



When Flourishing Meets Hardship

Marga Johnson

John 15:9-16 (NIV)

The Goal of Flourishing is Fruitfulness; Even Fruitful Lives Encounter Loss

1. Fruit is **PRODUCED**, not **MANUFACTURED**.

- Internal Transformation (Christ's Character)
- Kingdom Expansion (Salt and Light)
- Flourishing isn't achievement—it's alignment with His life.

2. Flourishing is a **PROCESS**, and even good soil gets **HARD**!

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| – Broken | – Exposed | – Pressed |
| – Tilled | – Watered | – Weeded |

3. Today's **PLACE** of Fruitfulness can be tomorrow's seedbed of **PAIN**.

- Roots are proven in pain.
- Faith grows from "Hearing the Word of God" (Romans 10:17)

3. God Does His Deepest Work in the **DRIEST** Season.

- Good Soil:
 - Hears
 - Understands
 - Endures
 - Bears Fruit.

4. Keys to Flourishing in Drought:

- Keep your heart **OPEN** even when it hurts. Closed soil = Hard soil
- Turn your **LAMENT** into worship.
- Remember, Purging is not **PUNISHMENT**.
- Allow **COMMUNITY** to water the soil when you cannot.
- Believe that God never **WASTES** broken soil.

Family Advent Devotional

Sunday, Nov 30 — Light the HOPE Candle (Purple) **Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2

Devotional: Sometimes the world feels dark—like when you try to walk in your room with the lights off! God promised to send Jesus to shine His bright light into our world so we never have to be afraid. Jesus is God's promise that hope is always coming.

Activity: Turn off the lights, then light the candle and say, “*Jesus is our hope!*”

Kid Song: *This Little Light of Mine*

Contemporary Song: *Light of the World (Kids Version)* – Saddleback Kids

Prayer Starter: “Jesus, thank You for being our hope when life feels dark.”

Mon, Dec 1 — Hope While We Wait. **Scripture:** Psalm 130:5

Devotion: Waiting is hard! Waiting for Christmas is *super* hard. But God teaches us that when we wait for Him, He always comes through. Hope is knowing something good is coming—even if we can't see it yet.

Activity: Put a small wrapped candy under the tree to open on Christmas—practice waiting!

Kid Song: *My God Is So Big*

Contemporary Song: *Hope Has a Name* – River Valley Worship (kids can sing the chorus)

Prayer Starter: “Lord, help us wait with happy hearts.”

Tue, Dec 2 — A Little Shoot, Big Promise **Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1

Devotion: God promised that Jesus would come from a family tree that looked “cut down,” like an old stump—yet new life would grow! Jesus is God's way of showing He can bring life out of anything.

Activity: Find a stick outside; tape a green paper leaf to it to show new life.

Kid Song: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Contemporary Song: *Springtime* – Chris Renzema (chorus only)

Prayer Starter: “Jesus, grow your life in our hearts.”

Wed, Dec 3 — God Remembers Me **Scripture:** Exodus 2:24

Devotion: God never forgets His people. Just like you remember your best friend's birthday, God remembers *you* every day. When we pray, God listens and cares.

Activity: Draw a picture of God listening to your prayer.

Kid Song: *Jesus Loves Me*

Contemporary Song: *Goodness of God (Kids Version)*

Prayer Starter: “Thank You, God, that You always remember me.”

Thu, Dec 4 — A Blessing for the Whole World **Scripture:** Genesis 12:3b

Devotion: God told Abraham, “One day your family will bless the whole world!” Jesus is that blessing. He came so everyone—every place, every person—can know God's love.

Activity: Put a sticker on a world map or globe to pray for another country.

Kid Song: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*

Contemporary Song: *Every Move I Make* – Hillsong Kids

Prayer Starter: “Lord, bless the world through Your love.”

Fri, Dec 5 — Jesus Is the Light **Scripture:** Isaiah 42:6

Devotion: Jesus came to bring light to people who feel sad or stuck. His light shows us the way, just like a nightlight helps you in the dark.

Activity: Turn off lights and let kids walk with a flashlight—Jesus guides us!

Kid Song: *This Little Light of Mine*

Contemporary Song: *Shine a Light* – Elevation Kids

Prayer Starter: “Jesus, shine Your light in our home.”

Sat, Dec 6 — Hope That Never Fails **Scripture:** Romans 5:5

Devotion: God's love fills our hearts like warm cocoa on a cold day. His hope never runs out. Even when things go wrong, Jesus is with us.

Activity: Make hot chocolate and thank God for warm hearts.

Kid Song: *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy*

Contemporary Song: *Alive* – Hillsong Young & Free (family-friendly chorus)

Prayer Starter: “Jesus, fill our hearts with Your hope.”