

THE SECOND ACT

COUNT WHAT REMAINS

A 30-day journey through loss, faith, family and second chances

A devotional companion inspired by the spiritual themes of The Second Act.

FAITH • FAMILY • FORGIVENESS • SECOND CHANCES

Prototype curriculum for church and small-group use. Scripture references and theological notes should receive pastoral/theological review before publication.

How to use this devotional

Each day has one Scripture reading, one short reflection, one honest question, one 'hand it over' prompt and one 'count what remains' practice. The goal is not to force gratitude over grief. It is to practice telling God the truth while noticing the grace and responsibilities that remain.

Day 1: Tell God the Truth

Read: Psalm 13

Faith does not require editing your grief before you pray. God already knows the sentence you are afraid to say.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 2: He Can Take It

Read: Psalm 62:8

Pouring out your heart is an act of trust because you choose God as the place where the truth goes.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 3: When the Answer Is No

Read: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Unanswered prayer can wound our expectations without ending God's presence.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 4: Presence Before Explanation

Read: Job 2:11-13

Sometimes the most faithful response to pain is to sit beside it before speaking.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 5: The God Who Weeps

Read: John 11:32-36

Jesus' tears remind us that divine power does not make grief unreal.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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1. _____
2. _____
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Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 6: Mine to Carry

Read: Galatians 6:5

Some responsibilities cannot be outsourced. Faithfulness asks what is actually ours to do.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

1. _____
2. _____
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Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 7: Mine to Hand Over

Read: 1 Peter 5:7

Anxiety often carries imagined control. Casting care on God is an act of release.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 8: Show Up

Read: Philippians 2:3-5

Love becomes visible in attention, humility and presence.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 9: You Cannot Fix Everyone

Read: Romans 12:18

Faithfulness has limits. You can pursue peace without controlling another person's response.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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2. _____
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Prayer

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Day 10: The Next Right Thing

Read: James 1:22

When the whole future is unclear, obedience can still be concrete.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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1. _____
2. _____
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Prayer

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Day 11: Dreams and Idols

Read: Matthew 6:33

A dream becomes dangerous when it must tell us who we are.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 12: What Profit?

Read: Mark 8:34-36

Jesus asks us to measure success with a different accounting system.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 13: Plans and Providence

Read: Proverbs 16:9

Planning is wise; sovereignty reminds us our plans are not ultimate.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 14: The Person in Front of You

Read: Matthew 25:35-40

Calling is often disguised as an interruption.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 15: Family by Faithfulness

Read: Psalm 68:5-6

God's care often arrives through people who choose to stay.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 16: Grace and the Unbalanced Books

Read: Ephesians 2:8-9

The gospel is not a story of people finally earning enough. It is grace given to people who cannot balance the account.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 17: Forgiveness Tells the Truth

Read: Ephesians 4:31-32

Forgiveness does not require pretending the wound was small.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 18: Forgiveness and Boundaries

Read: Romans 12:18

Peace 'as far as it depends on you' leaves room for wisdom, limits and another person's responsibility.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

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Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 19: Trust Can Take Time

Read: Luke 16:10

Forgiveness can be given while trust is rebuilt through faithfulness over time.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

God, today I am carrying: _____

Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 20: Do Not Become the Wound

Read: Romans 12:17-21

Refusing revenge keeps another person's sin from becoming the author of your next choice.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 21: There Wasn't a Morning

Read: James 4:13-15

Delayed obedience can become lost opportunity. Some conversations should not be indefinitely postponed.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

God, I will not call what hurt me good. I will ask You to be at work in it, keep me faithful today, and help me notice what remains. Amen.

Day 22: Say It While You Can

Read: Ephesians 4:15

Truth spoken in love is a gift we should not assume tomorrow will provide.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

Hand it over

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Count what remains

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1. _____
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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 23: God Does Not Waste Pain

Read: Romans 8:28

The promise is not that evil becomes good. The promise is that God remains at work.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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Prayer

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Day 24: Present Tense

Read: Philippians 1:6

God's work in us is ongoing, including in unfinished seasons.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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Count what remains

Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

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2. _____
3. _____

Prayer

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Day 25: Count What Is Gone

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

Grief deserves to be counted. Mourning is not spiritual failure.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 26: Count What Remains

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Thanksgiving can coexist with tears. Gratitude is not denial.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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Prayer

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Day 27: Say It Out Loud

Read: Psalm 103:1-5

Remembering God's gifts becomes stronger when we name them.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 28: A Table With More Chairs

Read: Acts 2:42-47

God often builds belonging through ordinary meals, shared burdens and repeated presence.

Reflect

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3. _____

Prayer

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Day 29: Walking Without Understanding

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:7

Faith is not complete explanation. Sometimes it is the next faithful step without the map.

Reflect

What is this Scripture inviting you to believe, release, repair or practice today?

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Three gifts, people, responsibilities or evidences of grace still on the table:

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Prayer

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Day 30: A Second Act

Read: Revelation 21:5

Christian hope is rooted in the God who makes things new. The story is not over simply because one chapter hurt.

Reflect

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Prayer

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