



god's word

FOR THE CLASS OF 2020

God's Word for the Class of 2020

On behalf of all of the people who are so proud of you - Congratulations!

It might feel a bit hollow reading that, because your senior year was dramatically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. In the midst of our new normal, please allow me to remind you:

- You have much to be proud of - you're here because you've worked hard for 12+ years.
- You have much to be thankful for - you're here because many people have given of themselves to help you.

So again, congratulations on your outstanding accomplishment - give yourself a high-five!

It's important that you know how God grieves with you over all things that were lost, because he loves you, he is for you, and he is with you. This booklet won't replace the things you've lost from your senior year; nothing can give those things back to you. Hopefully the words of scripture in the following pages will bring some comfort, inspiration, and a few laughs.

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote, *"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. ... Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11a, NLT). You may not see God's hand at work during this season, but he is at work. I pray you have eyes to see him today, tomorrow, and in the months and years to come.

We wish you all of God's best!

Introduction

The Bible is the inspired word of God, so it is the only completely trustworthy thing you'll ever read about the most important things in life. In this book, all Bible passages are from the New Living Translation and are shown in italics.¹ The bold, bullet points are written as if God is speaking to you directly. They're not there to replace the Bible, only to help make it personal to you ... the way God intends us to understand.

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- **I designed you with purpose.**

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10

- **You have big plans, but I have bigger dreams for you.**

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

Ephesians 3:20

- **You can trust me, even when you're uncertain about the future.**

*7 I will bless the Lord who guides me;
even at night my heart instructs me.*

*8 I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.*

*9 No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.
My body rests in safety.*

*10 For you will not leave my soul among the dead
or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.*

*11 You will show me the way of life,
granting me the joy of your presence
and the pleasures of living with you forever.*

Psalms 16:7-11

- **I allow pain for a season, but I always bring it back to joy.**

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

1 Peter 1:6

- **I redeem every moment.**

*1 For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven. ...*

11 Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11a

- **I will always take care of you.**

*29 He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.*

*30 Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.*

*31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.*

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:29-31

“

**I want to thank Google,
Wikipedia, and whoever
invented copy/paste.**

[from an actual graduation speech]

”

- **Chase after me, and you'll experience deep fulfillment.**

*4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you your heart's desires.*

Psalms 37:4

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

John 10:10

- **Do great things not for your fame but for mine.**

16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16

- **The path to success is with me.**

*3 Commit your actions to the Lord,
and your plans will succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3

- **Your attitude about work reveals your trust in me.**

23 Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23

- **Never stop learning but let me be your source of wisdom.**

*20 Get all the advice and instruction you can,
so you will be wise the rest of your life.*

*21 You can make many plans,
but the Lord's purpose will prevail.*

Proverbs 19:20-21

- **I want to help you make decisions that are best for you and for everyone around you.**

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.*

*6 Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



- **Root your life in me.**

*7 "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.*

*8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.*

*Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.*

*Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.*

Jeremiah 17:7-8

- **Grow deeply in your trust in me.**

*6 And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord,
you must continue to follow him. 7 Let your roots grow down
into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will
grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will
overflow with thankfulness.*

Colossians 2:6-7

- **I finish what I start.**

*6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work
within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on
the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

Philippians 1:6

“

**High School is a lot like
toilet paper. You don't miss
it until it's gone.**

– Gabriel Pierce's yearbook quote

”

- **I have great, fulfilling dreams for your life.**

11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11

- **Choose joy over complaining.**

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Philippians 4:4

- **I will protect you and give you an attitude of gratitude.**

7 The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him with all my heart.

He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy.

I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Psalms 28:7

- **Live the way I want, and your life will make a difference.**

10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Colossians 1:10

- **What really matters is loving me and others.**

9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. 10 For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return.

Philippians 1:9-10

- **I can overcome everything that tries to keep me from you – if you let me.**

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

- **I will never stop loving you.**

22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends!

His mercies never cease.

23 Great is his faithfulness;

his mercies begin afresh each morning.

24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance;

therefore, I will hope in him!"

Lamentations 3:22-24

- **I want you to stand up for others.**

*8 No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

- **I want you to serve others like I did.**

26 But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. 28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26-28

- **I want you to put others above yourself.**

3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Philippians 2:3-4

- **I can give you what no one else can give.**

27 "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

“

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to great place!
You're off and away!

- Dr. Suess, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*

”

- **I want to help you have a pure heart.**

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10

- **I will give you a fresh start every day.**

*22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.*

*23 Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

*24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance;
therefore, I will hope in him!"*

Lamentations 3:22-24

- **I will always forgive you.**

*9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

1 John 1:9

- **Look around. I'm doing surprising things.**

*3 Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us!
What joy!*

Psalm 126:3

- **I want to free your imagination to see the world like I see it.**

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

- **I'm about to do something new ... don't miss it.**

19 For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Isaiah 43:19

- **Spend your life telling people how I changed your life.**

19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

- **When your life is over, the only thing that will matter is how you loved me and shared my love with others.**

17 O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do.

18 Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me.

Psalms 71:17-18



