

# Kingdom Home

Janet Eriksson

Copyright © 2007 by Janet Eriksson

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way by any means – electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise – without the prior permission of the author and publisher.

Scripture quotations in this book are from several translations of the Bible:

AMP – Amplified Bible  
CEV – Contemporary English Version  
NIV – New International Version  
NKJV – New King James Version  
NLT – New Living Translation  
and The Message

E-book cover by Mike Smith

*Author's note: Special thanks to Janie King, who helped me type the manuscript after I broke my finger!*

Scripture quotations taken from AMPLIFIED BIBLE, Copyright © 1954, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1987 by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))

Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version, copyright © 1991 by American Bible Society.  
Scripture taken from *THE MESSAGE*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

**Contents**

Kingdom Day 1..... 6  
    Morning together ..... 7  
    Noon together..... 12  
    Evening together..... 17  
Kingdom Day 2 ..... 21  
    Morning together ..... 22  
    Noon together..... 26  
    Evening together..... 30  
Kingdom Day 3 ..... 33  
    Morning together ..... 34  
    Noon together..... 38  
    Evening together..... 42  
Kingdom Day 4 ..... 46  
    Morning together ..... 47  
    Noon together..... 50  
    Evening together..... 53  
Kingdom Day 5 ..... 56  
    Morning together ..... 57  
    Noon together..... 60  
    Evening together..... 64  
Kingdom Day 6 ..... 69  
    Morning together ..... 70  
    Noon together..... 74  
    Evening together..... 78

I had so much fun writing this book with God. I spent a few summer evenings praying in the spirit, sitting at the little café table on my front porch, surrounded by twinkle lights, writing by hand in a colorful kids' notebook, asking God for more of Him.

Needless to say, the visions He gave were so much more than my ability to write them. I could spend eternity writing about Him, and not even see a scratch mark on the surface. This is just a starting place.

Focus on the Scripture verses. Let the story open your heart to what God wants to show you – way beyond these pages. Let the Holy Spirit take you through the questions at the end of each devotion. Ask God to deepen your Kingdom vision. No matter what you've experienced with Him – He's got more!

Be ready to let your Kingdom eyes see more; to let your Kingdom heart grow. Let God's Kingdom come alive in you, in ways beyond what you could possibly imagine. Let Him show you so much more of Him. He is awesome!

# Kingdom Day 1

## Morning together

*“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you.” (John 15:16 AMP)*

I'm afraid to open the door!

A woman is standing on my porch. She rang the bell only once, but she's still standing there. Why?

She could be selling something. I could ignore her; I've got so much to do. But it feels like... I don't know; like she's here intentionally to see me. What if it's bad news?

I look through the peephole again. Her face seems... radiant! Her expression is peaceful. I sense a quiet excitement.

She's holding a box in her hand; with wrapping on it. A gift? Surely not for me. She must have the wrong house.

*Why do I wish that gift were for me?*

My hand closes on the doorknob.

*This is crazy.*

I can't help it. I have to open the door...

A peace like I've never known washes over me.

It's as if she knows me, the way she smiles. Do I know her? I don't think so. But I feel... *loved*. How is that possible? This whole thing is crazy.

And wonderful.

In a quiet voice she says my name. I nod. She hands me the box. It's gift-wrapped in white, tied with ribbons of gold. It seems to sparkle, almost dance.

I take the gift in my hand, and the sense of peace deepens. I feel like I'm floating. As I look closely at the wrapping, I see roses outlined in gold, each one unique, as if painted by hand. Who could have spent so much effort on a gift for me? Is it really for me?

“Who are you?” I ask.

“Your servant in Christ.”

She hands me an envelope. Across the front is my name, handwritten in gold. *Beautiful!*

I look up. She's gone.

My hand trembles as I go back inside and close the door. I look at the box again.

*What if it's a bomb?*

I ignore the voice in my head. Somehow I know better. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit – all over me. As crazy as it seems, I know that whatever's inside this box is a gift from God.

I put the box on the table and open the envelope. Inside is a card with a verse on the front:

*We love Him because He first loved us.<sup>1</sup>*

---

<sup>1</sup> I John 4:19 NKJV

I open the card to find a handwritten note inside:

*I love you...  
so much more than you understand.  
Let me show you the depths  
of My love.  
This gift is only the beginning.*

*Your Father in Heaven*

Though my tears fall on the card, the beautifully scripted ink doesn't smudge. I'm startled to feel a hand on my shoulder – I'm alone in the room! But His presence calms me. He guides me to a chair; as I sit, He lifts my face into His radiance.

*Yes, Lord. I want to know Your love. Show me!*

## Morning Kingdom Building

The narrator of this story doesn't quite feel worthy to receive a blessing from God. Have there been times when you've felt that way? Describe one of those times.

Have there been times when you knew without a doubt God was blessing you – and *wanted* to? Think about one of those times – how did you feel?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **John 15:16**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NKJV)*

As I open the box, a fragrance fills the room. I can't identify it, but it seems so familiar, so comfortable. So beautiful. It smells like... *Heaven*. My hands shake as I open the tissue paper – elegant, white, with gold lining.

Inside is a white robe of the finest material I've ever seen. As I lift the robe, it seems to glitter in my hands. I see lights swirling all around me, as if angels are dancing.

I drape the robe lovingly over my arm as I read the note card inside:

*This is your robe of righteousness.  
I am giving it to you  
so you'll know without a doubt  
how much I love you;  
how much I want you to be Mine  
forever.*

At the bottom of the note is written "Isaiah 1:18." Cradling the robe, I go to my Bible... and read the words:

***“...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”<sup>2</sup>***

I drop to my knees as the truth of His Word, the truth of His love settles deeply in my heart.

Suddenly I know, in a way I've never known before:

Through the sacrifice and Resurrection of His Son, Jesus, I am restored in relationship to the Father. Completely! There is *nothing* I have to do – nothing I *can* do – to become righteous. His righteousness is mine, given to me as His beloved child, because of Jesus, my Brother, my Savior, my Lord.

But I have to accept His gift. I have to believe His love for me. Can I?

I look at the robe, now lying on the floor. A gift that cost me nothing – it cost Him everything. Why didn't I shout with joy and put on the robe the moment I opened His gift? Why did I wait? Why do I hesitate, even now, thinking I don't deserve it?

I re-read the Scripture:

***“...Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”***

---

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 1:18 NKJV

I *don't* deserve it. He gave it nevertheless. *He wanted to!* There is no refund for this gift; it's paid in full. He bought it out of a love I cannot understand. His love for *me*.

I pick up the robe to cradle it again, and peace overcomes me – it feels like He is cradling me in His love. I don't understand His love, but I want to. I want to know Him more. I lift the robe to my face, and the beauty of it overwhelms all my senses. I *want* His righteousness!

I bow my head. Then I put on the robe and begin to seek Him with my whole heart.

*Thank You, Lord. Thank You.*

## Noon Kingdom Building

When was the last time you knew you were wearing God's robe of righteousness? What does that gift mean to you?

What do you think that gift means to Him? Have you asked Him?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **Romans 5:8**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*“For whoever is bent on saving his [temporal] life [his comfort and security here] shall lose it [eternal life]; and whoever loses his life [his comfort and security here] for My sake shall find it [life everlasting].” (Matthew 16:25 AMP)*

There's something else in the box; I missed it at first, but His Spirit leads me to it. It's a tiny jar – delicate, and yet I feel like nothing in the world could break it. I open the jar and tip it toward the palm of my hand. Out comes a drop of red. As it dissolves into my skin, I am overcome with a love more powerful than anything I've ever known.

I hear a voice inside me. This is not the voice that nags, that tries to draw my attention back to the world whenever I take five minutes to pray, or read my Bible, or call a long lost friend... or in any way slow down for God. This voice is different. It's deeper inside me. *Peaceful.*

I recognize the voice. It's Jesus:

***“For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”<sup>3</sup>***

His blood... shed for me; covering me. His love... never letting go of me.

Why is it always so hard to understand? To believe? To leave everything at the Cross and let Him restore me? *Why is that so hard?*

---

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 26:28 NKJV

I feel His hand on my shoulder again. His heart beats with mine – I hear it! And I know without a doubt: *I am loved!* I know it as if for the first time. He is my family. I am safe, treasured. *I am His.*

I kneel down, holding Him close to my heart. Despite the familiar chaos around me, things look different. Suddenly I have a greater sense of home than I've ever known. Not just here. Somewhere so much greater. *With Him.*

He whispers, “The best is yet to come.”

## Evening Kingdom Building

What does the Blood of Jesus mean to you? Have you thanked Him today for that precious gift? Will you take a moment right now to thank Him?

What does the Blood of Jesus mean to God? How does it relate to His love for you? Ask Him to begin to answer these questions for you, by showing you His Truth through His Word.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **Matthew 16:25**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you. Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tomorrow

Knowing that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and has made you righteous by His righteousness... ask God to let that assurance shape the day you have tomorrow. Stay conscious all day of His gift of righteousness, of the forgiveness in His Blood. See how that changes things.

# Kingdom Day 2

## Morning together

*This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us – an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him! (Romans 8:15-17 The Message)*

*And since we are his children, we are his heirs...  
(Romans 8:17 NLT)*

The next morning there is an envelope at the door. I open it quickly; my heart is ready to jump through my chest. *I know it's from Him!*

Inside is a birth certificate. It's got my name on it; it looks as official as anything can get. Not just the way it looks. I *feel* something in my spirit; something... *serious*. Like God means business by this. Like this is the real thing, and nothing else matters.

But how can this birth certificate be real? The declaration it makes is impossible. It says I'm a royal heir!

Me? Royalty?

Even as the truth of it washes over me, I shake my head. This can't be right. I am not royalty! Who am I, even to entertain such a thought? Ridiculous!

Then I remember the robe and the blood. The robe is still sitting on the table, the jar standing next to it. I glance at them. My heart slows as I walk over and pick up the robe, wrap it around my shoulders. I feel God's arms around me, holding me in His love, in His promises.

Can it be true? Am I an heir to His Kingdom?

I turn over the birth certificate. On the back is written,

*... “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.”<sup>4</sup>*

At the end, a handwritten note:

*I planned this before you were born.  
I gave My life, My blood,  
so that you could inherit the Kingdom with Me.  
I am waiting!  
Waiting for you to take your place  
by My side in the Kingdom.  
Will you?  
Will you accept the crown of life I give you?  
I love you.*

*Your Lord and Savior,  
Brother and King,  
Jesus*

---

<sup>4</sup> Luke 17:20-21 NIV

## Morning Kingdom Building

How do you feel when God tells you that you are an heir to His Kingdom?

Do you truly believe you will inherit everything with Jesus? Why or why not?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **Romans 8:15-17**.  
Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9 NKJV)*

I never knew that thinking of myself as royalty could be so humbling. I would have thought it arrogant, but I realize it's not about me. This is God's precious gift, His design for my life.

I think about a child whose parents want nothing but the best for her: blessings forever! How easy it would be for us to judge that this little one will grow up to be a snob. Is that necessarily true? What if the child simply feels surrounded by love? Feels alive with it?

I realize now: that's what God wants for me. Not just for me. For *everyone!* The words of II Peter 3:9 come to mind: "...*not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*"<sup>5</sup> He wants *everyone* in His Kingdom. We are meant to be heirs through our beloved Brother, Jesus.

I think of all the loved ones I want that for. Even for people I don't know – how desperately they need to know His love, that they belong to Him, that He wants *everything* for them! If I can't believe it for myself, how can I believe it for them?

I close my eyes and speak from my heart:

---

<sup>5</sup> NKJV

*Father, forgive me for hesitating to accept the royal heritage You have given me, by the Blood and the Cross of Jesus, my Brother, my King. I know it's fleshly arrogance and pride that have kept me from accepting the gift of Your Kingdom. Rejecting Your gift is a sin, and sin keeps me apart from You. By Your love and grace, most precious Father, I won't refuse anymore.*

*My beloved Brother, Jesus, I will take my place beside You in the Kingdom, knowing I've done nothing for this, but it's by Your righteousness that I inherit everything, forever. Lord, I want everyone to know that this is their inheritance too, if they will just accept and believe in the Salvation You bring.*

*I love You, Jesus. It's in Your name I pray. Amen.*

## Noon Kingdom Building

Think of several people you want to see rejoicing in the arms of Jesus, sharing His Kingdom with you. Do they know how deeply they are loved, how much they belong in His Kingdom, how treasured they are? What can you do to show them how precious they are to God? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Are there people in your life that it's hard to picture celebrating God's Kingdom with? Who are they? What happens when you pray for one of them to know God's love, to know how much He treasures them? Try praying for one of those people right now – what does God reveal to you about *His* heart?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **II Peter 3:9**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*“...You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16 The Message)*

As I walk into my living room, I see a purple sash lying across the table, next to the robe. How did it get here? Not that it matters how; those little details don't bother me anymore. What can surprise me now?

I pick up the robe, fasten it around me, and then place the sash across my shoulders. I walk over to the mirror and look. Colorful lights begin to swirl; radiance is all around me, coming from... *somewhere*.

Music fills the room. I can't describe it; it's majestic, and not of this earth. The fragrance is here again – a fragrance of overwhelming safety and love. I weep at the beauty, at the power of God's heart, all around me.

As my reflection gazes back at me, I don't recognize myself. My face looks transformed. Alive with His Spirit. A sense of belonging fills me, deeper than anything I've ever known.

My breath catches in my throat. It's too intense – this vision; all of it. My heart is pounding, hands and legs shaking. I drop to the floor, close my eyes. Breathe in and out. Every breath is filled with His love. With His Spirit.

Finally my breathing starts to slow, and I open my eyes. I let His peace overflow me. The excitement is still here in my heart. The vision is gone but the memory is with me – powerfully. *When can I see it again? When can I go there – to the Kingdom?*

“God, let it be soon.”

## Evening Kingdom Building

This evening, take some time just to worship God. Give Him all your attention, and open your heart and spirit to Who He really is. Just focus on Him, let yourself adore Him. Allow Him to sweep you up into His heart.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **Matthew 5:14-16**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you. Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tomorrow

Knowing that you are a royal heir because of Jesus... knowing that God wants this inheritance for everyone you will meet tomorrow... knowing that you are to be a light... ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to *be*, in every moment, in every situation you encounter tomorrow. Allow yourself to see and feel how much God wants the Kingdom for everyone you talk to, everyone around you. How does He show it? How does it change you?

# Kingdom Day 3

## Morning together

*“There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.”  
(John 14:2-3 NLT)*

The invitation is sitting on my kitchen table when I walk out in the morning – still dazed by the dream I had. Somehow I already knew the invitation would be here. I wonder if I’m still dreaming, but I know I’m awake. I also know that my dream was simply the first step into a new reality.

I sit down to read the invitation. I’m no longer interested in coffee or breakfast or things of the world. It doesn’t matter what I had planned for the day. God has my plan! I have a new hunger, a new desire to walk with Him. Sounds of life, of busyness outside disappear. I open the envelope.

I’m no longer surprised at the beauty, the careful attention to detail, the loving hand in which the invitation is written. Yet it’s not something I want to get used to or take for granted. As elegant as the invitation is, I’m struck by the simplicity, the honesty. I run my fingers over the lettering, and I’m overcome by a deep peace. I feel connected to a place I’ve never been, but it’s a place that feels like home.

*I am preparing a place for you.*

*This is your home!*

*Your heart is already here.*

*I am waiting expectantly for you.*

*Jesus*

I'm ready to go there – *right now!* – and see this place. But I read further. At the bottom of the invitation, two Scripture verses are listed: Hebrews 11:13-16 and Psalm 46:10. There's a note:

*Read the first verse at noon today  
with a prayerful heart.*

*The second, read in the evening.*

*Let Me speak to you deeply through My Word.*

*Let your heart become ready.*

## Morning Kingdom Building

Do you really believe that Jesus is preparing a wonderful place for you, where you will be with Him forever? In what ways do you believe this? How does it make you feel? Have you thanked Him for it?

In what ways do you still struggle to believe? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you have unbelief, and why. Ask Him to minister to you in those areas.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **John 14:2-3**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*Each one of these people of faith died not yet having in hand what was promised, but still believing. How did they do it? They saw it way off in the distance, waved their greeting, and accepted the fact that they were transients in this world. People who live this way make it plain that they are looking for their true home. If they were homesick for the old country, they could have gone back any time they wanted. But they were after a far better country than that – heaven country. You can see why God is so proud of them, and has a City waiting for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16 The Message)*

As I read the Scripture verse that was on the invitation, I have to ask myself: What do I hope for? Where does my hope come from?

I look at things I've hoped for. Some are important – hopes for blessings for family and friends, hopes for my future. But some of my hopes seem so small, in light of what God can do! After all, in the hope of Jesus, in the hope of His eternal Kingdom, don't we find every blessing that is the desire of God's heart?

How many times have I pleaded my hopes to God and held my breath for an answer, for some assurance? *Why?* Hasn't Jesus given *total* assurance for our future – not a future limited by earthly concerns and dreams, but the future of His glorious Kingdom! He has given us assurance of fulfilling His glory – the glory that is His eternal gift to us through Salvation.

*For ages and ages this message was kept secret from everyone, but now it has been explained to God's people. God did this because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory.*<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Colossians 1:26-27 CEV, emphasis added

Hope isn't pleading. It's knowledge. Faith. The understanding in your heart that when Jesus says, "*I will come and get you*" – He means it!

Where is my hope? My hope is in Jesus my King!

## Noon Kingdom Building

What things do you hope for? List several things, and then choose one: Do you believe it will come to be? Why or why not? Have you sought God for assurance? How do your hopes line up with God's heart? Ask Him to show you.

Think of a time when your hope was strengthened by Jesus. Describe what happened, and what it felt like.

How do you feel, knowing the Holy Spirit of your Lord and Savior, Jesus, lives within you right now?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **Hebrews 11:13-16**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*Be still, and know that I am God...  
(Psalm 46:10 NKJV)*

As I look at the invitation again, I know God didn't have to send me a letter to tell me my heart is already home with Him. I walk every day in His Kingdom – *or I should*. Why do my steps falter? I remember a verse from the Psalms:

*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."*<sup>7</sup>

Why does my faith seem insubstantial at times? Why can't I *always* see the world and my life through Kingdom eyes?

"How do I build my faith, Lord?"

He directs my gaze to the verse for this evening: "*Be still, and know that I am God.*"

I take a slow breath and let my body relax, as I breathe out, slowly. I ask Him to quiet the urge for movement. To quiet my thoughts. I want to give myself entirely to Him.

---

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 91:1-2 NKJV

A sob escapes as I realize how rarely I give Him all of me like this. How rarely I invite His presence so completely, or trust Him with all that I am. I feel such comfort in His arms – *why do I ever leave?* I know He is my One desire, and I am His. I want to stay in His heart, and He in mine – forever.

*“I will order your steps, every one of them.”* His voice is gentle. His Spirit overflows me. *“I will show you how to see through My eyes. I will teach you how to love with My heart. I will fill your life with My peace. Let Me.”*

“How, Lord? How do I open my heart to all of Your blessings? How do I walk in deeper faith, when the world tries to distract me, when the enemy tries to destroy me, when my own thoughts shatter me?”

*“I’ll show you.”* His voice is calm; still. *“Come with Me.”*

## Evening Kingdom Building

When was the last time your assurance of God's love got you through a difficult situation? Describe it – what happened, and how did it feel? How did God use that situation to strengthen your faith?

When was the last time the world distracted you from God's love? What happened? Did you turn to God? Was your faith strengthened?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **Psalm 46:10**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you. Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tomorrow

Knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for you... that He is your source of hope... that those who have gone before have shared that hope with you... that God is your constant shelter... what can you do to walk more boldly in faith tomorrow? Is there a situation where you need to see things with more hopeful Kingdom eyes? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you, and to strengthen you in faith throughout the day. Make a note of the changes you see and feel.

# Kingdom Day 4

## Morning together

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us... (Ephesians 3:20 NIV)*

It's like checking into a hotel for a big conference. Not one of those boring business conferences, but something *exciting!* The place *sizzles* with expectation. People are everywhere. I don't know that I've ever seen so many people in one place at one time. Am I *awake, or dreaming?* It doesn't matter. I keep my eyes open – I don't want to miss *anything*.

Someone greets me, welcomes me, and though we've never met before, *our hearts and spirits are connected*. We walk down a long path that's indoors and outdoors at the same time. I have no bearings, nor do I need them. I love this place, wherever it is! *God is here!*

His Spirit overflows *everything* around me. The trees and meadows, *the colors*, the lights, *the river* that flows alongside, the very *air I breathe* – He is in every breath; I've never been so *aware of Him*.

*God, don't let me leave this place! I never want to lose this sense of Your presence, of Your love.*

People *surround* me. Each is focused on a task, yet they also seem to embrace me with their hearts. They hurry, yet seem to linger, *buoyed by a joy* I desperately want to feel!

I walk on, eager to experience more of this place. *More of Him!*

## Morning Kingdom Building

When was the last time you felt surrounded by the presence of God, and consumed by His love? Describe it!

Have you ever felt a heart or spirit connection with someone you didn't know – just felt that the Holy Spirit was letting you recognize His presence in the other person? What was that like? What can you do to see more of the Holy Spirit's presence in others?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **Ephesians 3:20**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*O God, You are my God; early will I seek You;  
my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in  
a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So  
I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see  
Your power and Your glory.*

*Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,  
my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You  
while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.  
My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and  
fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with  
joyful lips. (Psalm 63:1-5 NKJV)*

We turn a corner and walk down a short hallway; it's not really a hallway, but I **can't describe** anything I see in earthly terms. At the top of a doorway, I see in **gold lettering** my name. *My name!* **Above my name** is a single drop of blood.

As I walk into the room, I **feel God's arms around me**. The room is filled with every **precious** thing I could imagine – things He's clearly chosen just for me, things only **the most loving Father** could have known would touch my heart.

The room is enclosed – not by anything I would describe as walls, but **by His very heart**. Yet it's connected with everything around it. I can see beyond the room. **Beauty** stretches before me; it stretches as far as I can see, and probably reaches **forever**. I am alone, yet **not alone**. At peace, yet I stand in the midst of activity, **and excitement**. *Surrounded by love* – filled to overflowing with it.

*How does He do this?*

I fall to my knees, and He speaks to me: “Rest for a while, and **I will restore you**. Then join us, because we have work to do.”

## Noon Kingdom Building

What are some things God has done that really touch your heart – that show how much He is aware of you? Describe one of them.

Think of a moment when you knew how precious you are to God. What was that like? Do you know *right now* how precious you are to Him? Have you asked Him to speak to your heart today?

Was there a time when you did not feel precious to Him? Why? How did He help you through that?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **Psalm 63:1-5**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*“I’ve loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you’ll remain intimately at home in my love. That’s what I’ve done – kept my Father’s commands and made myself at home in his love.” (John 15:9-10 The Message)*

I'm **s\*u\*r\*r\*o\*u\*n\*d\*e\*d** by **angels**. *So is everyone.* I didn't know there could be **so many angels!** Not until this moment did I understand **how precious each one of us is to God**, and how much He lavishes His care on us. *Why have I not accepted it until now?*

Ever since I woke from my nap, I have been **alive with the Holy Spirit!** He leads me now, down a path to a place where I'm needed. It's a place where **He will show me** how to work, to **build up His Kingdom** that surrounds us, until nothing but **His glory** is seen!

My heart is ready to jump through my chest as I take my spot among the others. We have an assignment – the first of many.

*“What do I do? How do I do it?”*

**“Be still,”** the Holy Spirit says. **“I will show you** what to do.”

## Evening Kingdom Building

Have you ever felt anxious at something God was calling you to do? Describe the situation. Did you ask Him for peace? How did it turn out?

Do you believe the Holy Spirit will show you what to do in any circumstance? What can you do to strengthen your trust in the Holy Spirit?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **John 15:9-10**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you. Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tomorrow

Knowing that God's presence and love surround you... that He alone can restore you and fill you with peace... that the Holy Spirit will guide you in all things... and that you are precious to Him... will you make a point tomorrow to look for God's presence everywhere you are, no matter the circumstances, no matter who you are with? And to look for the Spirit of our Creator in each person you meet? Ask the Holy Spirit to help, and make a note of the changes that take place in your day, and in your life.

# Kingdom Day 5

## Morning together

*...being confident of this very thing, that He who  
has begun a good work in you will complete it  
until the day of Jesus Christ...*

*(Philippians 1:6 NKJV)*

**I gaze around.** Though no one looks familiar, **I recognize their hearts**, as if I've known them **forever**. They feel like **family**. *How is this possible?*

No one seems to be critical or judging me – that I don't know what to do, or how. I watch them **working, fellowshipping, rejoicing!** It's clear their focus is on **Him**. They see me **through His love**.

**My vision grows stronger;** my understanding – **deeper**. He's **building the home He promised us**, and He's doing it through each of us. This isn't a **dream**. I'm **here!** It's real. **He's real!**

*He* is all that matters.

How could I let any earthly thing distract me from this place? Now that **He's shown me**, how can I go back to the way I was living? How can I not **surrender** every moment of my life, and all that I am, to **the work He wants to do** in me, and through me?

## Morning Kingdom Building

Do you feel that God is building His Kingdom – *and your new Kingdom home* – through you? In what ways do you feel this? In what ways do you not?

In what areas have you surrendered your life to God? In what areas are you holding back? Is there one thing you can do today to give Him a little more of your life? What is it? Will you do it? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you with this.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **Philippians 1:6**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*... “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!  
Look, I have given you authority over all the  
power of the enemy, and you can walk among  
snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing  
will injure you. But don’t rejoice because evil  
spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are  
registered in heaven.” (Luke 10:18-20 NLT)*

As I look around, I see **empty places**. You wouldn't think I could tell, with all the **activity**, with so many **voices** and **hearts** in one place – people moving around, talking, working, **rejoicing!** Yet those empty places stand out.

*Why aren't they here? You brought me here, God. Why not them?*

Then I know, as the **fullness of my heart** gives way to fear.  
*You want me to help You fill these places, don't You?*

The doubts come rolling in, all the reasons why I can't do this:  
*I don't know how, I don't have strength, I lack courage and wisdom, I can't share what I barely understand... This is just not who I am!*

**The Holy Spirit waits quietly** as I murmur and plead. My heart is breaking with a weight I can barely stand. I realize it's His heart within me that feels the pain of my refusal, my self-condemnation.

Then He speaks, quietly:

***You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain... These things I command you, that you love one another.***<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> John 15:16-17 NKJV

Every knot inside me dissolves. **His Spirit fills me** – seeps into every cell; **overflows me!** Even as the old life drains out of me, **I've never felt more alive.** In that moment, I know: I haven't lost my life; *I've gained His.*

I can do this! He made me for this, and **He is with** me, **guiding** me, **strengthening** me with *everything I need* to fulfill His call on my life.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*<sup>9</sup>

I can do whatever He asks, because *He is mine.*

*And He was Love first.*

---

<sup>9</sup> Philippians 4:13 NKJV

## Noon Kingdom Building

When has God asked you to do something that you *knew* you couldn't do? Describe a situation like that. How did it turn out?

In what ways do you believe God is calling you to draw others to Him? Have you talked with Him about this? Do you trust His Holy Spirit to show you what He is calling you to do?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **Luke 10:18-20**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*“...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:20-21 NKJV)*

As we gather for **worship**, I look all around, desperate to see, hear, feel *everything*. I know I'm about to leave and go back into the world. I need to take every bit of this with me for the days ahead.

Already, **my heart longs** to be back **here**, with the **Kingdom** completed, with eternal fellowship awaiting. I long to be **in God's presence forever** – to learn, to grow, to live, to do everything with Him.

Gently, the Holy Spirit speaks:

*“Don't let your heart wander. Don't look on the moment, desperate for survival in the days ahead. For as much as you let the world define this moment, so will the world try to define for you what is to come.*

*“You're here to worship, forgetting all else. In this moment, give all that you are to worship your Creator, your Savior, your King.*

*“Leave all of yourself here at His feet. Let His glory fill you. Let nothing else matter but your worship of Him. The rest – He will take care of it Himself. He has already. By His power. By His love.”*

From my heart flows one of my favorite Psalms:

*Thank you! Everything in me says “Thank you!”  
Angels listen as I sing my thanks. I kneel in  
worship facing your holy temple and say it again:  
“Thank you!” Thank you for your love, thank  
you for your faithfulness; most holy is your  
name, most holy is your Word. The moment I  
called out, you stepped in; you made my life large  
with strength.*

*When they hear what you have to say, GOD, all  
earth’s kings will say “Thank you.” They’ll sing  
of what you’ve done: “How great the glory of  
GOD!” And here’s why: GOD, high above, sees  
far below; no matter the distance, he knows  
everything about us.*

*When I walk into the thick of trouble, keep me  
alive in the angry turmoil. With one hand strike  
my foes, with your other hand save me. Finish  
what you started in me, GOD. Your love is eternal  
– don’t quit on me now.<sup>10</sup>*

---

<sup>10</sup> Psalm 138 The Message

## Evening Kingdom Building

When was the last time you were distracted from focusing on God?  
Why? What happened?

Do you ask the Holy Spirit to show you when you're being  
distracted? Do you listen to Him? Describe a time when you've  
listened, and a time when you haven't.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **Matthew 6:20-21**.  
Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.  
Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to  
you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tonight and tomorrow

Knowing that God's presence is constant... that the Holy Spirit desires you to keep distractions in the right perspective... and that pure worship is the beginning of focusing on God... write a psalm to God right now, from your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words; if you have trouble, start with an Old Testament Psalm<sup>11</sup> and add your own words, as God's Spirit speaks to you. Then carry your psalm with you tomorrow. Keep reading it all day long. And live it!

---

<sup>11</sup> Visit <http://www.biblegateway.com> to read Psalms in different Bible versions.

# Kingdom Day 6

## Morning together

*“He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has (possesses now) eternal life, and I will raise him up [from the dead] on the last day. For My flesh is true and genuine food, and My blood is true and genuine drink. He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood dwells continually in Me, and I [in like manner dwell continually] in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I live by (through, because of) the Father, even so whoever continues to feed on Me [whoever takes Me for his food and is nourished by Me] shall [in his turn] live through and because of Me.” (John 6:54-57 AMP)*

Everything is different.

I'm tucked into my bed at home. I sit up and look around. Things look familiar. But I know... everything is different.

I see God's presence everywhere. *I see it!*

His Spirit surges through me as He leads me into prayer. For the first time, I know in my heart He will not leave me – that's a promise!

As I pray, Jesus gives me assurance that no matter what, He will help me follow our Father's Kingdom plan for today. The Holy Spirit will instruct me in everything He asks me to do. He will grow me and teach me, as I become more like Jesus, my Brother, my King.

Whatever He asks, I will do. I know it's our Father's grace alone that brings my will to His, and gives me His strength and assurance. For all He has planned for my day, and for my life, I need nothing more than Him.

I no longer feel that God's Kingdom is a distant dream, something we can only hope for. His Kingdom is alive around us, inside us – *right now*. He is building it through us, in every moment we give to Him.

Last night, as I was surrounded by God's Kingdom vision, I nearly traded for worry and anxiety a moment of pure worship. Without the Holy Spirit's prompting, I would have missed the chance to give my all to God in praise and adoration. I was so worried I would lose that vision, so desperate to store it in my mind – as if He wouldn't continue to fill my heart with a vision more glorious than anything my eyes or my mind could take in. In the process of worrying, I nearly gave up the most precious moment of worship I've had with Him – *ever!*

I needed to trust Him. I need to keep trusting Him. In all things.

When He showed me our Kingdom home that He is building, He let me see His heart's desire – for His Kingdom, and for me. I know He will let me see it again, whenever I ask in total surrender to Him. He will stir His vision in my heart every time I come to truly worship Him, forgetting all else but the glory, the honor, the power and love that are His.

I don't need to store up visions to get through each day. I need to let Him fill me with more of Him! *He* is my treasure... my life... my King!

## Morning Kingdom Building

Has God been showing you glimpses, visions, a new understanding of His heart's desire for your life? What kinds of things has He shown you?

Are you ready to walk further in God's vision for you? Ask Him to renew that vision in you today, and to show you the next small, life-giving step He'd like you to take with Him.

In what ways has God shared with you His vision for His Kingdom? Have you asked Him to show you deeper revelations for His Kingdom plan? Will you ask Him right now to speak His Kingdom into your heart and spirit?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this morning: **John 6:54-57**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Noon together

*...and having shod your feet with the preparation  
of the gospel of peace... (Ephesians 6:15 NKJV)*

It's amazing how the world looks when you've come from seeking the heart of God. The world can be a tough place. But God's love and power are greater – *and they shine through!*

I wish I could say my mind isn't distracted as I go through the day; that I don't let frustration take hold; that I don't allow seeds of bitterness to get caught in His blanket of peace. But the Holy Spirit is always here, showing me what's not of God, reminding me that each moment can be a Kingdom-building moment.

The toughness stands out. Everything that doesn't belong in the Kingdom home looks so out of place. Yet God's love is everywhere, poured out over each person I meet, no matter their expression, no matter how they act.

I recognize people too – by their heart, by their spirit. I pass a woman on the sidewalk. I don't know her, but her heart is familiar. I know she was there with me in our Kingdom home. We smile at each other. I know in my spirit God's working through her to build the Kingdom – just as He's working through each of us.

I pray for her, and I thank God for His unending river of blessings. This is a Kingdom-building moment. Jesus touches my shoulder and I am reminded: *You are not alone*. I walk on, encouraged and strengthened.

The distractions come and go; each time, I ask the Holy Spirit to convict and teach me. The distractions don't diminish the Kingdom vision that's alive in my heart. For I know: God is, indeed, preparing a home for us! Hallelujah!

We walk in the world. But if we walk in the gospel of peace, we walk in the Kingdom too! Whatever we see of the world is fleeting. Our Kingdom hearts are *forever*. Our Kingdom hearts belong to Jesus, and we are *alive* with His eternal life!

## Noon Kingdom Building

When has God taken a mistake you've made, or even a potentially disastrous moment, and turned it into a Kingdom-building moment? Describe it.

In what ways has God shown you that *you are not alone*? That you are an important part of His Kingdom family – and, an important part of His heart?

In what ways has God led you to show others that they are not alone? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you show someone today – in whatever small way, even a smile – that they are a treasured part of His Kingdom.

Re-read the Scripture verse for this afternoon: **Ephesians 6:15**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you.

## Evening together

*... “Did I not say to you that if you would believe  
you would see the glory of God?” (John 11:40  
NKJV)*

Today, I saw so many who don't seem to understand that His Kingdom is alive. Perhaps they understand with their minds, but it's not showing through their hearts. I wonder if my heart shone with Kingdom light today – or if it was the same old me, overrun with earthly concerns.

With that thought, I allow the enemy a toehold.

My thoughts begin to ramble, directed at no one in particular, and certainly not to God.

*Who am I to think He is using me to build His Kingdom? He wouldn't call me into service for Him – **who am I?** The vision was just a wishful part of my imagination, wasn't it? I'm hardly qualified to be hearing from God, to believe I could know His heart. **What was I thinking?***

The pain in my heart becomes unbearable. I remember the way I felt His heart breaking the day I struggled to accept His precious gift of righteousness. That feeling was so... *real*.

I don't want to feel unworthy any longer – He didn't make me to feel this way! But I have to know: Why did He choose to show me this wonderful Kingdom home? Why me?

“I want to serve You, Lord. I want to reach out to others. It's so hard for me to accept the love You've poured out on me. If I feel special in Your eyes, how does that help anyone but me?”

He answers in the most audible voice I've ever heard from Him: "If you truly love your sisters and brothers, as I love them, you will let Me lavish My love on you. If you believe it for yourself, you will believe it for them. Then you will seek, with all that you are, for them to know My love as you have known it. Not through your heart – but through Mine."

I close my eyes and let His peace fall on me. I finally understand. *With my heart*. His Kingdom is real; it's alive; it's forever. His Kingdom is here already. We see it all around us, through His Holy Spirit. It's within each one of us who believes, truly, that Jesus is King.

And I know that what we can see now, with our hearts, with our spirits, will one day be the **only** reality we know; the only reality that is. It'll be our home forever.

*Thank You, Lord. Thank You.*

## Evening Kingdom Building

When have you come off a “mountain top” experience, a time of feeling incredibly close to God, and then felt the enemy creeping into your thoughts? Describe it. Did you turn to God? How did He get you through it?

Do you expect to see the glory of God in your life? Today? Why or why not?

Re-read the Scripture verse for this evening: **John 11:40**. Ask God to speak to you about this verse. Write what He tells you. Then ask Him to use your dreams tonight to speak truth and love to you.

## Kingdom-Building Activity for tomorrow

Write yourself a reminder – keep it where you’ll see it when you wake up – to ask the Holy Spirit every morning to give you Kingdom eyes, a Kingdom heart, a Kingdom spirit. Be ready to feel the Kingdom growing in your heart, daily, and to see it all around you!

## About the author

My name is Janet Eriksson. I'm one of God's kids, just like you. My heart belongs to Jesus. At 42 years old, I'm blessed with a brand new life that the Lord has given me. I'm involved in ministry to teens and to single women; prayer and healing ministry; and I'm working toward becoming a pastoral counselor through the United Methodist Church. I'm privileged to be working at [Eagle Ranch](#), a group home for teens in north Georgia; I'm a parapro at the Eagle Ranch School, and I work with the students in the writing lab. I am "wild and crazy," a kid at heart. I also love to spend quiet time with God, praying and writing what He inspires. I have a wonderful church family at [Dahlonega United Methodist Church](#), a Spirit-filled place of worship, fellowship, missions and outreach in north Georgia. At Dahlonega UMC, I'm active in intercessory prayer, [Elijah House](#), teaching youth Sunday School, community groups, and worship dance. I enjoy going on short-term mission trips. I'm also active in the [Georgia Foothills Walk to Emmaus](#) community and [Georgia Mountain Tres Dias](#). I enjoy coloring books and crafts and making prayer bracelets. I'd love to hear from you at [jlynn.erik@gmail.com](mailto:jlynn.erik@gmail.com)!

*Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you." -- John 15:16 (NKJV)*