



WEEK TWO

ACTS 16:16-40

Paul and Silas in Prison

SAY  
THIS

You can choose joy  
when life gets hard.



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when life gets hard.

DO  
THIS



MEAL TIME

Q & A for kids: Would you rather get a no-homework pass, or a no-chore pass? Why?  
Q & A for parents: What is the hardest thing you've ever accomplished? How did you feel when it was done?

REMEMBER THIS

"But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."  
Isaiah 40:31, NIRV

LIFE  
APP

PERSEVERANCE—Refusing to give up  
when life gets hard

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THIS



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## MOTHER'S DAY GETS COMPLICATED

By Sarah Anderson

Mother's Day has become complicated for just about everyone involved—commercialization aside.

It's a challenge for . . .

those who long to be moms, this day heightening the ache inside of them.

those who've lost their moms, this day accentuating the silence the void their mother left.

those who've birthed children gone too soon, this day highlighting a hole their heart shouldn't have.

those everywhere in between. Who have no stories of loss or pain but who feel this day should somehow be different.

Their kids should be perfect. The relationship with their mother not so strained. The brunch should be peaceful. The realities of life put on hold for just this 24 hours.

**Mother's Day highlights the gap that exists between what we wish were true and what isn't.** It's a day where we are confronted with our highest hopes and our current disappointments.

**It's hard to escape what any other day we might adequately push through or cover over. And that makes it hard.**

But I am starting to think our attempt

to run from the insufficiencies this day brings to the surface is going about it wrong. In fact, I think these are the kinds of days God can do His best work in.

The contrast between our expectation and our reality can crush us, depress us, and make cynics out of us. **Or it can drive us towards the One who put the desire for rightness in us, and walks through the reality of life's wrongness with us.**

Mother's Day is a reminder of our humanity—and the humanity of those around us. Of how we all get it wrong—how life often gets it wrong. But it's also a day where we can take stock of the dreams we harbor and realize they are the breadcrumbs pointing us to the God who is ultimately able to bring all things to right, one day.

This year, let's not run away from the contradictions this day evokes. Let's embrace them, but in the presence of a God capable of handling them and cultivating us through them in the process. Let's celebrate Mother's Day for all it offers, for all it lacks, and for the God who fills in the gaps.

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