

September–December 2026

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a woman with curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a grey turtleneck and a light green cardigan, smiling as she hangs a yellow circular ornament on a Christmas tree. A young girl with long dark hair and a pink headband is looking up at the tree. The tree is decorated with various ornaments, including white flowers and gold circles. The scene is warmly lit, suggesting a cozy indoor setting.

Day by Day with God

Rooting women's lives in the Bible

FEATURING RUTH AKINRADEWO, JANE WALTERS, AND ALIANORE SMITH

Sep–Dec 2026

Day by Day with God



Ministries



Ministries

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Day by Day with God

Edited by **Becca Turnbull**

September–December 2026

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Liz Hogarth is a freelance writer, subeditor, and former Christian journalist who lives in Surrey with her family. She loves to read and jointly runs a book club.

Jenny Sanders is an international speaker, prophetic teacher, and writer. She has been discipling Jesus-lovers for over 30 years. She loves helping people grasp the magnificence of God's grace and the excitement of living with him at the helm.

Lakshmi Jeffreys combines a number of roles within the home, church, and wider community, including wife, mother, sister, vicar, friend, and dog-walker. Her booklet on singleness was published shortly after she met the man she eventually married.

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Welcome



This is my first letter as the new editor for *Day by Day with God* and it is a joy and privilege (and responsibility) to take up this baton. A huge thank you to Jackie Harris for her hard work over the years; she has been a delight to work with, as I am sure our contributors would agree, and we wish her well.

I have worked behind the scenes on *Day by Day with God* since autumn 2021, when I joined BRF Ministries, but I have known about it all my life. My mum has been a reader since her 20s, so I have been familiar with her sharing pearls of wisdom from it during my years of growing up! My prayer is that *Day by Day with God* will continue to equip and encourage women to live for God in all of life.

This issue does exactly that. September is often a time of fresh starts and new beginnings, so Naomi Aidoo reminds us that God is at work through them. If, like me, you rarely hear a sermon on Micah, then may time in this small but mighty book with Liz Hogarth grow and challenge you. Jenny Sanders then considers what the imagery of paths can teach us about faith and Lakshmi Jeffreys gently guides us through Hebrews 1–7, giving us a bigger view of Jesus. Ruth Akinradewo then gives us two weeks on loving others well; after all, Jesus calls us to ‘love our neighbours as ourselves’.

By the end of October, we will spend a week with Rosemary Green, who delicately yet confidently looks at approaching death, followed shortly after by Catherine Butcher’s series on the promises of heaven. Both series are a precious reminder of the hope we have in the face of our mortality. These were especially pertinent to me as I was working on them when my dad died after a short battle with cancer. It was (and is) immensely hard, and yet I marvel at how God spoke truths and comfort to me through these two series, even in the darkest of days. May the Lord speak to you too.

Sandwiched between them, Di Archer highlights how Jesus was counter-cultural in his inclusion of women, starting at the very heart of his family. In Advent, both Jane Walters and Jen Baker will help us focus on Immanuel, God-with-us, as the festive season beckons. We end the year, the ‘Twixmas’ period, with a few days in Psalms 90–94 with Alianore Smith – a poignant and powerful reminder of where to fix our eyes as 2027 arrives.

I pray this issue brings hope, assurance, comfort, and confidence in all that lies ahead, from September through to the ringing in of the new year.

Becca

Becca Turnbull, Editor

Fresh starts



Naomi Aidoo writes...

There's no one better at 'fresh starts' than our God, is there?

From his fresh and new mercies given to us every morning (see Lamentations 3:22–23) to our former sin being not only forgiven, but also forgotten (see Micah 7:19), our God is one of abundant new beginnings, which I for one have found myself hugely thankful for time and time again.

However, this 'clean slate' feeling we get when we consider God's fresh starts may contrast with what we think and feel when it comes to our own. Fresh starts and newness for ourselves can sometimes strike up feelings of uncertainty, nervousness, and even fear, can't they? Because the new is unpredictable and uncertain, not knowing what to expect may cause us some mild discomfort. And yet, when we consider that it is God who has gone before us (see Deuteronomy 31:8) and that in all things he is working for our good (see Romans 8:28), perhaps that may allow us to breathe a little more deeply and lean into trust.

Beyond trust alone, we may even get to a point where the anticipation of a fresh start is exciting as opposed to bewildering – a point where we consider the opportunities and experiences these fresh starts might bring us and rejoice in the fact they have come our way!

The following reflections each feature an account of a fresh start someone in scripture faced, and we will explore the emotions, thoughts, and responses they met that fresh start with. You may find yourself relating to all or perhaps just one or two of these accounts. My hope, though, is that, however you're currently viewing a new season God might be presenting to you, you find yourself remembering who God is in your midst as you step into whatever it is that he has next for you.

The ultimate fresh start

The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' (v. 28, NIV)

If you're ever to embark on something new that is outside of your comfort zone, and, in all honesty, quite bewildering, the words that the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary are among those you'd most want to hear. And Mary, who up until that moment was a 'regular' Jewish teenager, probably needed to hear those words more than most.

Although none of us will be called to something quite as significant as Mary was when she was called upon to carry Jesus, our need to be carried as we hold what he's calling us to is no different.

Perhaps your fresh start at this time looks like a new place of education, a new job, or even a new season entirely for you and your family as you welcome a member or grieve the loss of another. Whatever you're faced with, you can trust that God's gone before you. And while there will still undoubtedly be moments when you question the call and wonder whether God has indeed picked the right person, the reminder that you too are highly favoured as God's child, and that the Lord is with you, should be the comfort and reassurance you need to keep going as you walk into whatever he has for you next.

Something else I find significant about the verse I opened today's reflection with is the fact that 'the angel went' to Mary. God longs to meet you where you are with his presence. He is not far off and, in fact, has paved a way as you walk into all he has in store for you, whatever your next season happens to look like.

Father God, I'm so thankful you are close – that no matter the season, and no matter the significance of the call, you go before me. May I trust you wholeheartedly as I walk into whatever you have next for me. Amen.

NAOMI AIDOO

Chosen for more

So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered. 'He is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' (v. 11, NIV)

Quite often, if we're not careful, we can put people on pedestals. And, in the same vein, we can tend to underestimate ourselves.

When we consider what it is that God has called us to and indeed whether we're up to the task, we can find ourselves shrinking back when God is, in fact, calling us to step up. This was most certainly the case for David.

To set the scene – Samuel has been tasked to appoint a new king and has been told to visit Jesse, David's father. Jesse gets straight to work trying to impress Samuel with all his sons. Well, almost all of them; Jesse completely overlooks the fact that he has another one not present. So much so that, as we see in the verse outlined here, David didn't even bother turning up!

Perhaps David he didn't know about Samuel's visit, or perhaps he did and assumed that this most certainly wasn't for him and therefore counted himself out before he'd even considered the calling. That aside, what we find in this verse is that Samuel knows what God is looking for and he calls for David. He won't take anything or anyone else for an answer.

What's striking to me about this is that David was obediently doing what he was tasked to do at that point (tending sheep), and it was God who gave him his fresh start – one God had had planned all along, even when David was in the midst of obscurity. It was God who anointed him at the right time.

If you feel like right now you're in a season where you're being overlooked, remind yourself that God will anoint and appoint you at the right time and he sees you always.

Take some time to meditate on what you're being called to faithfully carry out now, while you await the fresh start God has prepared for you.

Courage to step up

She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, ‘The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: “Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor.”’ (v. 6, NIV)

Have you ever considered that within the fresh start God is calling you to, the new arena God has tasked you to step into, a huge part of the purpose of that is that you might call others up too?

That’s exactly what we find happening with Deborah in our passage for today. As she became a judge, amid the responsibilities which were no doubt endless for her, she still saw fit to call upon Barak for a particular task.

Amid the day-to-day of deciding between the disputes which were presented to her from the people she was responsible for, Deborah still made the time and space to hear from God. And as she heard, she spoke to Barak under God’s authority.

What’s significant about this passage is that her leadership was so impressionable, so powerful even, that Barak didn’t choose to step up unless Deborah was to go with him. His fresh start came about as a result of Deborah heeding her call and God weaving their stories together.

We can take from this that there are two things it is important to ask God for: first, the courage to step into what it is that he is calling us to do for such a time as this; and, second, wisdom to discern who he is calling us to take with us.

Father God, thank you for calling me into where you have me now. I pray that you will show me who you’d like me to bring along for the journey. Amen.

From nets to new purpose

Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’
(v. 5, NIV)

When you consider the fresh start that you’ve been hoping for and reflect on the fact that the newness that you’ve been praying about isn’t necessarily happening as swiftly as you’d like, I think it’s encouraging to reflect on Luke 5.

In verse 5, Simon says to Jesus, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.’

But what’s key is what he says next: ‘But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’

Because Jesus said so.

I wonder whether there’s something – a type of work, a relationship, a commitment, or an opportunity – that you feel you’ve been faithfully labouring over, investing energy, prayers, and hope into, yet you’re not seeing the fruit that you desire in this particular season. What would it look like for you to trust God and go again?

Because what we know is that, as God shows up in the midst of this, the men pull out a catch that is far superior to anything they’ve ever caught before. That ends up not even being the main point; instead, following that miraculous catch, we see Peter being called into a new purpose.

So despite the fact that God had given Peter something bountiful in the physical here, what he was weaving together behind the scenes was set to be much more bountiful spiritually as he called him and showed him the ‘better’ which was to be obtained as he stepped into his fresh start.

Father God, help me to remain encouraged in you when I feel like my fresh start is a long time coming. Help me see the newness in the now. Amen.

Tears into testimony

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her. (v. 18, NIV)

Mary’s encounter with Jesus in John 20 began with her heart in probably one of the most broken places it had ever been, and it ended, as we can see in the verse above, with a completely new story to tell and picture to paint.

I wonder what your circumstances look like now, and whether in the midst of them you’re crying out to Jesus, looking for an ounce of life, just like Mary was. You’re wondering whether what you’re in right now could ever be turned into a testimony, purely because of how much it hurts.

Mary Magdalene was in this place. She believed that where she was at, and the circumstances that she was faced with, meant the end for her. The death of Jesus had meant also the death of her dreams and things that she’d hoped and prayed for, no doubt.

She was searching to no avail, and I’m sure she wondered how she’d move beyond these truly terrible circumstances.

However, as we see in verse 18, after the encounter that she has with Jesus, recognising that he is alive, she’s commissioned to go out and share this news with the other disciples. She became the first evangelist to Jesus’ resurrection. This historic moment and completely brand-new start came out of desperation and defeat. But, as ever, Jesus had the final say.

If you’re in a dry season right now, where newness doesn’t seem apparent, remind yourself that Jesus is alive and is present with you by his Holy Spirit. Ask him to meet with you today.



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Day by Day with God provides a short printed Bible passage, explained and applied especially for women, by women who have themselves found the Bible a source of strength and inspiration for life.

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Day by Day with God is edited by **Becca Turnbull**.



Becca is a project editor at BRF Ministries. She lives in Oxford and enjoys reading, running, singing loudly in the car, and paddleboarding with friends.



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