old gives way to the new. Communion means we are never stuck in yesterday's defeat. Every locked door or valley leads us to a threshold where God is doing something new.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to perceive the new thing you are bringing to life.

Practice: Pray: "What new beginning are you calling me into?" Write what you sense.

Day 40 – The Wilderness Story

Today's Reading: pp. 128–130

Scripture: Isaiah 43:19

Reflection: Jenny Anchondo Oakes's wilderness was infertility and the grief of miscarriage. Month after month of waiting nearly broke her, yet God met her in Scripture, in friends, and in her husband's love. Her Day 41 came with Ellie's birth, but her testimony is this: the wilderness is never wasted.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Jenny's story and for the truth that even in silence you are shaping us.

Practice: Pray for someone in a season of waiting. Ask God to plant hope where they feel barren.

Day 41 – New Life Begins Now

Today's Reading: Day 41 (pp. 134–136)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Reflection: This is the hinge—forty days of waiting, wandering, and wrestling give way to Day 41. Paul says, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come." Each story pulled the thread tighter: revelation to responsibility (Moses, responsibility to courage (David, courage to community (Elijah, community to mission (Jesus, mission to movement (the disciples. Day 41 is not the end of this devotional journey—it is the start of a lived one. The stories are in your hands now. The question is simple: how will you live as a Day 41 person?

Prayer: Lord, thank you that in Christ, new life begins now. Give me courage to live as a Day 41 person, carrying your hope into the world.

Practice: Answer the question from today's Reflection. Write your response, and share it with someone who will walk with you.