



August 14



Love for Children

Bill Crowder



Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children. [Matthew 19:14 nlt](#)

Read: [Matthew 18:1–10](#)

Bible in a Year: [Psalms 89–90](#); [Romans 14](#)

Thomas Barnado entered the London Hospital medical school in 1865, dreaming of life as a medical missionary in China. Barnado soon discovered a desperate need in his own front yard—the many homeless children living and dying on the streets of London. Barnado determined to do something about this horrendous situation. Developing homes for destitute children in London's east end, Barnado rescued some 60,000 boys and girls from poverty and possible early death. Theologian and pastor John Stott said, “Today we might call him the patron saint of street kids.”

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children” (Matt. 19:14 nlt). Imagine the surprise the crowds—and Jesus's own disciples—must have felt at this declaration. In the ancient world, children had little value and were largely relegated to the margins of life. Yet Jesus welcomed, blessed, and valued children.

James, a New Testament writer, challenged Christ-followers saying, “Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans . . . in their troubles” (James 1:27 nlt). Today, like those first-century orphans, children of every social strata, ethnicity, and family environment are at risk due to neglect, human trafficking, abuse, drugs, and more. How can we honor the Father who loves us by showing His care for these little ones Jesus welcomes?

See the book *A Cup of Cold Water in His Name: 60 Ways to Care for the Needy* by Lorie Newman at dhp.org/jd007.html.

Be an expression of the love of Jesus.



August 15



Under His Wings

Linda Washington



He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge. [Psalm 91:4](#)

Read: [Psalm 91](#)

Bible in a Year: [Psalms 91–93](#); [Romans 15:1–13](#)

When I think of protection, I don't automatically think of a bird's feathers. Though a bird's feathers might seem like a flimsy form of protection, there is more to them than meets the eye.

Bird feathers are an amazing example of God's design. Feathers have a smooth part and a fluffy part. The smooth part of the feather has stiff barbs with tiny hooks that lock together like the prongs of a zipper. The fluffy part keeps a bird warm. Together both parts of the feather protect the bird from wind and rain. But many baby birds are covered in a fluffy down and their feathers haven't fully developed. So a mother bird has to cover them in the nest with her own feathers to protect them from wind and rain.

The image of God "[covering] us with his feathers" in Psalm 91:4 and in other Bible passages (see Ps. 17:8) is one of comfort and protection. The image that comes to mind is a mother bird covering her little ones with her feathers. Like a parent whose arms are a safe place to retreat from a scary storm or a hurt, God's comforting presence provides safety and protection from life's emotional storms.

Though we go through trouble and heartache, we can face them without fear as long as our faces are turned toward God. He is our "refuge" (91:2, 4, 9).

Father God, help me trust that You are bigger than any fear I have.

Our Daily Bread welcomes writer Linda Washington! Meet Linda and all our authors at odb.org/all-authors

When fear causes hope to fade, flee to God, the refuge you can reach on your knees.



August 16



Not Fear but Faith

Amy Boucher Pye



The Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them. [Numbers 14:9](#)

Read: [Numbers 13:25–14:9](#)

Bible in a Year: [Psalms 94–96](#); [Romans 15:14–33](#)

"My husband was offered a promotion in another country, but I feared leaving our home, so he reluctantly declined the offer," my friend shared with me. She explained how apprehension over such a big change kept her from embracing a new adventure, and that she sometimes wondered what they missed in not moving.

The Israelites let their anxieties paralyze them when they were called to inhabit a rich and fertile land that flowed "with milk and honey" (Ex. 33:3). When they heard the reports of the powerful people in large cities (Num. 13:28), they started to fear. The majority of the Israelites rejected the call to enter the land.

But Joshua and Caleb urged them to trust in the Lord, saying, "Do not be afraid of the people in the land" for the "Lord is with us" (14:9). Although the people there appeared large, they could trust the Lord to be with them.

My friend wasn't commanded to move to another country like the Israelites were, yet she regretted letting fear close off the opportunity. What about you—do you face a fearful situation? If so, know that the Lord is with you and will guide you. With His never-failing love, we can move forward in faith.

Loving Father, may I not let my fear stop me from following You, for I know that You will always love me and will never leave me.

Fear can paralyze but faith propels us to follow God.



August 18



You're an Original

David H. Roper



Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his. [Psalm 100:3](#)

Read: [Psalm 100](#)

Bible in a Year: [Psalms 100–102](#); [1 Corinthians 1](#)

Each of us is an original from God's hand. There are no self-made men or women. No one ever became talented, buffed, or bright all by himself or herself. God made each of us all by Himself. He thought of us and formed us out of His unspeakable love.

God made your body, mind, and soul. And He isn't done with you; He is still making you. His single-minded purpose is our maturity: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). God is making you braver, stronger, purer, more peaceful, more loving, less selfish—the kind of person you've perhaps always wanted to be.

"[God's] unfailing love continues forever and his faithfulness continues to each generation" (Ps. 100:5 nlt). God has always loved you ("forever" goes both ways), and He will be faithful to you to the end.

You've been given a love that lasts forever and a God who will never give up on you. That's a good reason to have joy and to "come before him with joyful songs"! (v. 2).

If you can't carry a tune, just give Him a shout-out: "Shout for joy to the Lord" (v. 1).

I'm grateful, Father, that You are at work in me. I find it difficult to change and I wonder sometimes how or if I ever will. Yet I know that You are continuing Your work in me and as I look back I will see the growth You are producing. Thank You!

Spiritual growth occurs when faith is cultivated.
