

God Is Still With Us

Encouragement after loss and trust through open and closed doors

Seven day devotional | By Mika Akindoju

A gentle week of Scripture and prayer

This plan offers encouragement after loss through Job, Habakkuk, and supporting Scripture. Read at your own pace. Each day includes a passage, a reflection, space to write, one optional step, and a prayer. You can pause or repeat a day.

Loss may concern someone you love, a relationship, a role, or a future you expected. These experiences differ, and there is no required pace for grief. You may bring your questions to God and receive friendship before you have an explanation.

Our hope is in God's presence, sustaining grace, and final restoration. We can pray for renewed life now without predicting how or when our circumstances will change.

Day 1 Make room to mourn

Read in your Bible: Ecclesiastes 3:1–11

Consider

This passage includes mourning within the seasons of human life and acknowledges our limited view of God's work. You do not have to rush toward a lesson. A quiet day, a memory, or a moment of laughter can each have a place. Today, begin by letting your experience be honestly named.

Reflect

What loss is shaping my days? What would help me give this season a little room?

One optional step

If helpful, write what you miss or tell a trusted person you would welcome company.

Pray

Lord, help me bring You this season as it really is.

Day 2 You do not need an explanation

Read in your Bible: Job 1:1–22 and 2:11–13

Consider

Job's uprightness precedes his suffering. His friends initially offer silent presence. The account challenges the assumption that loss tells us a person's moral standing. We can let go of the pressure to explain another person's pain and receive the kindness of someone willing to stay near.

Reflect

Have I treated my loss as evidence against myself? What kind of presence would feel caring?

One optional step

Ask for a manageable form of company, or offer to listen to someone without explaining her circumstances.

Pray

God, give us humility about what we do not understand and tenderness toward one another.

Day 3 Bring the question to God

Read in your Bible: Habakkuk 1:1–4 and 1:12–17

Consider

Habakkuk speaks about violence and injustice. Even the answer he receives raises more questions. His prayer makes room for honest concern. You can tell God what feels unfair without having a polished conclusion. Prayer can be an ongoing conversation.

Reflect

What question do I keep returning to? What would I say to God if I stopped editing my feelings?

One optional step

Write a brief honest prayer beginning with what you most need Him to hear.

Pray

Lord, receive my questions and help me keep turning toward You.

Day 4 Wait with attention

Read in your Bible: Habakkuk 2:1–4 and 2:6–8

Consider

Habakkuk waits to hear, and God’s answer addresses the oppressor and the life of faith. The appointed vision is God’s revealed message, not a guarantee for each personal dream. We can remain attentive to Scripture and wise counsel while taking the next responsible step.

Reflect

What remains mine to do while I wait? Whose counsel could help me discern it?

One optional step

Choose one small task, conversation, or request for guidance within your capacity.

Pray

God, give me patience and wisdom for the step available today.

Day 5 Receive grace when relief has not come

Read in your Bible: 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Consider

Paul asks for the thorn to be removed and records an answer of sustaining grace. This passage does not identify every cause of our suffering. It does offer hope that Christ's power can meet us in weakness. You can continue praying for relief and accept practical care along the way.

Reflect

Where do I need support today? What answer or limit am I finding hard to accept?

One optional step

Receive one offer of help or make one clear request. Rest if that is the care you need.

Pray

Jesus, sustain me where I cannot make things change.

Day 6 Trust with the fields still empty

Read in your Bible: Habakkuk 3:16–19

Consider

Habakkuk describes trembling, imagines failed harvests, and chooses joy in God. His prayer does not depend on already seeing abundance restored. Trust may be quiet today. You can remember something true about God without denying what hurts or performing happiness for others.

Reflect

What truth about God can I hold today? Is there an ordinary kindness or joy I can receive without guilt?

One optional step

Spend a little time with a comforting Scripture, a friend, or something simple you enjoy.

Pray

Lord, be my strength while the circumstances remain unfinished.

Day 7 Leave room for restoration

Read in your Bible: Job 42:7–17 and Revelation 21:1–5

Consider

Job's story ends with renewed blessing and comfort, while Revelation gives the larger hope of an end to death and mourning. New gifts do not replace people we have lost. We can welcome good that comes and entrust the completion of justice to God. Hope can grow beside remembrance.

Reflect

What restoration am I praying for? What good can I welcome now without asking it to erase the past?

One optional step

Name one hope in prayer and one kindness you can receive or offer this week.

Pray

Father, keep hope alive and teach us to receive Your care gently.

Conversation with room to pass

Which passage helped you feel less pressure to explain your loss?

How might we distinguish trusting God from assuming we know why something happened?

What does patient companionship look like in our community?

How can we celebrate renewed joy while honoring what someone still misses?

Everyone may pass or speak generally. Listen without correcting feelings or offering predictions. Ask before giving advice or sharing someone's story.

Scripture sources

Ecclesiastes 3

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/ecclesiastes/3>

Job 1-2

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+1-2&version=KJV>

Job 42

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+42&version=KJV>

Habakkuk 1

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/habakkuk/1>

Habakkuk 2-3

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Habakkuk+2-3&version=KJV>

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+12%3A7-10&version=NIV>

Acts 16

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/acts/16>

John 11

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/john/11>

Revelation 21

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/revelation/21>

Biblical descriptions are summaries. Everyday examples and practices are devotional applications. Read the passages in your preferred Bible translation.