

DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

WISDOM

One of the very specific commands God gives us is to ask Him for WISDOM. This week we're going to focus on gaining God's wisdom versus worldly wisdom. And along with gaining wisdom, you will discover a list of other benefits that you can receive. God says wisdom is a hidden mystery until you ask for it, and then it becomes life changing.



DAY 1

HOW TO GET WISDOM

"WHERE THEN DOES WISDOM COME FROM? WHERE DOES UNDERSTANDING DWELL? ...GOD UNDERSTANDS THE WAY TO IT AND HE ALONE KNOWS WHERE IT DWELLS..."

-JOB FROM THE LAND OF UZ

New International Version

Proverbs 9:10-11 & 2:6

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. ... For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

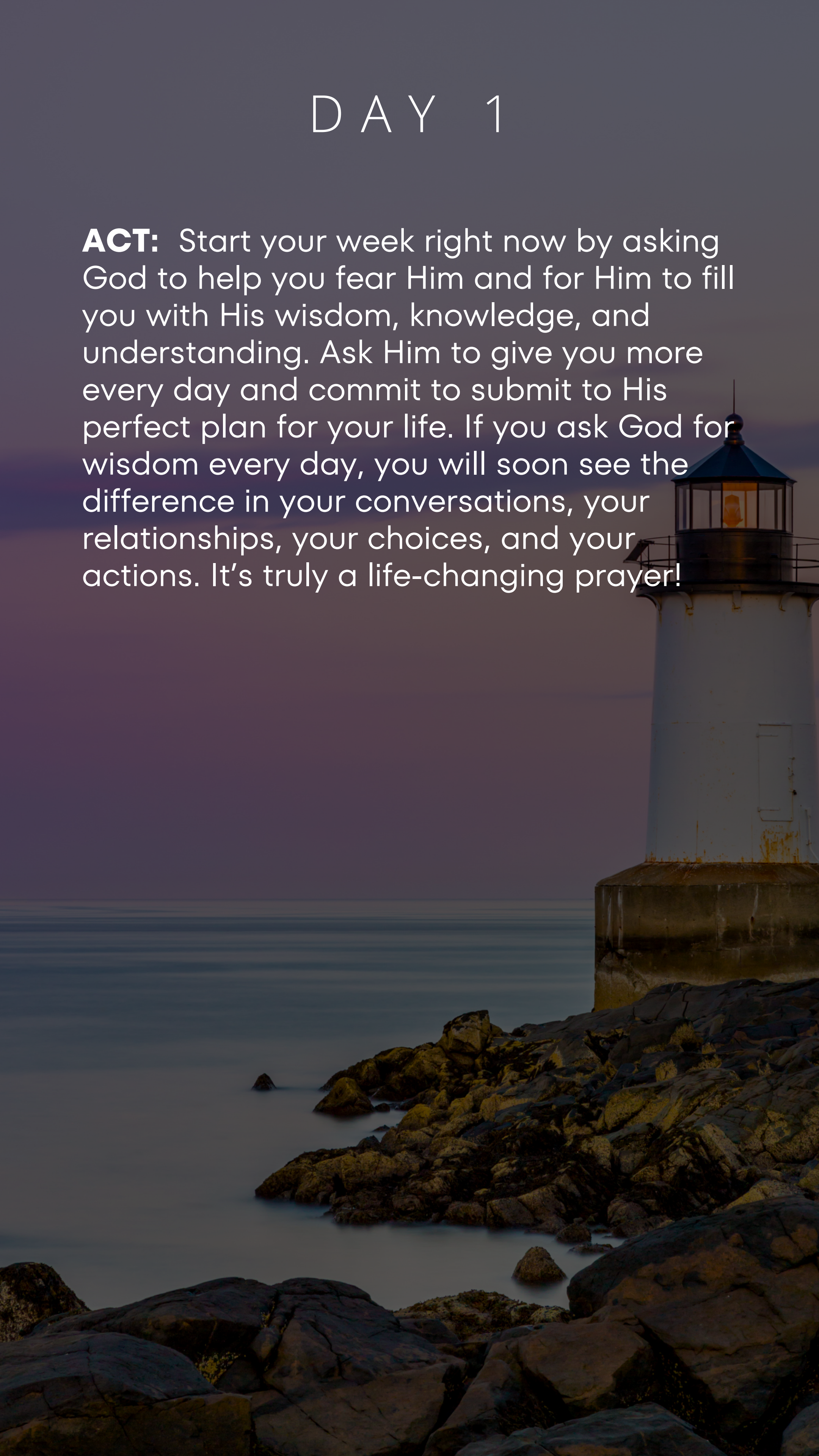
DAY 1

PRAY: Oh Lord, I am excited to start my week focused on wisdom by thanking You that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of You is understanding. Please help me to understand Your wisdom, for I want my days to be many and for You to add years to my life. Lord, I acknowledge that I can only get wisdom, knowledge and understanding from You, so I ask now that You can fill me up to the brim. I want to live a life of making wise decisions in all that I do. Thank You for being so faithful. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

REFLECT: What a humble but freeing insight to realize that we can't be smart enough, wise, or clever enough on our own. We could get a Ph.D. or study the great, wise people of the past and still not gain wisdom. God is the only one who can give us divine knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, if we ask Him. So, how do we get smarter and wiser in His ways? First, we get to know God, then we fear Him—which means we are in awe of God and have tremendous respect for Him—and then we ask Him to give us His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Then our days will be many, and years will be added to our life!

DAY 1

ACT: Start your week right now by asking God to help you fear Him and for Him to fill you with His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Ask Him to give you more every day and commit to submit to His perfect plan for your life. If you ask God for wisdom every day, you will soon see the difference in your conversations, your relationships, your choices, and your actions. It's truly a life-changing prayer!



DAY 2

WISDOM IS BETTER THAN RICHES

"LIFE IS WASTED IF WE DO NOT GRASP THE GLORY OF THE CROSS, CHERISH IT FOR THE TREASURE THAT IT IS, AND CLEAVE TO IT AS THE HIGHEST PRICE OF EVERY PLEASURE AND THE DEEPEST COMFORT IN EVERY PAIN. WHAT WAS ONCE FOOLISHNESS TO US—A CRUCIFIED GOD—MUST BECOME OUR WISDOM AND OUR POWER AND OUR ONLY BOAST IN THIS WORLD."

-JOHN PIPER

New International Version

Proverbs 16:16 & 8:11

How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver! ...for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

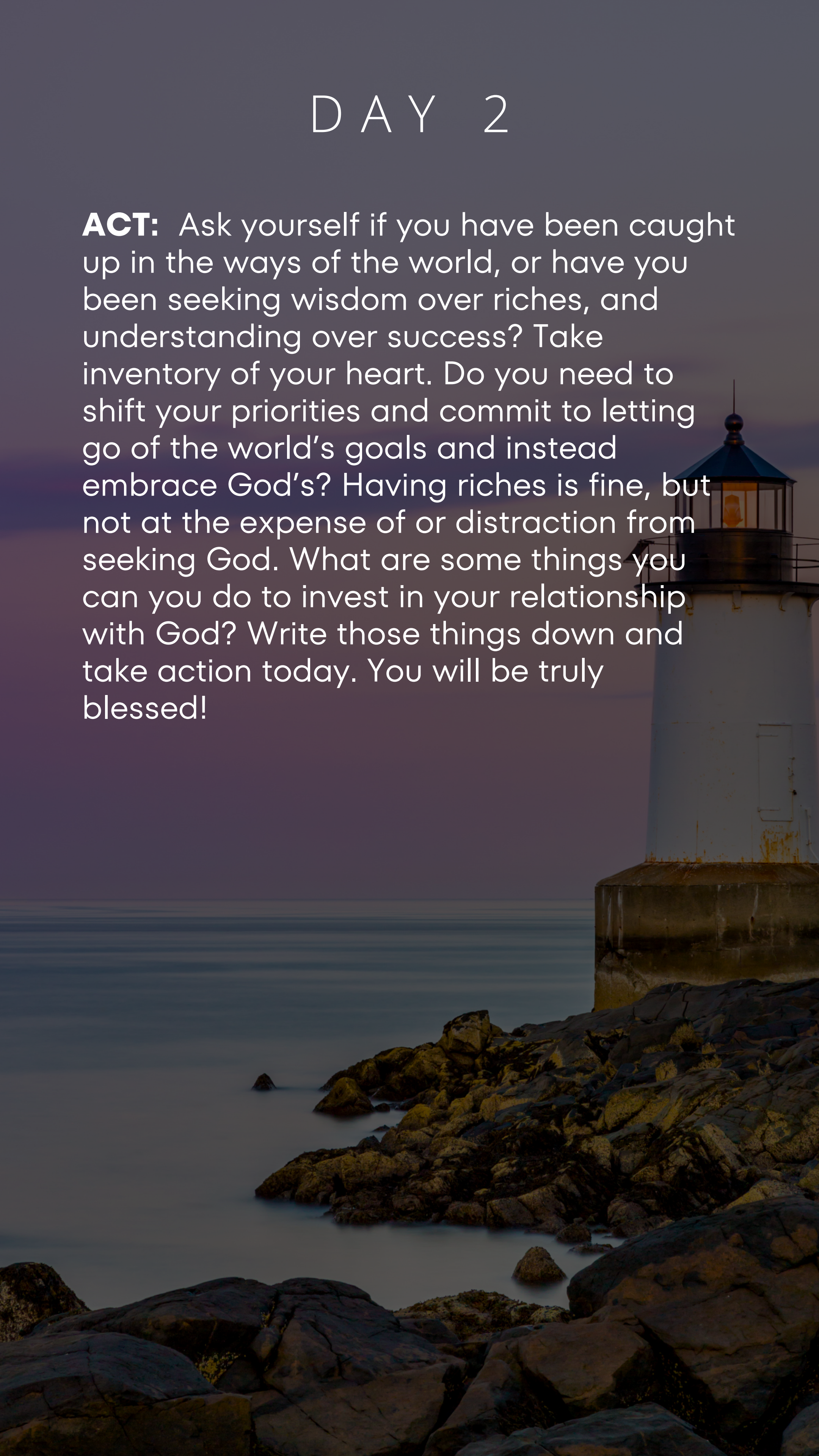
DAY 2

PRAY: Dear Father, help me to remember that Your wisdom is much better than acquiring gold, and Your insight is better than getting silver. Your wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing that I desire on this earth is better than wisdom. Oh Lord, fill me with understanding so that I will seek You and not strive for things that the world says are important or valuable. I want to be wise, for nothing compares to her. In Jesus' name! Amen.

REFLECT: These Proverbs are a great reminder of another of God's truths: man's ways are opposite of God's ways. Our culture teaches us that we need to make more money, build up our savings, set up a 401K, acquire real estate and gain riches. And if we don't, we tend to be scared for our future. But God tells us that His wisdom is better than gold or precious rubies, and to choose understanding is more important than having silver. People who seek God's wisdom are blessed and nothing you desire can compare with her.

DAY 2

ACT: Ask yourself if you have been caught up in the ways of the world, or have you been seeking wisdom over riches, and understanding over success? Take inventory of your heart. Do you need to shift your priorities and commit to letting go of the world's goals and instead embrace God's? Having riches is fine, but not at the expense of or distraction from seeking God. What are some things you can you do to invest in your relationship with God? Write those things down and take action today. You will be truly blessed!



DAY 3

WALK IN WISDOM OR REMAIN A FOOL

"THE FOOL DOTH THINK HE IS WISE, BUT
THE WISE MAN KNOWS HIMSELF TO BE A
FOOL."

-WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

New International Version

Proverbs 12:15, 13:10 & 28:26

A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.... Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. ... He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.



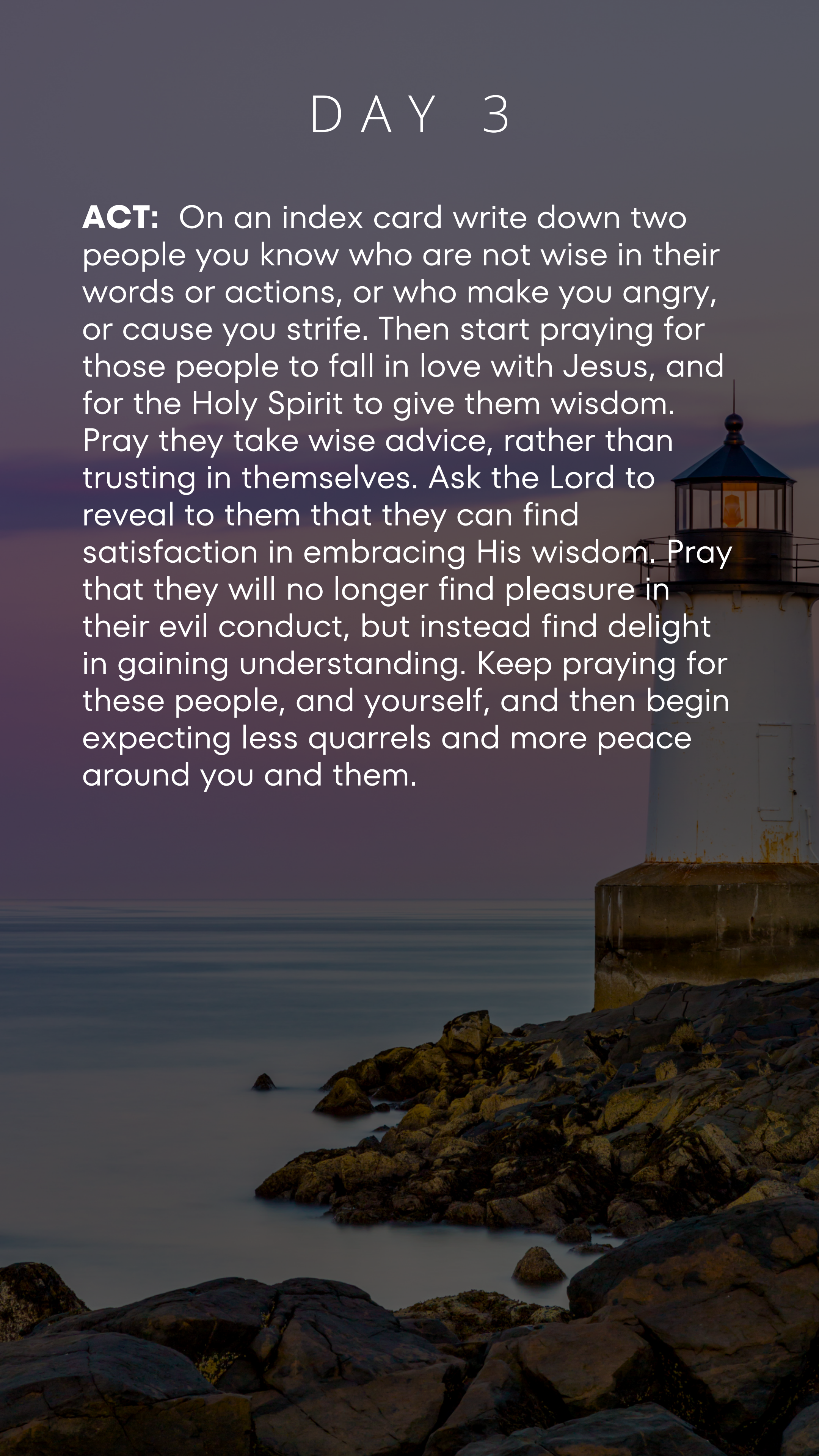
DAY 3

PRAY: Father in heaven, don't let me find pleasure in evil conduct. I want to listen to wise advice. I don't want to cause strife or be proud. You tell me that I will be wise if I take advice, and I will be kept safe if I walk in wisdom. Oh Lord, don't let me be a fool! Please give me understanding and let me delight in wisdom. I want to walk in wisdom and live a Christ-like life. Thank You for answering my prayer. Amen.

REFLECT: Have you ever realized that people who cause strife, or those who are proud, have no wisdom? Do you see that the difference between a fool who finds pleasure in wicked schemes and a person who has understanding, is wisdom! We need to pray for the difficult people in our lives to know God so that they can grow in their understanding of Him and gain wisdom. Don't get angry at them, or quarrel, or call them fools, rather pray that the Holy Spirit will come into their hearts and give them wisdom. Difficult people need to know God. They need to be prayed for, not judged. And in doing that, you are practicing wisdom.

DAY 3

ACT: On an index card write down two people you know who are not wise in their words or actions, or who make you angry, or cause you strife. Then start praying for those people to fall in love with Jesus, and for the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom. Pray they take wise advice, rather than trusting in themselves. Ask the Lord to reveal to them that they can find satisfaction in embracing His wisdom. Pray that they will no longer find pleasure in their evil conduct, but instead find delight in gaining understanding. Keep praying for these people, and yourself, and then begin expecting less quarrels and more peace around you and them.



DAY 4

LOVE THE LORD'S WISDOM

"NOT UNTIL WE HAVE BECOME HUMBLE AND TEACHABLE, STANDING IN AWE OF GOD'S HOLINESS AND SOVEREIGNTY. ACKNOWLEDGING OUR OWN LITTLENESS, DISTRUSTING OUR OWN THOUGHTS, AND WILLING TO HAVE OUR MINDS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, CAN DIVINE WISDOM BECOME OURS."

-J.I. PACKER

New International Version

Psalms 119:97-100

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.

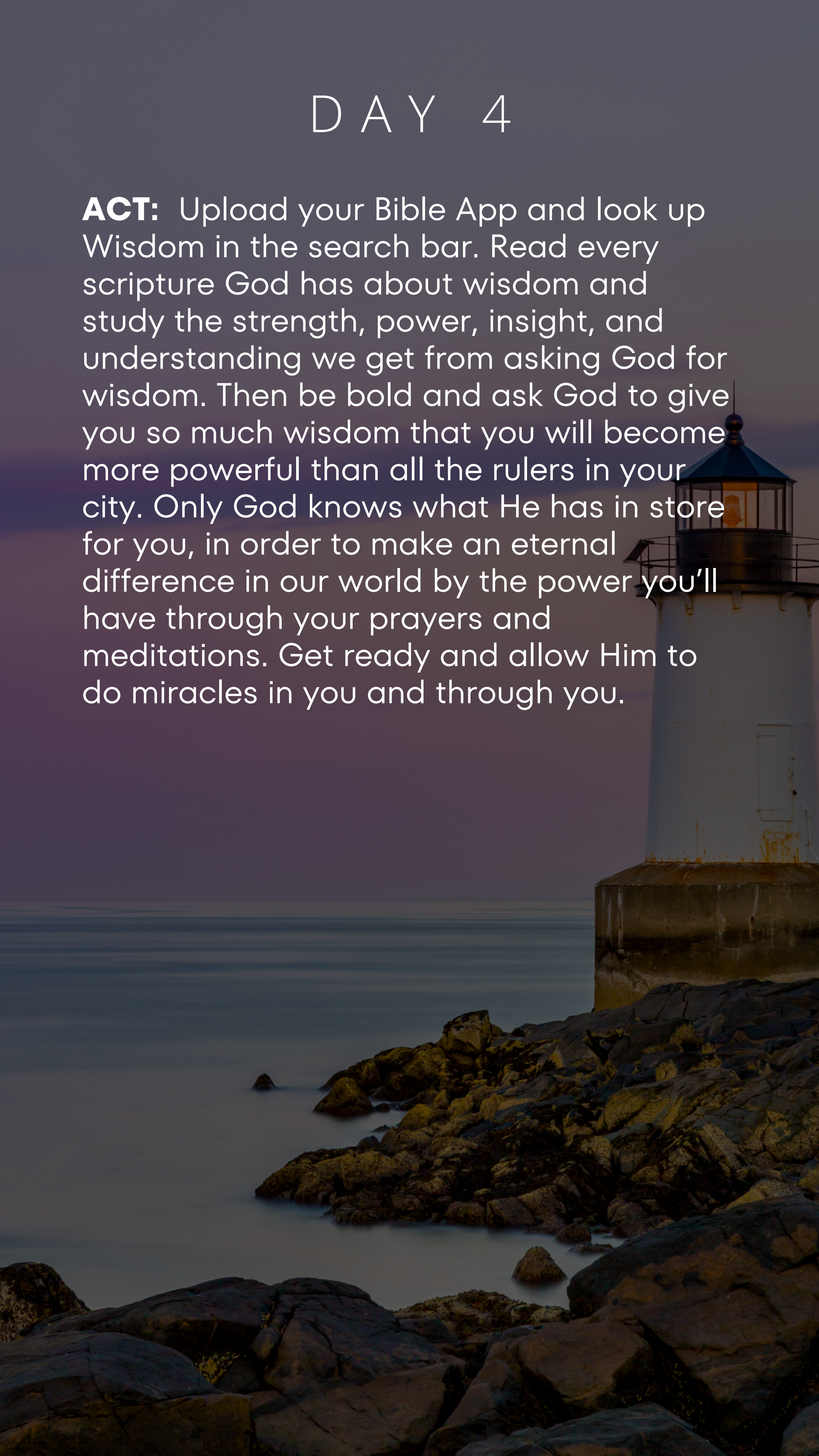
DAY 4

PRAY: Dear Lord, how I love Your law! Help me to meditate on it all day long, and Your commands are ever with me. Please make me wise. I want to learn your commandments so that I am wiser than my enemies, have more insight than all my teachers, and more understanding than the elders. I know that I need to obey Your precepts and to meditate on Your statutes. Thank You for helping me to have more understanding, Lord, Amen.

REFLECT: Reflect on the difference between being a mighty warrior by physical training or a powerful leader through information and manipulation, versus being a mighty warrior by meditating on God's law all day long. The world tells us to work out, train, and become either physically or intellectually more powerful than the people around us. God says to love His law and to meditate on it. He wants us to get excited about His commandments in order to become wiser than our enemies. Contemplate God's statutes and obey His principles and gain God's wisdom! Pray to become a Mighty Warrior Attack Sheep!

DAY 4

ACT: Upload your Bible App and look up Wisdom in the search bar. Read every scripture God has about wisdom and study the strength, power, insight, and understanding we get from asking God for wisdom. Then be bold and ask God to give you so much wisdom that you will become more powerful than all the rulers in your city. Only God knows what He has in store for you, in order to make an eternal difference in our world by the power you'll have through your prayers and meditations. Get ready and allow Him to do miracles in you and through you.



DAY 5

ASK FOR WISDOM FROM GOD

"BEFORE READING THE BIBLE, ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GRANT YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION THAT YOU MAY SPIRITUALLY DISCERN THE TRUTH FOUND IN ITS PAGES."

-PATRICIA KING

New International Version

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Luke 21:15

For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

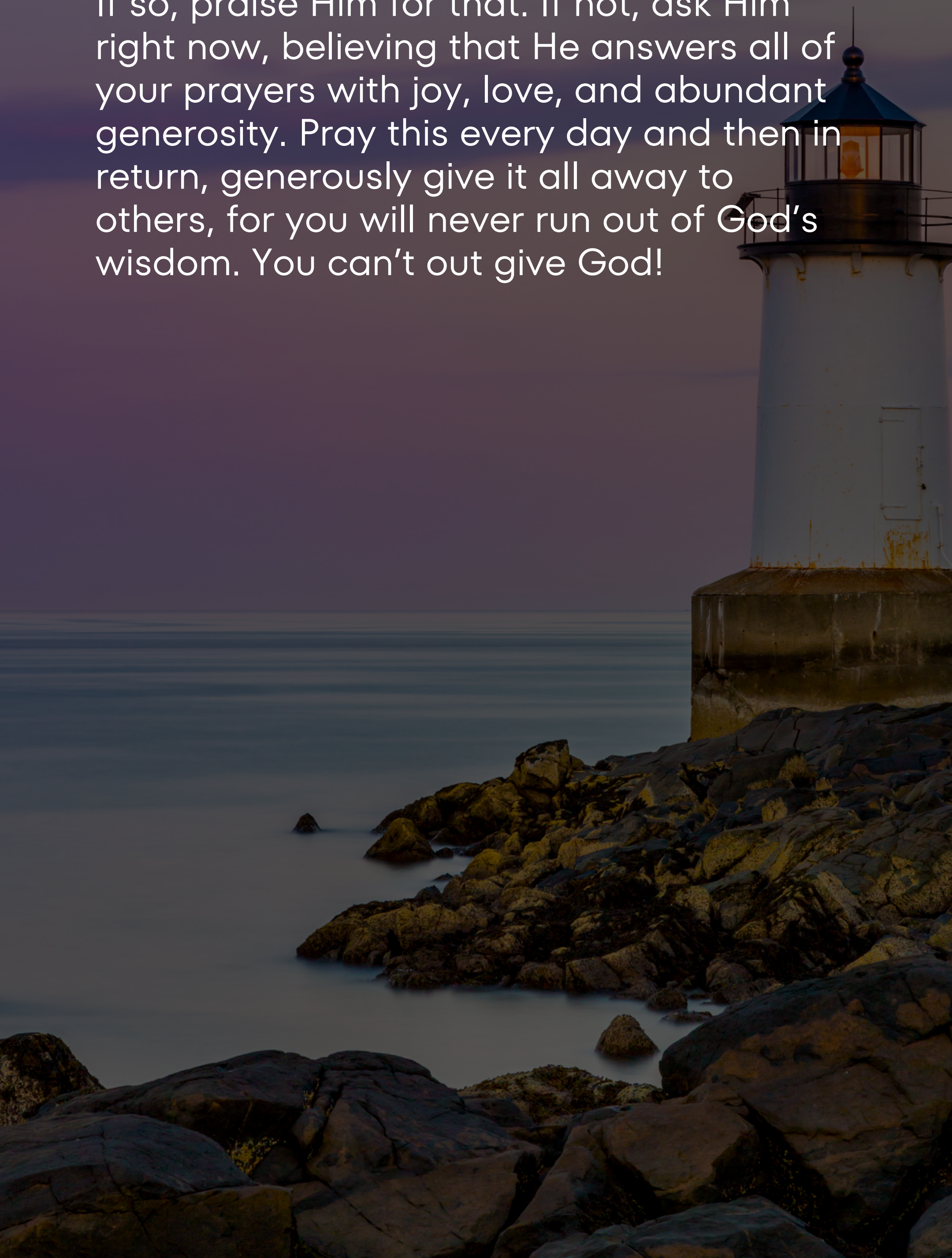
DAY 5

PRAY: God, right now I'm asking You to generously give me wisdom, without finding fault with me. I am asking for wisdom that none of my adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. And please fill me again with Your Spirit and with wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. I want to be the best person and child of God that I can be. Since I know I lack wisdom, I'm coming to You to change that. I know that You will give it to me, and I thank You, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

REFLECT: The more scripture we study, seeking wisdom, the more wisdom we find God giving us. Just like Solomon, who asked for wisdom and got everything the world had to offer and everything God had to offer, we find here that when we ask for wisdom, the same is available to us. We get wisdom that God gives us generously, without finding any fault in us. Isn't that amazing!? Ask and we can get wisdom our adversaries can't resist or contradict, and we can become filled with the Spirit of God, with understanding and knowledge! Why wouldn't we commit to ask for wisdom every single day?!

DAY 5

ACT: Do you know that you are filled with the Spirit of God? Have you asked for wisdom? Do you believe that God has given you understanding and knowledge? If so, praise Him for that. If not, ask Him right now, believing that He answers all of your prayers with joy, love, and abundant generosity. Pray this every day and then in return, generously give it all away to others, for you will never run out of God's wisdom. You can't out give God!



DAY 6

WHAT IS WISDOM?

"IN LIFE, ALL GOOD THINGS COME HARD, BUT WISDOM IS THE HARDEST TO COME BY."

-LUCILLE BALL

New International Version

James 3:16-17

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

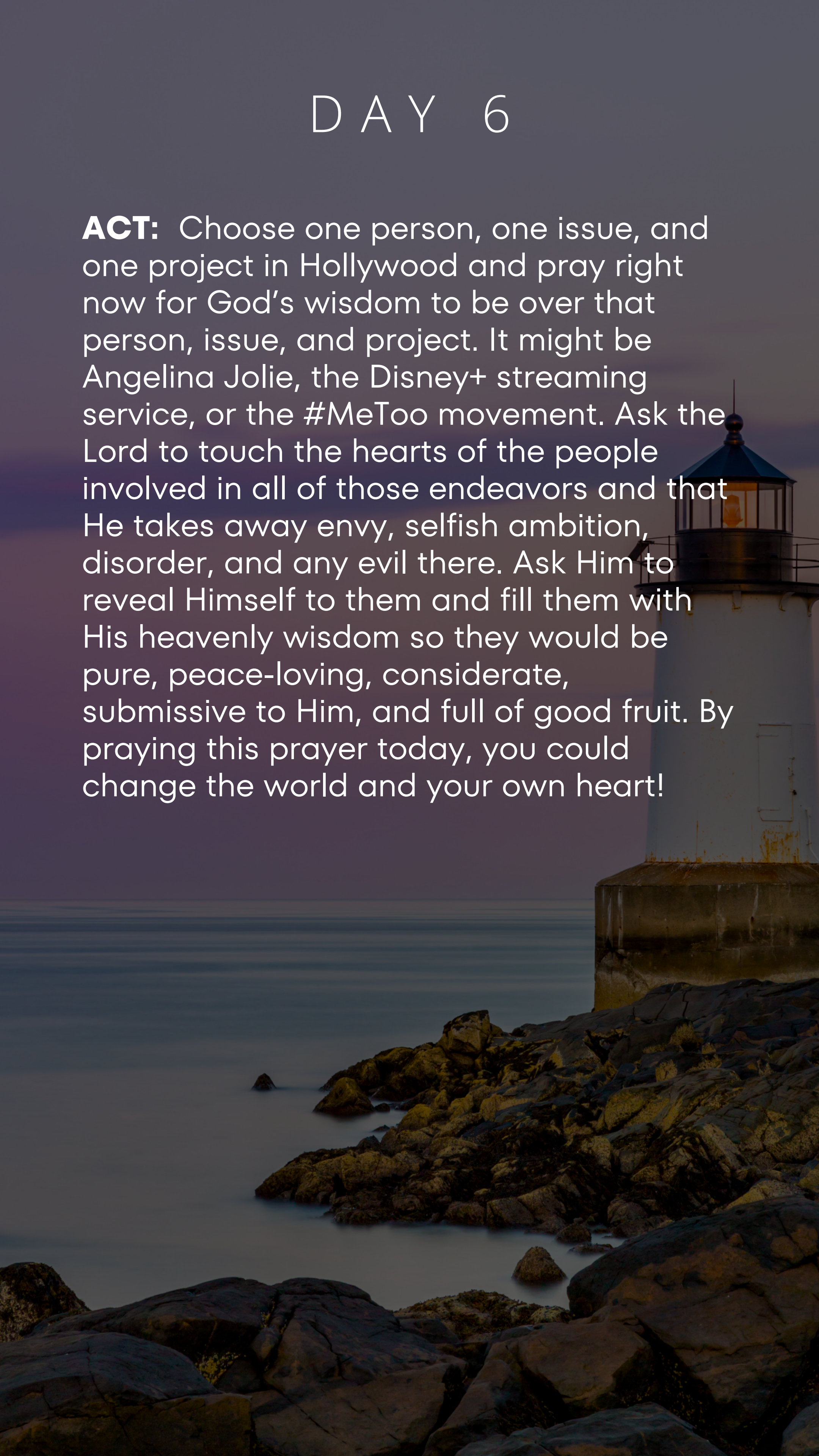
DAY 6

PRAY: Dear heavenly Father, I want to be wise in praying for the people in Hollywood, who are known for being selfish, ambitious, and even for practicing every kind of evil. I pray today that You will pour Your wisdom down from heaven upon all of the TV and film actors, directors, writers, producers, editors, executives, cinematographers, video game creators, musicians, and agents. Please give them the desire to be peace-loving, considerate, submissive to You, full of mercy and good fruit, and to be impartial and sincere. Lord, I pray a prayer of blessing on all the people in Hollywood, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

REFLECT: It's easier to apply scripture to ourselves than to pray for others to follow God. Have you ever thought that James was also written for the people in Hollywood, California? All across the globe people are full of envy and selfish ambition. Yes, in Hollywood there is disorder and every evil practice. But wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere. Will you pray for the people, projects and issues in the world's most influential mission field--Hollywood?

DAY 6

ACT: Choose one person, one issue, and one project in Hollywood and pray right now for God's wisdom to be over that person, issue, and project. It might be Angelina Jolie, the Disney+ streaming service, or the #MeToo movement. Ask the Lord to touch the hearts of the people involved in all of those endeavors and that He takes away envy, selfish ambition, disorder, and any evil there. Ask Him to reveal Himself to them and fill them with His heavenly wisdom so they would be pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive to Him, and full of good fruit. By praying this prayer today, you could change the world and your own heart!



DAY 7

WISDOM IS HIDDEN IN CHRIST

"CHRIST IS THE PHYSICAL
MANIFESTATION OF GOD-GIVEN
WISDOM, AND WITH OUR
KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD AND BY
THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE
HAVE ACCESS TO THIS WISDOM."

-ANDREA LUCADO

New International Version

1 Corinthians 2:7

We declare God's wisdom, a mystery that
has been hidden and that God destined for
our glory before time began...

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as
you teach and admonish one another with
all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns
and spiritual songs with gratitude in your
hearts to God.



DAY 7

PRAY: Lord Jesus, on this last day of studying wisdom I want to experience Your secret wisdom that has been hidden and that You destined for my glory. May the word of Christ dwell richly among my family, my friends and me. I ask that You help us teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through Your Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Help me, my family, and my friends to sing to You with gratitude in our hearts. Thank you, Lord Jesus that You destined us for glory before time began. Amen.

REFLECT: Think about 1 Corinthians 2:7. Paul tells us that we have to “declare God’s wisdom” because even today, it is often a mystery that has been hidden from man, but God has destined it for our glory, even before time began. In Colossians 3:16, He tells us to “let the word of Christ dwell richly in you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom.” We’re should do that with hearts of gratitude, as we sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs!

DAY 7

ACT: Choose a psalm, hymn, or song that you can read or sing to God. Now read it or sing it out loud, with gratitude in your heart, and praise Him for giving you the mysterious wisdom that most men never discover. Thank Him that He has destined it for your glory, for you to be filled with divine wisdom. Thank God that as you sing and read scripture and learn hymns, you are being filled up with wisdom and becoming mature. Maybe you can make a habit of doing this. Now go out into the world, filled with God's rich wisdom that will make you more powerful than your adversaries, and be full of gratitude in your heart!

