

LEADING HEARTS

EMPOWERING CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP

♥ **REACHING FAMILIES WHO SERVE**

with Karen Whiting

♥ **OVERCOME**
INTERNET BRAIN DRAIN

♥ *Hollyn*—**IN ALL HONESTY**

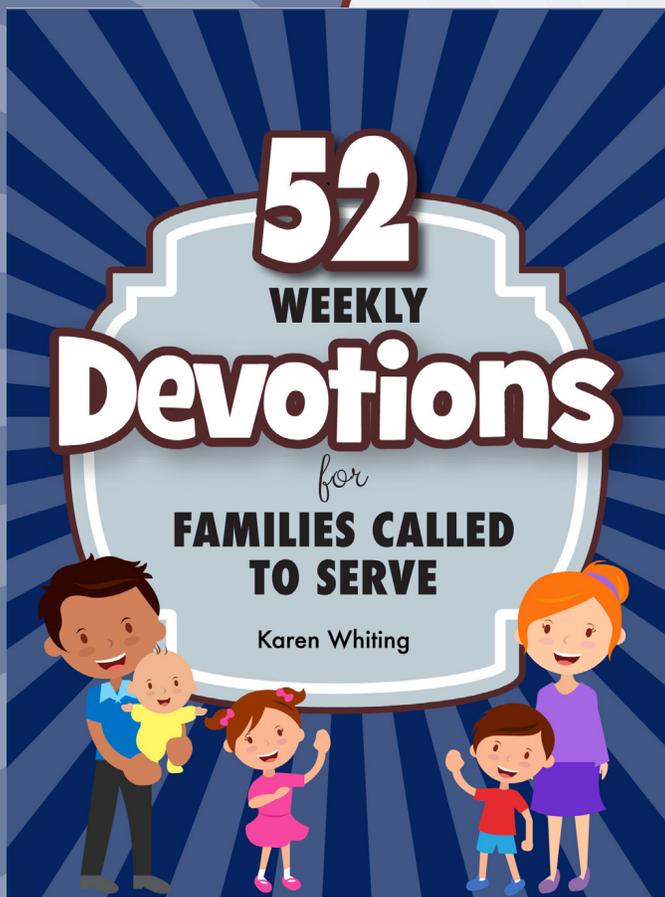
♥ **WHEN WEARY**
IS ALL YOU GOT

Impossible Faith!
How is God Challenge You to Trust Him?



Family Devotions Made Easy!

Enjoy having 52 weekly family devotions that you can do in as little as 5 minutes!



Families with military personnel, policemen, fire fighters, EMTs, and other first responders have unique needs and face particular challenges—especially if service means time spent apart.

Learn to face those challenges as a family with this thoughtful devotional.

52 Weekly Devotions for Families

Called to Serve gives you a plan to nurture your family's calling to serve through faith with 5-minute devotionals and optional questions and activities to use throughout the week.

Perfect for children ages 4–12. The activities range from easy (preschool) to more thoughtful (middle school). So, you can engage with your children at their age level!



5-Minute Devotions
and Bible Reading



Optional Chat Prompts
That Will Get Your Family
Excited to Talk about God!



Fun Family
Activities

By best selling author
Karen Whiting!

ROSE
KiDZ



I hope every family who reads this devotional thrives more, bonds more, serves more, and learns more about themselves and God.



Karen Whiting
**REACHING FAMILIES
WHO SERVE**

“AS WE WERE GROWING UP, THERE WERE TRAGEDIES THAT MY GRANDFATHER, THE FIRE CHIEF, HAD TO DEAL WITH— BUT COULDN’T TALK ABOUT. I remember the silence after the night that my grandfather responded to an accident that killed one of my friend’s parents. Because I couldn’t talk to my grandfather about my feelings, I did talk to God. But still, my fear was a lot for me, or for any child, to process,” says veteran author and speaker Karen Whiting.

Her memory of her longing to explore her feelings as a child is what inspired Karen to open the conversation about the importance of service careers as well as the unique needs of first responders and their families in her 26th book—*52 Weekly Devotions for Families Called to Serve*.

Growing Families in the Word

The devotional, which released in September, features 52 topics for families called to serve in the military, mission field, law enforcement and other services. Each devo includes a hands-on activity like creating a craft or volunteering at a soup kitchen. The book also consists of two- to four-minute Bible lessons with tools to help prompt parents

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to continue the conversation throughout the week.

Karen's hope is that families who read this "Do-votional" will thrive more, bond more, serve more, as they learn more about themselves and about God."

A Heart of Service

A legacy of service is deeply rooted in Karen's family, considering that not only was her grandfather a fireman, her father had served in the military during World War II, her mother was a nurse, her husband served in the Coast Guard and her sons also served in the military. But in reviewing her family's service record, the thing Karen is most proud of is that her children are all are dedicated to serving God and others.

Early on, Karen made it a priority to model servant-like behavior to her young children. Yes, she knew



it was important to not only read them devotionals, but to teach them how to engage in acts of service. That's why she enlisted her kids to accompany her whenever she volunteered in their community. She found that by leading her kids into acts of kindness, their times of devotional reading became even more meaningful.

In Karen's book, *52 Weekly Devotions for Families Called to Serve*, she writes stories to encourage the readers to serve as well. For example, when Hurricane Irma wreaked damage to the home of a young family, Social Services deemed the home



unsafe for their newborn baby. A service worker learned about their situation and contacted FEMA on their behalf. Not only did UMCOR send a team to repair the nursery, members of their community volunteered to help. Soon, the new parents got to bring their baby to a home that was safe for parents and child. This story is but one example of tales of real-life people who have learned to have the heart of a servant.

A Legacy of Faithfulness

Karen's heart to share God's stories of faithfulness with families is at the heart of every devotional she writes. Her family has lived through four lightning strikes, two spontaneous fires and two separate hurricanes.

During Hurricane Andrew, Karen's family lost half their house and had to rebuild. During that time of recovery, she wrote devotionals for her family on the story of Nehemiah and how he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Having her children connect with this Bible story showed them God's faithfulness — and pulled them closer to Him. That kind of relationship with God is what Karen desires to instill in families who read her devotionals.

A Foundation of Truth

Karen herself never thought she'd be an author of this many books. In fact, she started out as a mathematician. She first picked up a pen to write when she created devotionals for her own children. Soon she was encouraged to publish her devotionals for other families.

Even though the idea seemed crazy, she told God that she would give writing and publishing five years, and then she would go back to her old job. The publishers of her devotionals gave her a five-year contract for five books, and it didn't add up to her way of thinking. "At that moment, I knew that I did not have to have all the answers about my future, but God did," she says.

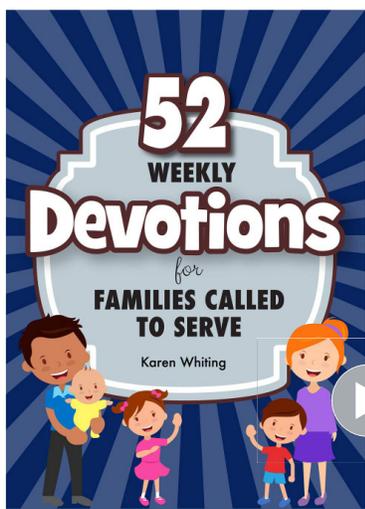
Karen wants other families to know that they can trust that God does have answers and that they can serve Him even before He reveals all the details of their future. That's just one of the things that her book, *52 Weekly Devotionals for Families Called to Serve* does: it helps instill a peace in knowing that families can serve a God they can trust.

You can find two weeks of devotionals for free on Karen's website karenwhiting.com/freedownloads.



Karen is making this offer because she wants to be of service to you and to your children. She says, "The things we teach our children when they are young, create an impact on the rest of their lives. Make sure your impact is a positive one."

Find 52 Weekly Devotionals for Families Called to Serve on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Christianbooks.com



Top 5 Ways You Can Help Out Your Local Public Safety Workers

1. Cook a meal or bring dessert.

Bringing a meal you made or a dessert you baked is a great way to say thank you to public safety workers. Often with their hard jobs and irregular schedules, getting home-cooked meals or baked goods is a luxury. Someone bringing them something homemade is sure to bring a smile to their face and make them feel like you care.

2. Donate to a good cause.

Donating to the public safety workers department is another excellent way to take care of them. This does not always have to be a monetary donation. Many public safety departments need cases of water, furniture for the station and construction materials for training. Try reaching out to your local public safety departments and ask what they need.

3. Send a thank-you letter.

Nowadays, with social media and email, it is very easy to show gratitude to our public safety departments. However, taking the time to write out or make a thank-you card is much more personal. If you go to hand-deliver it, the workers can see the sincerity of your thank-you. If you send it in the mail, they will get to have a pleasant surprise. Taking the time to be thoughtful toward service workers is essential because they are continually thinking about ways to make your community safer.

4: Spread the Word.

If you have a positive experience with your local public safety department, then spread the word. That kind of positivity will lead to more people getting helped and perhaps to even more funding. Your local public safety department will definitely appreciate the extra positivity.

5: Just say Thank You.

Chances are that every day you pass a police officer, EMT worker or firefighter. It does not take very long to simply tell them thank you. This will show them you appreciate and respect them. It is something that you can do quickly, but chances are that hearing your quick gratitude will make their whole day. ❤️



WHEN HIS PLANS DON'T COME WITH A BLUEPRINT

KAREN WHITING | KARENWHITING.COM

AS A MATHEMATICIAN, I STAYED AWAY FROM WORDS. BUT GOD SENT PEOPLE TO SUGGEST THAT I WRITE. I finally went on a retreat to pray about writing. To my surprise, it was there that God gave me a clear impression that He was calling me to be an author, not just a single book, but many books. Within five years I had contracts for five books, and I have continued writing 25 years.

However, even though God gave me a vision, He did not give me a blueprint. I had to continually seek God about what to write and where to submit and how to market. We want to follow God's plan but in the dailiness of life it's hard to discern it. What are the best practices for following God's plan for our lives in faith?

1. **Seek God in Scripture reading and prayer.** Be open to listening to Him and observing the opportunities He sends.
2. **Use your talent to bless someone.** If you think God wants you to use your talent in a certain way first utilize it in daily life. Ask God to put someone in your path and see how your talent can be a benefit to their lives.
3. **Track what opportunities God sends.** You may have thought of writing a great novel but God directs you to business writing or writing for children or to help nonprofits acquire grants.

4. **Check your passion.** God should give you a passion for what He calls you to do. Yes, some people fall into something or go in dragging their feet. But most of the time God equips you and knows there's a passion in you for His plans for your life.

5. **When you have a plan in mind, sit and list the reasons to do it.** Add the reasons God would want you to do, then list the cons. List any Scriptures God keeps giving you and see how that matches up. Be prepared to re-evaluate if doors close.

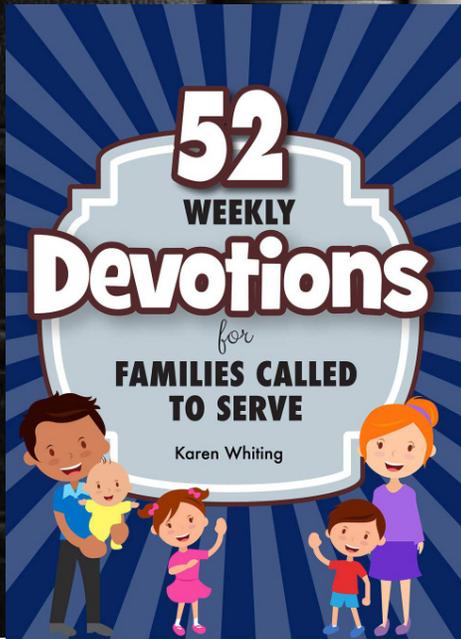
6. **Watch the results and how it impacts you.** Does the plan glorify you or God? Does the result impact lives? These are key areas to evaluate.

7. **See what obstacles arise.** Paul faced many difficulties and persecution, yet he persisted. He used everything as an opportunity to preach. In my life, I've used these obstacles, too, which reveals grit, persistence and focus on God's faithfulness, especially when the enemy is on the attack. They also generate more ideas.

8. **Talk to people and listen to how they have discerned God's direction.** Listen when people notice talent in you. You'll gain wisdom and some new ideas on how to seek God's plans.

Discovering God's will is an adventure and grows your reliance on Him as you pray, observe and respond to what you believe He wants you to do. ❤️

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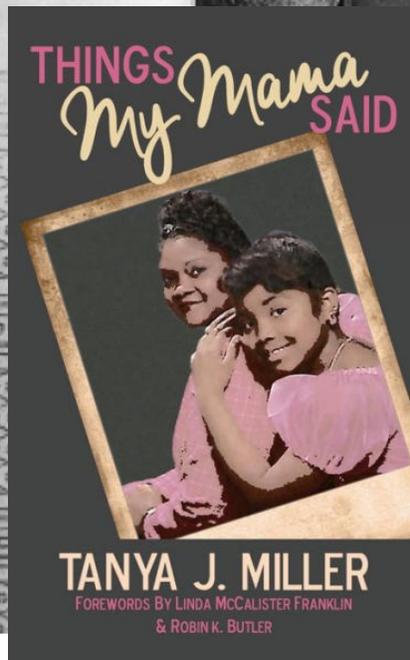


52 DEVOTIONS FOR FAMILIES CALLED TO SERVE BY KAREN WHITING

52 Weekly Devotions for Families Called to Serve, by Karen Whiting, is the perfect way to create fun and memorable moments together as a family, while answering God's call to serve.

Enjoy having 52 weekly devotions packed with engaging stories, hands-on activities, memory verses, and relevant discussion questions for families called to serve on the mission field, in the military, law enforcement, at church and more! Each devotional allows families opportunity to pull closer to each other, and to God. —Taylor Bernquist

Find *52 Weekly Devotions for Families Called to Serve* in Barnes and Noble on Amazon and at christianbooks.com.

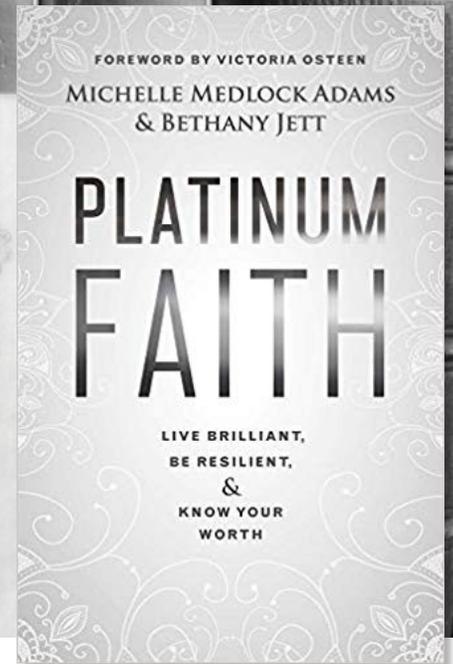


THINGS MY MAMA SAID BY TANYA J. MILLER

Things My Mama Said, by life coach Tanya J. Miller is twenty different tales about Miller's mother that will challenge the reader to become a better, wiser and stronger person. Titles like "A Hard Head Makes a Soft Behind," "Tell Me One More Time Something Ain't Fair," and "You Can't Beat God's Giving No Matter How Hard You Try" reveal a brilliant, witty, and outspoken parent who teaches her children about life before life does the teaching.

Readers will be both educated and entertained as they find out mama really does know best. —Taylor Bernquist

Find *Things My Mama Said* in Barnes and Noble, on Amazon and tanyamiller.com.



PLATINUM FAITH BY MICHELLE MEDLOCK ADAMS & BETHANY JETT

Platinum Faith, as its name implies, is a blueprint on how to take your faith to the highest level. Through it, Michelle and Bethany will help you realize your value not only to God but to the world around you.

Read each chapter carefully, explore the Scriptures they present, and open your heart and mind to the wisdom they offer. If you do this, your spirit will be renewed, your relationship with God will grow stronger, and you will experience a faith like you have never known before.

—Victoria Osteen, co-pastor of Lakewood Church and New York Times bestselling author

Find *Platinum Faith: Live Brilliant, Be Resilient & Know Your Worth* wherever books are sold.