



Adventure Devotions
Breakaway 2024

Written by Joan Borton

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John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Monday

Welcome to Breakaway! You made it!

When you pulled onto the camp property, did you let out a heavy sigh and think, “Phew, we arrived.”? Maybe your kids were bouncing up and down shouting, “We’re here!” You could hardly wait for them to connect with their crew buddy so maybe you can catch a quick nap before dinner.

We’re glad you’re here. And we hope and pray you will find time for a nap this week and enjoy rest and refreshment both with other adults who get your life, and with your family. But heads up—your adventure is just getting started.

Some adventures will take us through familiar territory. Others will expose us to new thoughts and experiences. But you won’t need your GPS to tell you which way to go. We’ll use God’s Word as our guide. In particular, Jesus’ words in John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

A full life! As we begin our trek together to discover the full life Jesus offers, take a few minutes to consider the unwritten thought in that verse. We have a choice: to allow our full life to be disrupted by the thief or to follow the One who holds the key to an abundant life.

Take a few minutes here at the beginning of the week and ask God to show you how you may have let the thief steal your joy or distract you from following Jesus. Confess those to the Lord and ask him to help you seal off the thief’s access. Tell God you’re ready, even if you feel a little anxious about it, to be all in the adventure He has for you this week.

So, buckle up, come with an expectant spirit, and let’s meet our traveling companions as we adventure together.

Tuesday

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Adventure: noun: an exciting or remarkable experience; a risky undertaking; quest

I Cor 1:9 God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that. (MSG)

Adventure is an exciting word most of the time. When someone tells their story of adventure, it usually involves elements of surprise and danger, but ends well. If it doesn’t, we call it something else, like a disaster or a tragedy.

But the story of Jesus' adventure from heaven to earth and back has a better ending for us than any we could even imagine...

The word adventure originates from the Latin *advenire* which means "to come toward, to arrive."(Merriam-Webster.com). And if we shorten adventure, we end up with another exciting word: *Advent*. Advent: the season of expectation leading up to Christmas, the glorious day that we celebrate the arrival of Jesus.

God came toward us that day. He came *to* us. And he's determined to bring us back with him—to freedom, to healing, to redemption. He took a huge risk to come and get us, and he will never give up on his children. He will not leave us behind.

Because God loves us so much, he invites us to share in the life of Jesus. This spiritual adventure he offers us will be everything we are hoping for and more. And no matter how many twists and turns, disappointments or dangers we encounter, we can be sure that he will bring us safely home.

Tell Jesus you want to go with him. Something exciting is going to happen with you line up your heart and your plans with his. He is not going to let you live a boring life. He has crazy fun and huge surprises and unimaginable growth in mind for you. You will be challenged, uncertain, scared, and amazed on this journey with him. Don't be afraid; this is good news! Your adventure with Jesus will be worth the risk.

Wednesday

When you think of adventure, what comes to mind? Do you think of sunny days, with bluebirds cheerily tweeting beside you as you skip through the daisy filled meadow? For me, adventure brings to mind a favorite movie, *The Princess Bride*. The first scene is a grandfather reading a story to his grandson, who is home from school sick. Initially, it sounds like a romance in which farmhand Westley must rescue his beloved Princess Buttercup. This is of no interest to the young lad. But when he is ready to give up on the story, a masked man in black enters. We watch this man overcome three adversaries physically and mentally at the Cliffs of Insanity.

Buttercup identifies him as The Dread Pirate Roberts and wants nothing to do with him until she realizes his true identity, Westley. As the story develops, the princess and Westley face the Fire Swamp with Rodents of Unusual Size, and the Pit of Despair where Westley is put through a torture chamber.

After being "mostly dead all day," and with the help of his friends, Westley escapes and makes his way into the castle to rescue Princess Buttercup from her impending marriage to Prince Humperdinck. As the cliché goes, they ride off into the sunset together and live happily ever after.

We expect periods of challenge and bumpy roads when we watch a movie or read a book. They are the part of the story that keeps us glued to the screen or turning the page for more. We're pretty sure it will work out in the end, but we don't know how.

Why then, in our lives when we see the plot thickening and gloomy skies ahead are we caught off guard?

In preparing the disciples for the time when He would no longer be with them in person, Jesus lays out the plan for what will happen; they will be scattered. But in verse 33 of John 16, Jesus tells them, *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

We’re no different than the disciples. We too will have trouble in this world. That’s part of the adventure God has laid out for us. How we face that makes all the difference in the world. Jerry is fond of saying, “I’ve read the end of the book and we win...BIG!”

Adventure will include hardships, but we can move through them with the confidence that God has overcome. And in Him we can too.

What are two things you can do beginning today to help transform your response to challenges to that of an overcomer? Perhaps things like praying, counting your blessings, reminding yourself of a favorite Bible passage, sharing your need with a loved one or treasured friend, taking a brief break outside to catch a breath of fresh air and remember your Creator... Share your ideas with someone as you move through this day.

Thursday

The Camino is a 500 mile pilgrimage trail across northern Spain. The terrain is rocky, hilly and can barely be considered a trail at points. Charming villages greet pilgrims along the way. Long-time friends Justin and Patrick entered the trail from France by crossing the Pyrenees. They’d planned and prepped for this trip for a couple of years.

Hundreds of pilgrims make this trip every year. The difference for Justin and Patrick is Justin uses a wheelchair, and Patrick committed to push him across the trail, and serve as his PCA. They had a chair specifically designed to be lightweight, yet rugged enough to handle the less-than-ideal conditions.

Even with all the research the two did, and the training and conditioning, they still faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Left to the two of them, they would not have been able to complete the trek. But nearly each day they met other hikers along the way. With some, they just shared a passing greeting. Others committed to help Justin and Patrick over the next hurdle. Or to walk with them for a day or two. Some days eight or more people worked together to help Justin and Patrick on their dream adventure.*

The Bible talks a lot about community. In I Corinthians, Paul likens the body of Christ to the human body, emphasizing that **every** part is indispensable, even if never seen.

Those of us who live with disability in ourselves, or our families, can tend to be lone rangers. We’re so tired of asking for help and being let down that we just give up and gut through life on our own, or with our immediate family only.

Adventures are safest when done in community. Whether it is deep sea diving, hiking the Appalachian trail, or embarking on a safari, the wise participant researches and plans, secures the proper equipment and executes their adventure with a team. Some of the team stay behind and monitor conditions, others have their back traveling alongside, still others may travel ahead to replenish supplies at a certain point in the journey.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 lays out the value of partnership. There is good return for the labor spent, someone is available when we fall, and we share our strengths.

How about you? Are you a lone ranger? Do you enjoy having others join your adventure? If you're not sure where to begin, look at those who are your fellow adventurers this week.

Take a few minutes now, or after you get home to explore some of the one hundred times the New Testament tells us how to live reciprocally. Here are a few to start. Romans 12:10, Romans 14:19, Romans 15:7, 1 Corinthians 12:25; Ephesians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11. You can find more by searching "One Another in the Bible."

Ask God to show you how to "one another" someone in your community.

*Justin and Patrick's journey can be found in their book *I'll Push You*, or you can access a movie of their trek at Illpushyou.com.

Friday

The last day. Whether it be at camp or vacation, each has a last day when we head home to our real life. Often sadness accompanies that day, wishing our time away could continue a little longer.

In my younger years, I led vacation trips for groups of people with developmental disabilities. Whether the trip home was by plane, train, or bus, invariably Diane, among others, would start orchestrating the plan. "Tony has to do his laundry. I'll make my lunch first for work tomorrow. Shirley can help cook dinner"... and on and on. Each vacation I tried to encourage her and everyone to stay in the moment of adventure until they hit their front door. But it was always a waste of my breath.

I now realize Diane was trying to help everyone transition smoothly into the routine at home. It is a necessary part of an adventure.

Later today, you'll pack your car, say goodbye to your camp family and begin the journey home. When you get there, the laundry will pile up, and there will be bills to pay.

May I remind you, it's Breakaway that is drawing to a close for this year, not the adventure!

Every minute of every day until we reach our final destination—eternity in Heaven with our Lord, Creator, Savior, and Guide the adventure continues!

Do what you need to do to live in the present. But keep in mind that how we live prepares us for eternity.

Matthew 6: 19-21

¹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Every day God gives us breath is an opportunity to live the adventure, both now and for eternity.

If you'd like to talk more about our eternal adventure of heaven, please reach out to any of the Breakaway crew. We count it a privilege to journey with you.

Joan Borton is an award-winning writer, blogger, speaker, and disability advocate. Joan grew up with friends who had disabilities and found it a natural fit for her. It was little surprise to anyone, except themselves, when God brought Jerry, who was born with cerebral palsy, and Joan together in marriage and ministry in 1995. She recently published her first book titled, *MarriageAbility: Embracing the Richness of a Marriage Affected by Disability*.

There is little Joan loves more than sharing in the journey of family caregivers. You can reach her at Joan@Luke14Exchange.org. When faced with a little downtime, you'll likely find her reading in her hammock or working on a jigsaw puzzle.