



MOMENTS
in the WORD
for MOMS



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I dedicate this book to my Savior, who gave his life for me and continues to walk with me always, no matter my vocation, and to the dear family with which God has blessed me: my husband, Tim, and my children, Hannah, Isaiah, and Chloe.

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Foreword

Being a mom has brought me many moments of joy. I think back to the nights when I laid my little ones back in their cribs, milk bubbles and contented sighs still on their tiny lips. I remember the day when my older daughter first belted out the “Alleluia” song from the liturgy during church, the drive when my son sang a song about his two best friends, Tigger and Jesus, and the time when my younger daughter asked God to heal the scrape on her knee, adding the words “if it is your will” in her sweet little voice.

Yet amid the joyous times, there also have been many days when I’ve felt less than joyful. There were the days of struggling to nurse a new baby with two arguing siblings close by; the days of mud, dirt, and destruction taking over the house; and the days when I lost sight of the joy amid my worries, doubts, fears, and other sins. In all of those days, God was with me, blessing me through the many happy moments that stay treasured in my heart and blessing me during the days of struggle and sorrow as he drew me closer to himself through his Word. When my strength was sapped by the needs of my children, the demands of those around me, and the weight of my own sins, I read again the words the Lord left for his children. His Word lays out clearly the sin that is in each of our hearts. It tells us of our utter inability to perform a single task that might rid us of that sin, and it reveals our heart’s complete lack of desire to do so.

The Word tells us of the One who also was daily surrounded by those seeking his attention and care but who, as God himself,

remained without sin. Jesus took the weight of my sins, your sins, and the sins of the entire world to the cross, paying the price for our guilt and giving us the sure hope of heaven. What a blessing it is that God has given us his Word in which he lays out his merciful thoughts and actions toward his children!

The devotions in this book touch on a variety of topics, using sections of Scripture that have been particularly meaningful to me as I've studied God's Word during my time of being a mom. The first section addresses the love we have for our little ones. The second section focuses on words of Scripture that can encourage us as our children learn and grow, and the third section contains devotions to nurture our faith lives as we cling to God's promises. I pray that the words of Scripture found in these devotions will be a blessing to those who read them, strengthening faith and further connecting moms and their families to the Word.

Melinda Berg



SECTION ONE

LOVING LITTLE ONES



Love Before First Sight

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. Psalm 139:14

Do you remember the first time you heard your baby's heartbeat or saw your child on a sonogram screen? A bit of interpretation might have been necessary when looking at that fuzzy image, yet nothing takes away the breath of parents quite like those first sounds and glimpses of their little one growing and developing inside the womb! The tiny heart chugs along like the sound of a freight train. The 12-week-old baby, still smaller than an adult hand, waves short but already-formed limbs. Or perhaps you first glimpsed your child's face in a photograph of him or her as a baby, toddler, or older child. God created this special child with unique features and abilities for you to love. How utterly miraculous it is that God can take a tiny cell and from it create another human to live in our world!

Even more miraculous is the love that God has for our children. No matter what they look like or what abilities they possess, they are souls Christ came to save. We may struggle to see who our children resemble and can only guess what they might become, but God's eyes see the bodies of our children in detail, even before our sight allows, as he knits them together in the womb in ways he knows are best.

We take comfort in knowing that God's love for our children far surpasses our own. While we may have concerns during a difficult day or a long night, God knows exactly how each day

of our children's lives will play out. Psalm 139 goes on to remind us of this fact:

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:16

What intimate love God has for our little ones! Our children are not simply one or two of many whom God views as a great sum. Our children are precious to him as *individuals*, as bodies he formed and souls he redeemed through the giving of his Son. As we hold and teach our children, we can remind them of how precious they are in God's sight. God created them just as he desired them to be, and he loved them even when they were still too small for our eyes to see.



Thoughts for the Day: Do a little reminiscing. How were you first able to “meet” your child? What kind of feelings did you experience in those precious moments? How do the words of Psalm 139 give us proper respect and awe for God's love, a love that is far greater than any human can feel? Read Psalm 139:1-17 to learn how God knows not only our children from the inside out, but also us parents!

Prayer: Lord, forgive me when I forget the great miracles you accomplish with every child formed in a mother's womb. Remind me to marvel again at your love shown in your wondrous creation of children and, more important, in the sending of your Son as the Savior of each child you create. Help me never lose sight of your precious truths. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.