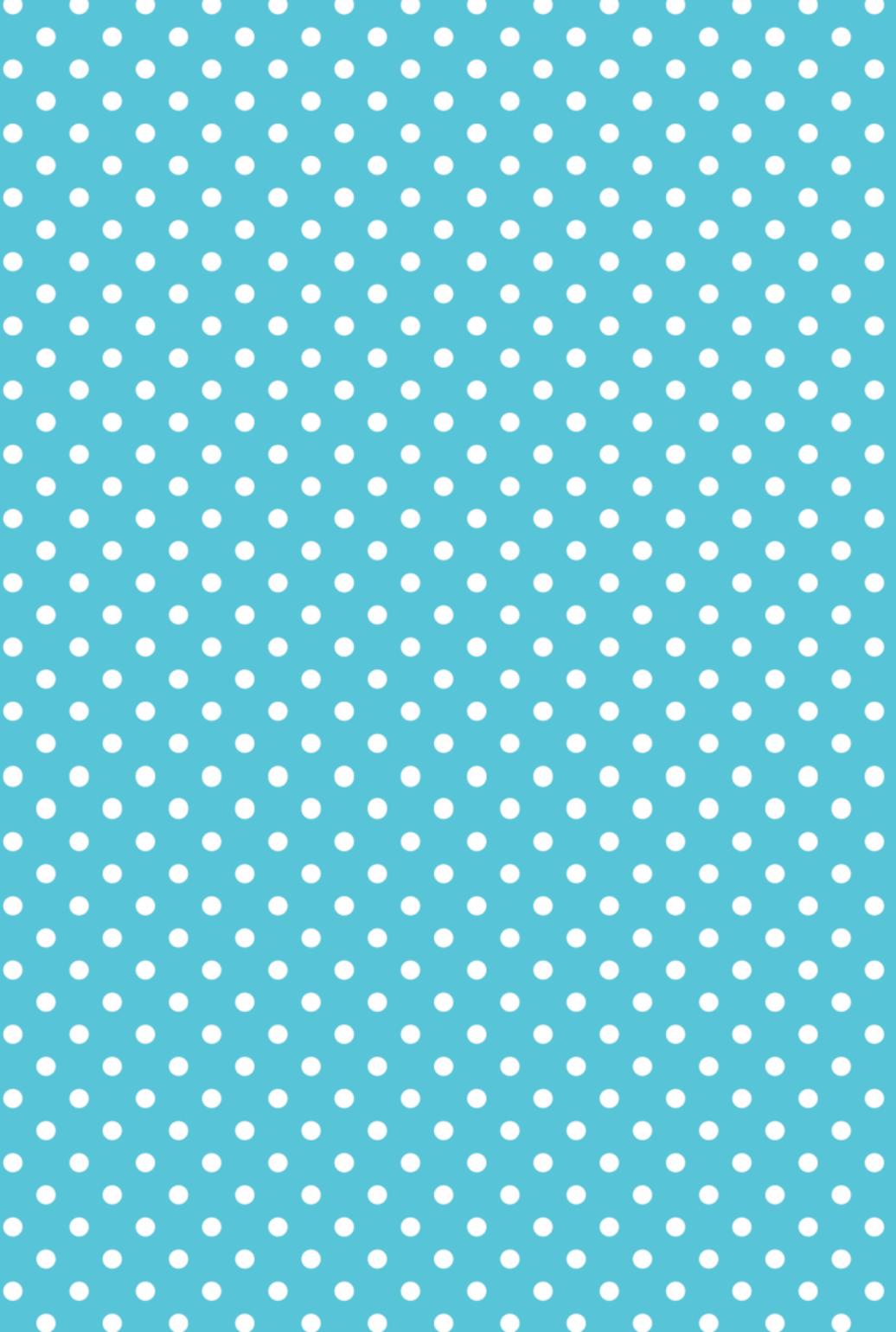


52 Devotions to  
Uplift & Encourage

you've  
got this!  
(because God's  
got you)

KariAnne Wood

you've  
got this!  
(because God's  
got you)



52 Devotions to  
Uplift & Encourage

you've  
got this!  
(because God's  
got you)

KariAnne Wood



*The nonfiction imprint of  
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.*

Visit Tyndale online at [www.tyndale.com](http://www.tyndale.com).

Visit Tyndale Momentum online at [www.tyndalemomentum.com](http://www.tyndalemomentum.com).

Visit the author's website at [www.thistlewoodfarms.com](http://www.thistlewoodfarms.com).

*TYNDALE*, *Tyndale Momentum*, and Tyndale's quill logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. The Tyndale Momentum logo is a trademark of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Tyndale Momentum is the nonfiction imprint of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois.

*You've Got This (Because God's Got You): 52 Devotions to Uplift and Encourage*

Copyright © 2018 by KariAnne Wood. All rights reserved.

Cover photograph of linen texture copyright © andersphoto/Adobe Stock. All rights reserved.

Interior illustrations of seamless patterns copyright © ulimi/Getty Images. All rights reserved.

Designed by Libby Dykstra

Edited by Stephanie Rische

Published in association with the literary agency of William K. Jensen Literary Agency, 119 Bampton Court, Eugene, OR 97404

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, *New International Version*,<sup>®</sup> *NIV*.<sup>®</sup> Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.<sup>®</sup> (Some quotations may be from the earlier NIV edition, copyright © 1984.) Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version,<sup>®</sup> copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact Tyndale House Publishers at [csresponse@tyndale.com](mailto:csresponse@tyndale.com), or call 1-800-323-9400.

ISBN 978-1-4964-3064-9

Printed in China

24 23 22 21 20 19 18  
7 6 5 4 3 2 1



## Introduction

### I ALMOST MISSED IT.

In the middle of a day filled with the busyness of life—a trip to the craft store and five yards of orange pom-pom fringe and a hair “don’t” of oddly bobby-pinned bangs and stacks of dishes and ten minutes spent chasing the dog around the yard—it almost got lost.

A tiny pink Post-it note.

With its crumpled edges peeking out from behind the computer, it looked a little bedraggled. I tugged at the corner of the note, pulled it loose, and smiled. Scrawled across the small square were the encouraging words my daughter had written and then tucked away for

me to find. It read “You’ve got this, Mom” next to a sideways smiley face.

And she was right. I had this—because God was there first.

The truth?

Sometimes life can be challenging and overwhelming as we gaze out at the storm clouds circling in the distance. Sometimes the road ahead isn’t one we would have chosen, and our hearts are heavy. Sometimes the burdens we’re carrying are crushing us under their heavy load. And sometimes?

God seems so far away.

This book is a collection of devotionals that remind us that God is always by our side. He wants to lift our burdens and dispel the storm clouds and ease our heavy loads. He loves us when we feel unlovable. He lifts us up and gives us a peace that passes all understanding. And in the midnight of every dark moment, God is there.

This is my prayer for you: I pray that the words written on these pages would pour joy into your heart and fill you with comfort and reassurance. I pray that your weary spirit would

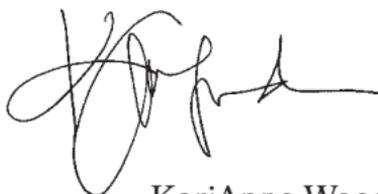
be encouraged and uplifted and restored. I pray that this message will speak to your heart and remind you of the unconditional love God offers to you every single day.

This book can be used in whatever way fits you in this season of life. There are fifty-two devotions, and I invite you to read one each week throughout the year. You may also want to pick the topics that fit what you're going through right now, or you can simply read the book cover to cover at your own pace. May the devotionals on these pages remind you that you are not alone. God is with you always.

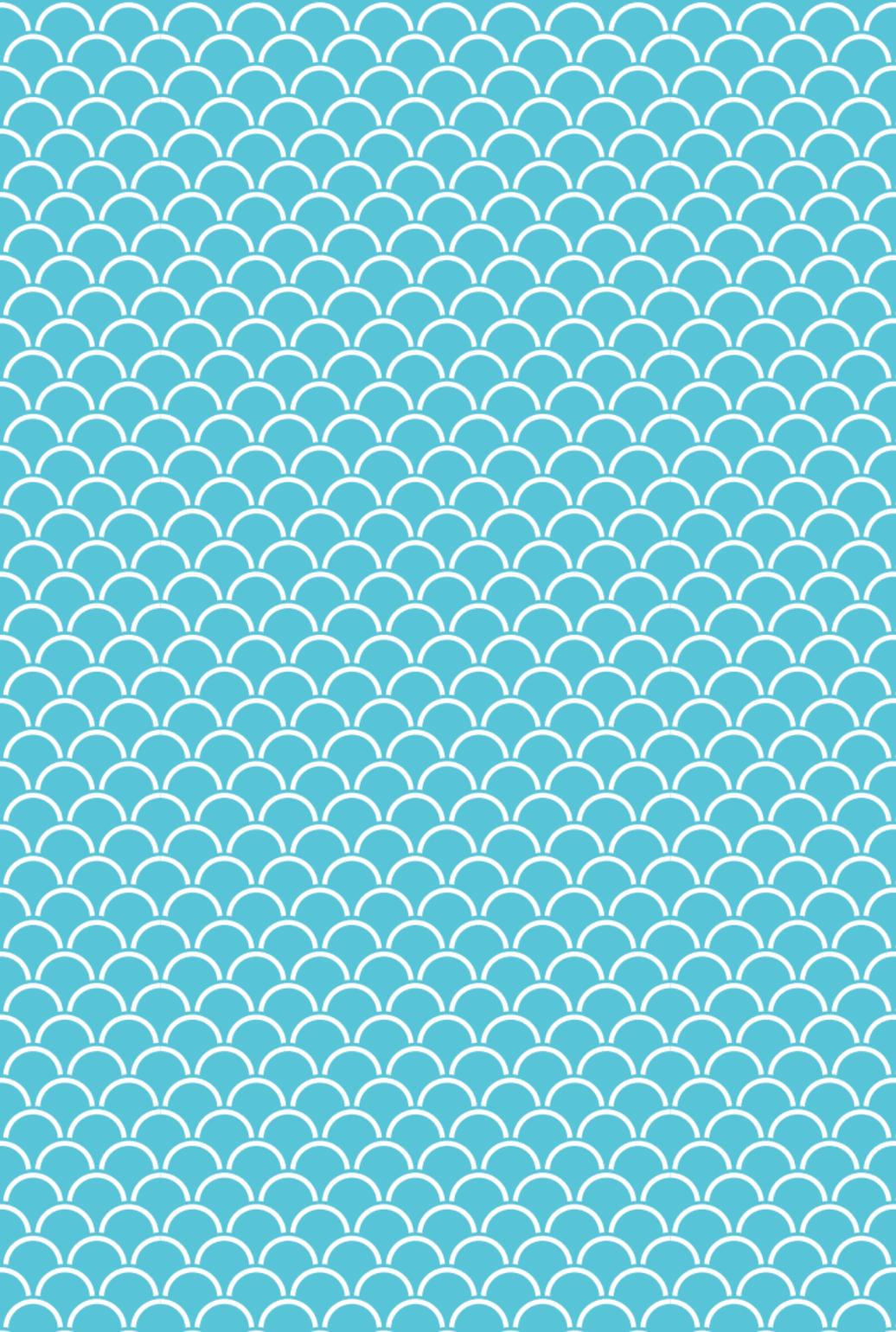
Lay down your challenges and your burdens.

Lay down your tiredness and your weariness and all your tomorrows.

And rest in his promises . . . because God's got you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KariAnne Wood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KariAnne Wood





# Because Some Days Are Poodle-Haired

*This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

PSALM 118:24

**YESTERDAY WAS JUST** one of those days—a day when everything went wrong and nothing went right. I overcurled my hair so it closely resembled a poodle's and forgot to set the timer on the coffee-maker and ran into a sticky spiderweb and just missed the 90-percent-off sale in the clearance aisle at Hobby Lobby. I awkwardly wasn't funny when I thought I was going to be, and on five different occasions I opened my mouth and inserted my foot.

I was still frowning when I arrived to pick up my daughter Whitney from basketball practice that afternoon. As she slowly climbed into the car, I sighed impatiently. Then I made my way down the back roads to our farmhouse while the same thought kept spinning around in my head like a chorus in a song: *Why?* I thought. *Why did a day like this have to happen to me? Where's the sunshine?*

When we pulled up to the house, I grabbed my bags, shut the door, and stomped up the sidewalk. I got to the top step of the porch, turned around, and yelled across the yard: “Whitney! Where are you? We only have a few minutes before we have to leave for your brother’s game. WE ARE GOING TO BE LATE.”

A tiny giggle came from behind the car. “Hold on, Mom. I’ll be there in just a sec.” Then Whitney bounded up the sidewalk, grinning from ear to ear.

“Wait until you see this!” she said, holding out her phone. “You won’t even believe it.”

Irritated, I glanced down, expecting to see a social media post or a joke or something she thought was funny.

But instead?

It was a photograph she'd just taken of the sky overhead—an incredible, amazing, awe-inspiring glimpse of God's handiwork, with beams of sunlight dancing through the clouds. My anger melted away. This glorious scene had been unfolding in the sky before me, and I'd been so focused on myself and my hair and my clearance-aisle mishap that I almost missed the amazing right in front of me.

How often do we turn our gaze inward and overlook the beauty our heavenly Father has prepared for us? How often do we concentrate on the things of this world instead of turning our eyes to what's truly important?

Whatever you're facing today, take time to look up and remember that God's big enough to handle it. Even if your hair has gone poodle on you.

YOU'VE GOT THIS (BECAUSE GOD'S GOT YOU)



*Dear Lord, help me to turn my focus on you.  
Even on days when the storm clouds gather,  
I know you have your hand on me. Amen.*



# The Day I Forgot My Skirt

*As the clay is in the potter's hand,  
so are you in my hand.*

JEREMIAH 18:6, NLT

## I STARTED MY BLOG WITH LOFTY AMBITIONS.

I had big plans. I was going to write a blog about decorating—the kind of decorating you read about in magazines. I was going to opine on neutrals and how to fit them into your decor. I was going to discuss in great detail the height of a chandelier over the dining room table. The blog would be full of well-written posts on color choices and design trends and why shag carpeting was so 1972.

I knew I needed to start with pictures. But

the only camera I owned was the kind you threw away after you used it, so I hired a photographer to come to my house and take photographs of my Christmas decorations. When the pictures came back, I was in awe. They were the most beautiful photographs I'd ever seen.

I couldn't wait to show them to the world.

I gathered my photographs and my courage and my overflowing bucket of optimism and sat down at the computer to write the first post. I uploaded the first picture and started typing a lengthy essay on how gray and silver were the go-to Christmas colors of that year. And then? I noticed something that made me cringe—something that made me hang my head and rethink my entire blogging career.

There in the photo was the living room with its decked halls. The garlands were wrapped around the banister. The stockings were hung by the mantel. And in the very center of the room, under my tree where a tree skirt should have been, were the most gigantic plastic tree-stand feet you've ever seen in your entire life.

Somewhere along the way, I'd forgotten my Christmas tree skirt.

The blog I started wasn't the one I intended to publish. Instead, I wrote about imperfection and decorating mistakes and the fact that my Christmas tree was naked at the bottom. And with every line, every word, every misstep, I found my voice.

God created us all to be unique. He is the potter; we are the clay. He gave each of us talents and gifts and our own individual strengths. God never intended for us to compare ourselves with others or to long to be like someone else. He wants each of us to embrace the person he designed us to be.

Even if you have a Christmas tree that needs to get dressed.



*Lord, thank you for making me unique.  
Thank you for the gifts you've given me.  
Let me use those gifts to honor you today. Amen.*

God never intended for  
us to compare ourselves  
with others or long to be  
like someone else.

He wants each  
of us to embrace  
the person he  
designed us to be.