

pray . fast . give .



Living Lent | Day 32

“Look After Orphans”

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless in this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

James 1:27 NIV

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

“I could not do what you do. I would get too attached.” I can’t count the number of times someone has said this or something similar to me since we started fostering five years ago. My response is most often, “If I was sick and could not care for my child, you would do it. You can do hard things.”

A foster mama friend told me at the beginning of our journey that foster care will increase our faith like nothing else. She could not have been more correct. Most of us would agree that it is difficult to line up our emotions with what is true and trust GOD. This is definitely the case as we work with a broken system, fractured people and accept decisions that are made for children that are out of our control. Risking one’s heart in order to provide a place of safety and healing for a child who has absolutely no decision making power over what is happening to him or her is truly “pure and faultless religion.”

When I consider how difficult this ministry is and reflect on what Christ did for me, I am reminded of why I can do hard things. Consider his anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane as he asked the Father to take away what he knew was to come. In obedience he walked through the unimaginable because he knew the outcome. That same SPIRIT of GOD lives in you. He has given you

the power to fight the pain of the flesh and press on to do hard things for the sake of others and more importantly for the sake of Christ. God still knows the outcome and we can trust him with it.

To date we have hosted fourteen children in our home through respite, short and long-term placement. Each has been prayed over, loved and cherished as if our own whether he or she stayed for a day, months, years or became ours forever. While some cases have been easier than others, we trust that HIS Word will not come back void and seeds of Truth are now planted in each child. It has truly been the hardest best thing we have ever done!

Whatever hard thing GOD is calling you to do, you can do. You CAN do hard things because the Spirit of GOD lives in you. It is by his power and strength that we press on. HE is faithful. HE will be glorified!

Challenge to Prayer and the Exercise of the Privilege of Generosity

Morningstar is committed to serving the unique needs of children and their families by providing “a sanctuary where transformative teaching and healing” can occur. During this Lenten Journey, thank you for thinking about giving to the ministry at Morningstar. Your generosity will uplift our children by providing each with a brighter future. With your gift, our community garden will continue to grow and flourish. Joy!

[Donate Now](#)

Contributor

Jill Geary, Brunswick, Georgia, is a biological, adoptive and foster mom as well as a special education teacher. She lives with her adopted daughter, foster son and husband Curtis who pastors Rhema Community Church. Her biological daughter is now married and soon will be a mother herself. She and her husband are examples of “taking care of the orphans” as spoken in James 1:27 and extend that love and care to the children of Morningstar as well. They truly know what it is like to be a staff member at Morningstar, who likewise is called to “look after orphans.”

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our **children** through **real relationships**

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