

HEIRS OF THE COVENANT

A Framework
for Discipleship in
the Church

prayer journal

BY SUSAN HUNT



cdmTM



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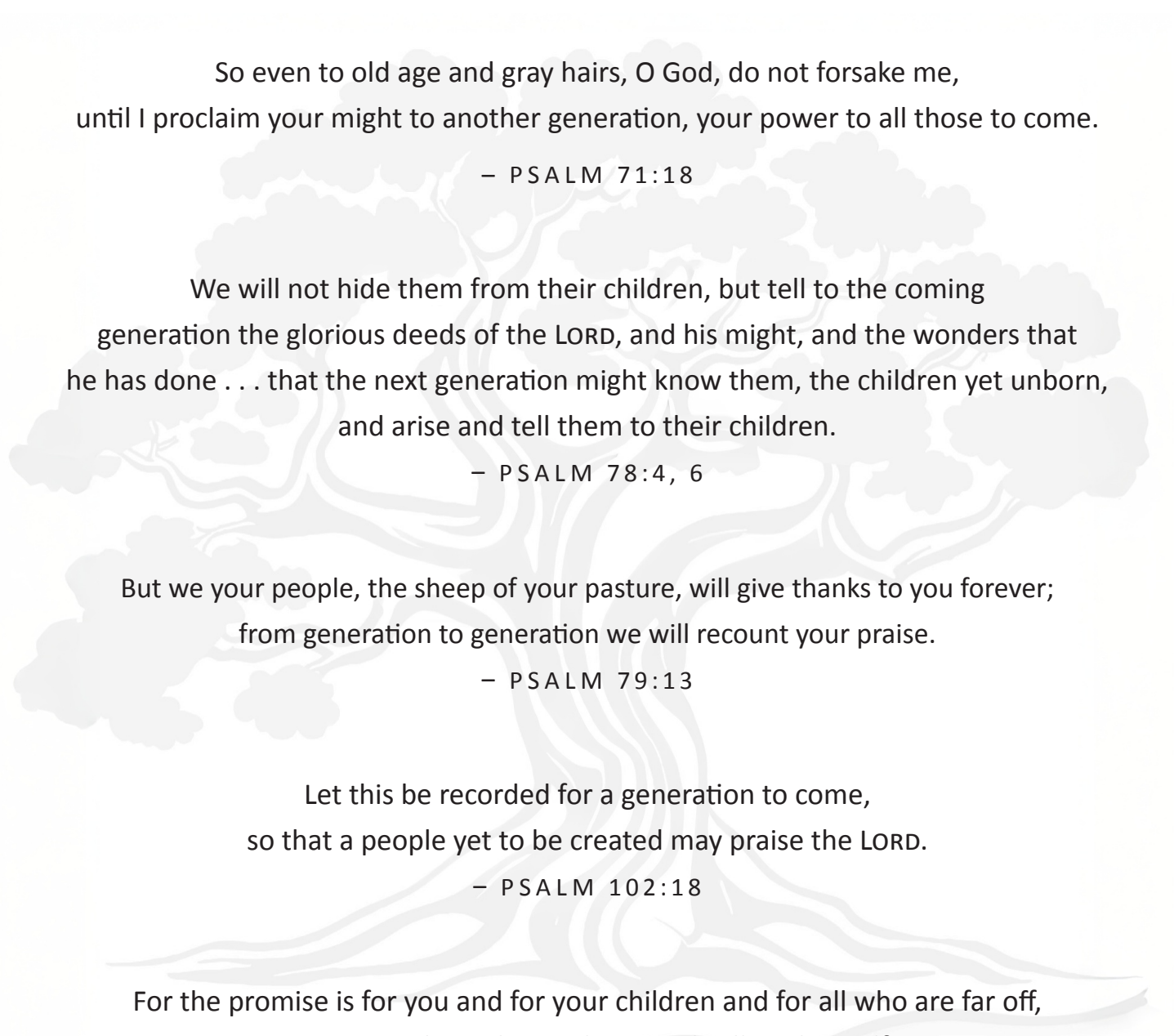
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So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

– PSALM 71:18

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming
generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that
he has done . . . that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children.

– PSALM 78:4, 6

But we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

– PSALM 79:13

Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.

– PSALM 102:18

For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

– ACTS 2:39

a note from Susan



Dear Reader,

For as long as I can remember, my Mama told me about my great-grandmother Cassie who prayed for the generations to come. She died before I was born, so I didn't know her, but something about the idea of this generational prayer gave me a sense of rootedness.

I always went to church but did not know Jesus as my Savior until I was twenty-three. As I grew in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, I kept thinking about this woman who prayed for me before I was born. As I began to understand a covenantal perspective of Scripture and of life, I saw the scope and beauty of generational praying as the overflow of that theology.

Our three children were in their pre-teen/teen years when my friend Barbara Thompson told me about a woman asking her to pray for her son's behavior. Barbara responded, "I won't pray about his behavior, but I will pray for his heart." And Barbara told her a scripture she would pray for him. I was immediately convicted because I, too, prayed about the behavior of our children, my husband, and our church. In essence, I gave God a to-do list of how I wanted Him to change them.

I searched the Bible for a passage to pray and landed on Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3. The more I prayed God's Word, the deeper it went into my own heart. The scope of it excited and challenged me, and I began praying it for the generations to come. My imagination soared as I thought about my prayers mingling with the prayers of my great-grandmother.

Over time I added other scriptures, and gradually God's Word shaped my prayer life. As I prayed God's Word back to Him, I came to know Him better.

As each grandchild was born, I could say with Hannah, "For this child I prayed" (1 Sam. 1:27). As some of the grandchildren have married, I can say to their beloved—"I have prayed for you since this grandchild was born." Now I am telling my great-grandchildren that I prayed Hannah's prayer for them.

Recently Sara, a granddaughter-in-love, sent me the following text:

“We had a great sermon this morning. The pastor briefly mentioned Deuteronomy 6:10-11.”

And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
— DEUTERONOMY 6:10-11

“This is what it felt like marrying into your family. I’m thankful I drink from cisterns I did not dig and eat from vineyards I did not plant.”

Sara shared this at one of our family gatherings as my children, grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren in highchairs, sat around our table. Then I asked them:

- What cisterns are you drinking from that you did not dig?
- What cisterns are you digging for these two great-grandchildren?

It was a sweet and lively discussion. It was also a poignant discussion because the mother of one of the great-grand babies is named Cassie. I reminded them of the cistern of prayer that great-grandmother Cassie dug. This woman lived in the 1800s. It is likely she never traveled more than a few miles from her home, yet she had an eternal perspective. At some level she understood that Jesus writes big, long, redemptive stories that extend from eternity past to eternity future, and she was part of that story. So were the generations to come, and she prayed for us. I’m grateful for her prayers, but there is one thing I think about a lot. I wonder what she prayed. It would be a treasure to have her prayer journal, which prompted me to record some of the scriptures I pray so the generations to come will know what I prayed for them.

I hope you will do the same. Parenting would be terrifying apart from the presence and promises of God. He has given us great and precious promises.

And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. – GENESIS 17:7

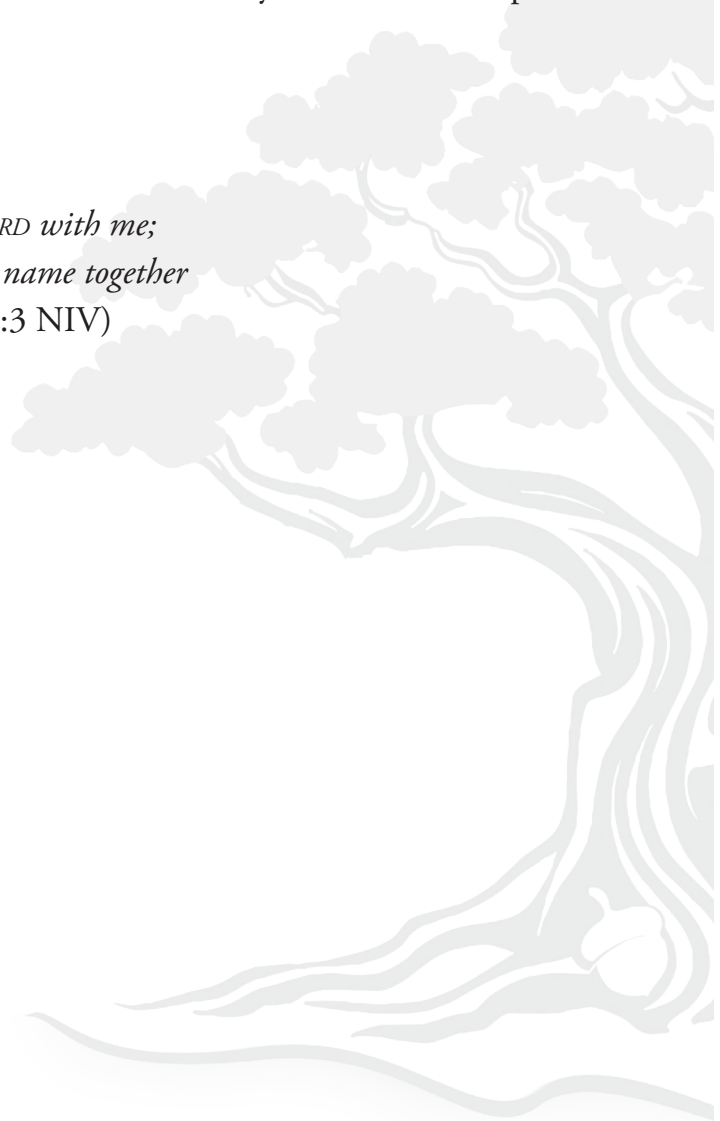
And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. – GALATIANS 3:29

I encourage you to pray beyond your own family and to pray for your extended family and your church family.

As we pray for grace to live in the reality of His presence, and as we pray His Word for our children and the generations to come, we are transformed by His Word and Spirit more and more into His likeness.

Susan Hunt

*Glorify the LORD with me;
let us exalt his name together*
(Ps. 34:3 NIV)



letting scripture shape our prayer

Father, You have blessed us, now make us a blessing to others (Gen. 12:2).

.....

May we as a family glorify You and exalt Your name together (Ps. 34:3).

.....

Give each one grace to trust You with all their heart and not to lean on their own understanding. May they acknowledge Your sovereign providence and love in all things, and please show them Your good path and give them grace to turn from evil (Prov. 3:5-7).

.....

Bless them and keep them; make Your face to shine upon them and be gracious to them; lift up Your countenance upon them and give them peace (Num. 6:24-26).

.....

Father, may Your Spirit produce Your fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control in each of us (Gal. 5:22-23).

.....

Father, draw their hearts to love Your church as Christ loves the church (Eph. 5:25), to be disciples and to make disciples (Matt. 28:19), to share the gospel and their lives with others (1 Thess. 2:8), and as each has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of Your varied grace (1 Pet. 4:10).

.....

Father, I pray we will never forget the benefits of being Your child. May we remember that You forgive our iniquities, heal our diseases, redeem us from the pit, crown us with steadfast love and mercy, satisfy us with good so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

May we always remember that You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love . . . and You do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is Your steadfast love toward those who fear You; as far as the east is from the west, so far do You remove our transgressions from us (Ps. 103:2-12).

*prayers to learn by heart
with your children*

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long (Ps. 25:4-5).

.....

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in Your ways (Ps. 119:37).

.....

When they read Scripture, or prepare for worship: Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law (Ps. 119:18).

.....

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (Ps. 139:23-24).

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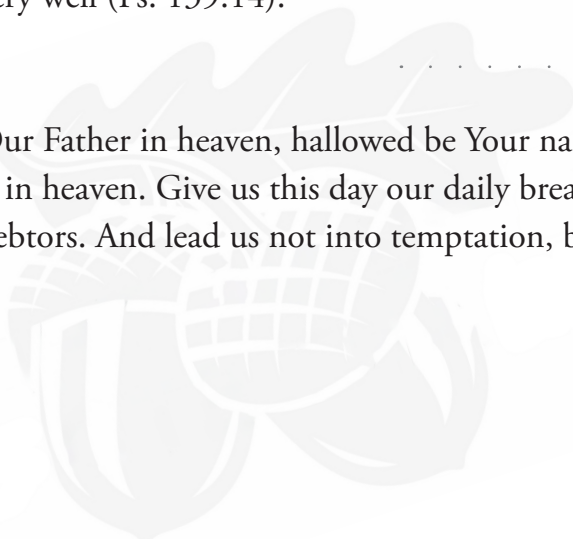
Father, help me to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving to others, as God in Christ forgave me (Eph. 4:32).

.....

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well (Ps. 139:14).

.....

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (Matt. 6:9-13).



prayer journal

TODAY'S DATE

BIBLE VERSE OF THE DAY

WHAT I AM THANKFUL FOR

WHAT I AM HOPEFUL FOR

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

PRAYERS FOR MYSELF
