

Lessons from the Storm

“Should we accept only good from God, and not adversity?” — Job 2:10

None of us would choose a life filled with sorrow, disappointment, illness or difficulty. Yet Scripture reminds us that God can use even the hardest experiences to teach us lessons that prosperity never could.

Job lost almost everything, yet in the midst of his grief he was able to say, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD!” (Job 1:21). Job did not pretend that his suffering was easy, nor did he understand why it had happened. But he continued to recognise that God was God, even when his circumstances were painful and confusing.

Trials can become a school in which God teaches us to trust Him. They can reveal how much we depend upon the things of this world and remind us that our true hope is found in Christ. A difficult season may drive us to prayer when, in easier times, we have relied too much upon ourselves. A painful experience may help us discover the strength and sweetness of God's promises in ways we had never experienced before. This does not mean that suffering is good in itself, or that we should enjoy hardship. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, and Scripture tells us to “weep with those that weep” (Romans 12:15). But God is able to bring good out of what is painful. He can use the “fire” to refine us, the pruning to make us fruitful, and the storm to drive us closer to the Rock of Ages.

Sometimes the greatest blessing is not the removal of the trial, but what God teaches us through it. We may never understand His purposes this side of heaven, but we can trust His goodness. Lamentations was written in the midst of terrible suffering, yet the writer could still declare:

“Because of the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Perhaps today you are enjoying a season of blessing. Give thanks to God. Perhaps you are walking through a season of sorrow. Take courage. The same faithful God is with you. We can thank Him for every mercy we recognise, and we can trust Him with every difficulty we do not understand. Whatever our circumstances, His faithfulness remains unchanged.

**Lord,
teach us through every season of life to trust You more deeply,
draw nearer to Jesus, and rest in Your unfailing love.
Amen.**



SEP 1	①	That as church we will provide a defence for our faith
	②	Staff & Pupils at Broadstone Middle School
	③	Encourage Christians in Afghanistan.
	④	Dioc. of Belize – Church in the Prov. of the West Indies

SEP 2	①	Anglican leaders who defend/accept Biblical truths.
	②	Creekmoor Councillors
	③	Give hope to Haiti.
	④	Diocese of Bendigo – The Anglican Church of Australia

SEP 3	①	Lord, teach our church to pray with faith. (Luke 11:1)
	②	For those who struggle understanding the Bible
	③	Protect people facing extreme heat across Europe.
	④	Dioc. of Beni – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

SEP 4	①	Help us listen as we lift prayers to You. (John 10:27)
	②	Shop workers & those who produce/distribute our food
	③	Be with those impacted by flash floods.
	④	Diocese of Benin – The Church of Nigeria

SEP 5	①	Unite our hearts in prayer before You. (Acts 1:14)
	②	For peace & endurance for struggling farmers
	③	Free those trapped in modern slavery and forced labour.
	④	Dioc. of Bentiu – Prov. of Episcopal Church of S.Sudan

SEP 6	①	Lord, bless & keep our church family strong. (Num. 6:24)
	②	People who are new to our Parish.
	③	Provide clean water where drought has brought scarcity.
	④	Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

SEP 7	①	Knit us together in love and truth. (Col. 2:2)
	②	People who are new to our congregation.
	③	Protect communities threatened by wildfires and heat.
	④	Diocese of Bermuda – (Extra Provincial)

SEP 8	①	Guard our church family from division. (1 Cor. 1:10)
	②	The people of Knowlton road.
	③	Thank you for the gift of prayer & a mediator in Christ.
	④	Diocese of Bethlehem – The Episcopal Church

SEP 9	①	Grow us in grace as one body in Christ. (Eph. 4:15–16)
	②	The people of Pimper close.
	③	Protect believers imprisoned for their faith in Iran.
	④	Diocese of Bhopal – The Church of North India (United)

SEP 10	①	Lord, help us bear one another's burdens. (Gal. 6:2)
	②	Rowbarrow close, Walditch gardens & Sydney Smith ct.
	③	Comfort families separated by persecution and war.
	④	Diocese of Bida – The Church of Nigeria

SEP 11	①	May our fellowship reflect Your love. (John 13:35)
	②	Staff & Pupils at Bayside Academy
	③	Please bless the ongoing work of Christian concern
	④	Dioc. of Biharamulo – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

SEP 12	①	Let every gathering honour our Lord. (Matt. 18:20)
	②	Yeatminster rd & everyone at Parkstone Tower Practice
	③	Foodbanks and bakeries offering free food to the needy
	④	Diocese of Birmingham – The Church of England

SEP 13	①	Grow joy and peace in our fellowship. (Rom. 15:13)
	②	Hamworthy Councillors & users of Rossmore Leisure C
	③	For those in lands where ownership of a Bible is a crime
	④	Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

SEP 14	①	May we encourage one another to serve. (Heb. 3:13)
	②	The work and workers of Amnesty international.
	③	For the ongoing work of the Children's Society
	④	Diocese of Blackburn – The Church of England

SEP 15	①	Keep our fellowship holy and pure. (1 Pet. 1:22)
	②	Those who are persecuted and their persecutors.
	③	Help farmers whose crops have failed through drought.
	④	Dioc. of Bo – The Church of the Province of W.Africa

SEP 16	①	Lord, heal the sick among our church. (James 5:14–15)
	②	The exploiters and those who exploit
	③	Help refugees returning to danger find safety.
	④	Dioc. of Boga – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

SEP 17	①	Comfort those who suffer in body/mind. (2 Cor. 1:3–4)
	②	Refugees and those who work to home them.
	③	For the ongoing work against poverty by Tearfund
	④	Dioc. of Bolivia – Anglican Church of S.America

SEP 18	①	Bring peace to those in pain today. (John 14:27)
	②	Staff & Pupils at Broadstone First School
	③	Protect civilians in Sudan from war and hunger.
	④	Dioc. of Bondo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

SEP 19	①	Heal broken hearts in our fellowship. (Ps. 147:3)
	②	Diocesan Spiritual adv. Newtown & Heatherlands Cllr.
	③	For workers where unemployment risks rise to AI tech
	④	Dioc. of Bor – Prov. of the Episcopal Church of S.Sudan

SEP 20	①	Restore strength to the weak and weary. (Isa. 40:29)
	②	Retreat association Wardens & those who need them.
	③	Comfort Christians displaced by violence in Burkina Faso
	④	Anglican Church of Australia

SEP 21	①	Lord, replace our worry with Your peace. (Phil. 4:6–7)
	②	Those using Poole Park for leisure & exercise
	③	For courage & strength for those who pray for others.
	④	Dioc. of Botswana – Church of the Prov. of Central Africa

SEP 22	①	Teach us to cast cares on You alone. (1 Pet. 5:7)
	②	Retreat house conductors.
	③	For families where cost-of-living crises deepen.
	④	Dioc. of Brandon – The Anglican Church of Canada

SEP 23	①	Calm anxious hearts within our church. (John 14:1)
	②	The people of Puddletown cres.
	③	Provide food for children suffering from malnutrition.
	④	Dioc. of Brechin – The Scottish Episcopal Church

SEP 24	①	Remind us that You hold us secure. (Ps. 55:22)
	②	The people of Warmwell close & Maperton close.
	③	Give honest work to those facing unemployment.
	④	Dioc. of Brisbane – The Anglican Church of Australia

SEP 25	①	Guard our minds with Christ's perfect peace. (Isa. 26:3)
	②	Staff & Pupils at Bearwood Primary & Nursery School
	③	Comfort families mourning loved ones lost in Nepal.
	④	Dioc. of Bristol – The Church of England

SEP 26	①	We praise You, Lord, for Your great love. (Ps. 136:26)
	②	Hilfield Priory & everyone at Poole Town Surgery
	③	Bring relief to families facing hunger in Yemen and Sudan
	④	Dioc. of British Columbia – Anglican Church of Canada

SEP 27	①	All glory belongs to You, O God. (Jude 1:25)
	②	The Othana Community (see .othonawestdorset.org.uk)
	③	Protect Christians worshipping secretly in Afghanistan.
	④	Church of Bangladesh

SEP 28	①	We thank You for grace upon grace. (John 1:16)
	②	Herstone close & workers/shoppers at Wessex Gate
	③	Those affected by new Taliban laws restricting women
	④	Dioc. of Central Buganda – Church of the Prov. of Uganda

SEP 29	①	Praise be to You for our salvation. (Eph. 1:3)
	②	Staff & those using Rossmore Leisure Centre
	③	Comfort families mourning violence in Cameroon.
	④	Dioc. of W.Buganda – Church of the Province of Uganda

SEP 30	①	Lord, we exalt Your holy name. (Ps. 34:3)
	②	The people of Chetnole close and Bovington close
	③	Protect children from online exploitation and abuse.
	④	Diocese of Buhiga – The Anglican Church of Burundi

OCT 1	①	Open our eyes to Your Word today. (Ps. 119:18)
	②	Henbury close, Seatown close, All at Broadstone Middle
	③	Protect aid workers serving people in war zones.
	④	Diocese of Bujumbura – The Anglican Church of Burundi

OCT 2	①	Lord, make us hunger for Scripture. (Matt. 4:4)
	②	Creekmoor Councillors
	③	Give courage to those exposing injustice and corruption.
	④	Dioc. of Bukavu – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

OCT 3	①	Teach our church family through Your Word. (2 Tim 3:16)
	②	Southbrook close, Godmanston close and Hooke close
	③	Free those trapped by addiction to drugs and alcohol.
	④	Dioc. of Bukedi – The Church of the Province of Uganda

OCT 4	①	Write Your truth upon our hearts. (Jer. 31:33)
	②	The work of PACE (thepacetrust.blogspot.com)
	③	Protect women and children from domestic abuse.
	④	Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

OCT 5	①	May Your Word be our daily bread. (Job 23:12)
	②	Charlbury close, Totmel close, & Hooke close,
	③	Protect coastal communities from storms and flooding.
	④	Diocese of Bukuru – The Church of Nigeria

Praying for the New School Year

A new school, college or university year brings excitement, opportunities and, sometimes, worries. New teachers, new subjects, new friendships and unfamiliar situations can all feel daunting. Whether you are praying for a child, grandchild, student—or for yourself—there is no better place to begin than by placing the new education year into God's hands. Here are some things to pray for as a new year begins.

- **Peace when life feels overwhelming**

Pray that God will give them peace when pressures build, help them to bring their worries to Him, and remind them that He is always near. (Philippians 4:6–7; Isaiah 26:3)

- **Protection and wisdom**

Ask God to watch over them physically, emotionally and spiritually. Pray for wisdom to recognise what is good and true, courage to resist harmful influences, and confidence to seek God's help when they are uncertain. (Psalm 121:7–8; James 1:5; 1 Thess. 5:21–22)

- **Good friendships**

Pray that they will find friends who encourage them to make wise choices—and that they themselves will be a good and faithful friend. Ask God to help them notice those who are lonely or struggling and show them kindness. (Proverbs 13:20; John 13:34–35)

- **Strength to face challenges**

School and university life will not always be easy. Pray for perseverance when work is difficult, courage when they face disappointment, and the strength to keep going rather than give up. (Galatians 6:9; James 1:2–4)

- **A love of learning**

Ask God to give them curiosity, diligence and a desire to use the abilities He has given them well. Pray that success will make them grateful rather than proud, and that difficulties will teach them patience. (Proverbs 2:6; Colossians 3:23)

- **Faith that remains strong**

Perhaps most importantly, pray that their relationship with God will not be pushed into the background by studies, friendships or activities. Pray that they will know Christ, trust Him, read His Word and have the courage to live faithfully wherever they are. (Colossians 2:6–7; Romans 1:16; Psalm 119:105)

- **And remember the teachers, lecturers, support staff and school leaders.**

Pray that God will give them wisdom, patience, compassion and strength as they care for and educate others. (James 1:5; Galatians 6:9)

The new academic year may bring things we cannot predict, but none of them will surprise God. We can therefore pray with confidence, entrusting those we love to the One who goes with them wherever they go. (Deuteronomy 31:8; Proverbs 3:5–6)

Pray at the beginning of the year—but keep praying throughout it.

Our children and young people need more than our good wishes.

They need our prayers, and above all,
they need to know the God to whom we pray.