# 365 days of prayer

Simple Reflections to Connect You to God



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### EDITORS OF GUIDEPOSTS

with Sabra Ciancanelli



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### Introduction

When I tell people I write prayers for a living, I often receive a surprised look. Truth is, I fell into my career, surrendering to God to lead me to the place I was meant to be. I was in my twenties, writing the marketing materials for a plastics company, when they downsized and had to let me go. I had been out of work for weeks and was feeling miserable and lost, desperately praying for any sort of opportunity to come my way, when my old boss at the plastics place called and asked if I was interested in working for an inspirational publisher. "I heard of a job opening and it's more suited to your skills," he said. "They'll be calling you."

Unfortunately, I botched the interview. I was asked to edit a story down to a specific word count and I misheard the number, so what I handed in was an abstract, a skeleton of a story, barely a paragraph. "I see what you've done here," the managing editor said, "but Sabra, can you explain why you did it?" When I told him how much I struggled to turn three pages into the restrictive word count, he tipped his head back and laughed. A week later I got the happy news that I was part of the team.

Hired as an editor at Guideposts, I loved being immersed in people's true stories of hope and inspiration. When the opportunity arose to create prayer programs, I was intrigued. The first series I worked on was centered on the words of Jesus. The deadline was tight, so I was typing away for most of the night, the only one up in a dark house, reading and rereading Jesus's teachings, when Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) caught my attention: "Let your

light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

I repeated the verse, personalizing it: Let my light shine so that my work glorifies God. Jesus's message came through loud and clear, and it felt perfectly meant just for me—words from above cheering me on. It was in that moment that I discovered the blessing of connecting with God and writing from the heart. From there my devotional writing developed into the devotional magazine 60 Days of Prayer and now this book, with devotions carefully selected and edited by Morgan Beard.

When I sit down to write devotions, my intention is to be that light and inspire others to feel God's presence. It's my deepest hope that the Bible verses, reflections, and prayers in these pages will inspire you to grow closer to God and feel His love and guidance in your life, to take each day's devotion into your heart. We've included a reflections area at the bottom of each page if you'd like to record your thoughts, prayers, and experiences on these devotions.

Words cannot express how grateful I am that God has taken me on this amazing journey and how wonderful it is to be a part of your faith practice. May these devotions help you to see His grace in your life and inspire you to say yes to the magnificent opportunities and blessings that will guide you to let your light shine through your good work.

Sabra Ciancanelli Editor, 60 Days of Prayer

## God's Blessings Grace Your Future

He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

ISAIAH 50:4 (NIV)

God awakens you every morning, and He is there to guide you through the day. When you are weary or troubled by worries, be assured that His blessings will grace your future. The days to come will be filled with His unending love and abundance.

Heavenly Father, awaken my ear so that I may hear Your divine instructions. Lift my spirit and fill me with Your joy.

Reflections

### His Steadfast Love

I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness.

PSALM 89:1 (NLT)

God's sweet presence is woven into everyday messages of His love. Little reminders are sprinkled throughout the day—in the magnificent blue sky; in the dawn chorus of birds; in a single, heart-shaped leaf; in the perfect song on the radio—His beauty and love are all around us. Today, make it a point to take notice. His messages of love are always there.

Heavenly Father, today I will seek, see, and be grateful for the many ways You show Your love.

# Reflections

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## Make a Breakthrough

Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

MARK 2:4 (NIV)

In this scripture, a group of men were so determined to help their paralyzed friend see Jesus that they broke through the roof and lowered him down. Their breakthrough led Jesus to heal the man. Look to your heart. Is there any place where you need a breakthrough for healing?

Heavenly Father, help me identify and break down the barriers that block me from Your healing.

### Reflections

# We hope you enjoyed this small sample from 365 Days of Prayer.

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