

Origin Story — When Our Story with God Begins

DAY 1

Read Jeremiah 29:11.

"I know the plans I have for you," announces the LORD. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come" (NIRV).



God has a plan for you! A blueprint is typically the plan used for building something.

Sometimes, we wish we could see all of the plans God has for us at once. But that's where faith comes in! Abram didn't know what every day would be like, but he kept going! You can do the same! Take the next step, and trust that God has good plans for you!

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR MY LIFE

Get out some paper and make a blueprint! Write down: "God has good plans for me, God loves me. _____ loves me." We might not know the details of everything to come, but we can know these truths now!

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:22–24.

"You were taught not to live the way you used to. You must get rid of your old way of life. That's because it has been made impure by the desire for things that lead you astray. You were taught to be made new in your thinking. You were taught to start living a new life. It is created to be truly good and holy, just as God is" (NIRV).

School is starting soon. (Or maybe it already has for you.)

A new school year may mean a lot of new things.

New classroom.

New school.

New challenges to help you learn.

But "new" doesn't just happen at the beginning of the school year. The Bible teaches us that God is making us new every day. When you read the Bible or a devotional, when you live out what you learn from God, you are being made new every single day.

As you grow and learn more about God, He is changing you ... and that's a really good thing. You are growing, not just physically, but in your faith too.

DAY 3

Read Hebrews 11:16.

"Instead, they longed for a better country. They wanted a heavenly one. So God is pleased when they call him their God. In fact, he has prepared a city for them" (NIV).

Think about something you were looking forward to...maybe it was to go see grandparents, go to an amusement park, go to a birthday party, or even that summer was coming! What did you do to prepare for it? Write it below.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SOMETHING

Don't you get so excited for a big event coming up? Maybe you put it on the calendar and count down the days! Or maybe you help plan everything you are going to do. The day of the event, you might even wake up extra early because you are so excited! All these people who were talked about in Hebrews 11 have amazing stories! But we read in Hebrews 11:16 that they longed for a better country, a heavenly one. And that God was preparing a city for them.

Just as we get so excited about an event coming up, we can get even more excited that we have a heavenly home to look forward to! Ups and downs are temporary on this earth, but we have a lot to look forward to, and that is so exciting!

DAY 4

Read Hebrews 12:1-2.

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. And let us keep on running the race marked out for us. Let us keep looking to Jesus. He is the one who started this journey of faith. And he is the one who completes the journey of faith. He paid no attention to the shame of the cross. He suffered there because of the joy he was looking forward to. Then he sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (NIV).

Have you ever heard this phrase, "Just keep swimming"? It's about not giving up.

There will be times when you might start getting distracted, hurt, or lose energy to just keep swimming. But Jesus can help you keep going!

Sometimes, when we get a little weary or tired, it helps to remember what we are called to do and just keep swimming.

If you keep your attention on Jesus, He's the one who will help you keep swimming! Sometimes, we want to quit what we are doing. Look to Jesus; He will help you keep swimming. When our eyes are on Jesus, our attention isn't on the worry or problem; our eyes are on Him!

By doing this, we keep swimming.

When is it hard to trust God?