

# (EXTRA)ORDINARY

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365

ORDINARY  
MOMENTS  
WITH AN

*Anything but Ordinary*

GOD

BY STEPHEN INGRAM

YM360

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Published by: YM360

**(Extra)Ordinary: 365 Ordinary Moments  
With An Anything But Ordinary God**

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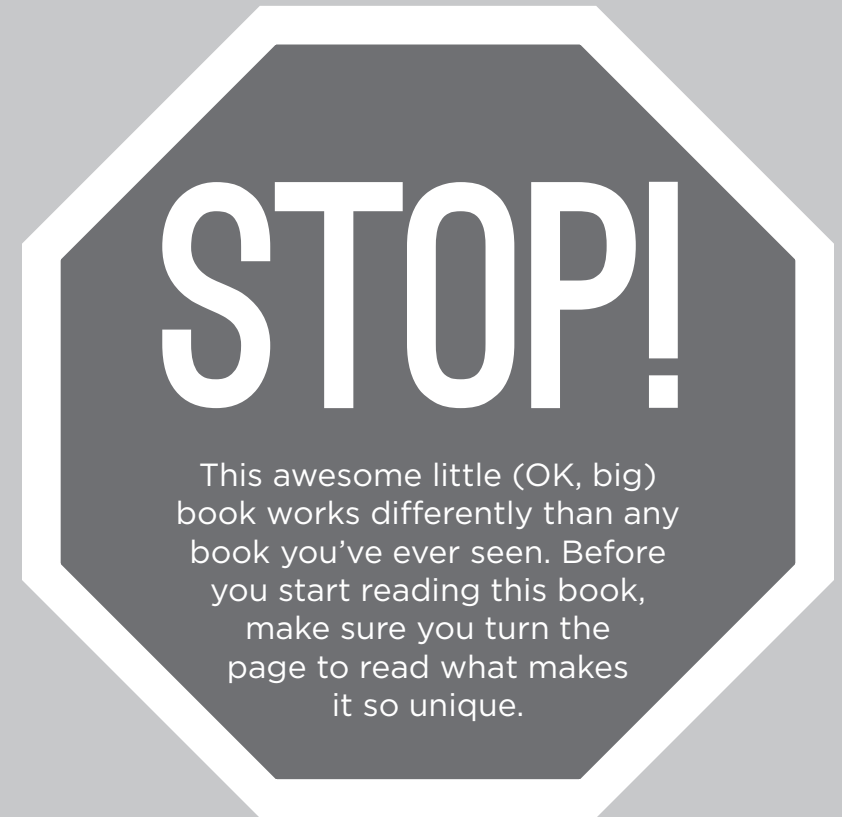
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# HOW TO USE

## WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK SO DIFFERENT?

What makes this book so different? And how to do you use it? Great questions . . . Here's what makes *(Extra)Ordinary* unlike any other year-long devotional book you might have seen.

***(Extra)Ordinary* isn't a book that starts at the beginning and ends at the end.**

You don't begin reading with Day 1 and end with Day 365. This book is one that you read according to how you feel, or what's going on in your life. That's right. It's a book that is as unique as you are. Let's take a closer look at how this works.

***(Extra)Ordinary* has three sections. And each section is for you to engage with depending on what's going on with your life.**

### 1 SECTION 1: ORDINARY TIMES

There are a little over 100 daily devotions in the Ordinary Times section. These are devotions you can pick up and read when life is feeling, well, ordinary. You'll notice each one of the Ordinary Times devotions has an image associated with the title. That's because this is kind of how Jesus taught, using simple, everyday images to make powerful points about your faith.

### 2 SECTION 2: CRAZY TIMES

The devotions in the Crazy Times section are organized by themes. And these themes are all about stuff you're dealing with in your life. Is life feeling awesome? Then you may want to turn to the FLOOD section and spend a few days reading those devotions. Life beating you up a bit? Spend a few days with God in the WEARY section. Crazy Times are devotions tailored for how you feel.

### 3 SECTION 3: HOLIDAY TIMES

Merry Christmas! Happy Easter! Happy Birthday! (That's right. There's even a devotion for your birthday. We think you're that cool.) The devotions in the Holiday section are for, well, holidays. Want to do 40 days of devotions for Lent? We got you covered. Need an Earth Day, or St. Patty's Day devotion? You'll find them in the Holiday section.

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*Now do you see why this book is unlike any other?*

This truly is a book that adapts to your life. Why make such a book? Because it's already hard enough to make time to meet God in the pages of the Bible. *(Extra)Ordinary* is all about helping pave the way for you to engage with God in meaningful times of prayer and worship. So take advantage of it. Don't miss the opportunity to make a daily time of hanging out with God part of your life.

**NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT A KILLER BOOK IT IS THAT YOU'VE GOT IN YOUR HANDS, DON'T JUST SIT THERE. TURN THE PAGE AND PICK OUT A DEVOTION!**

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# ORDINARY TIMES

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Ordinary Times are devotions designed for your average, ordinary day. There is no order to go in. Each devotion has a one-word title and an image to go along with it. This is because Jesus used a similar method of teaching. He'd use simple, everyday objects (think mustard seeds, fig trees, salt, and so on) to drive home powerful spiritual truths. Not only do these devotions pattern themselves after the style of Jesus' teachings, they help you focus on one thought, one image, as you go through your day.

Here's how to get started: Simply thumb through the section until an image jumps out at you. Then, read the passage and the devotion. And then respond to the "Go and Do" section. It's that simple.

*Enjoy your "ordinary times" with  
an extraordinary God.*



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# ANCHOR

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## > *Proverbs 1:5* <

Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let  
the discerning get guidance

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You've probably heard the phrase "you should be anchored in your faith" before. You may have heard it in a sermon, Bible study or at youth group. This is a great statement on how we should always trust in God and believe that the faith that God is calling us to is right and true. But there's a problem with this statement, though, or at least a problem with how people interpret it. A lot of times people think of being anchored in their faith as having a rigid faith that does not change and cannot be moved. When we do this we step into a very dangerous place.

Whenever we commit ourselves to this understanding we're saying two things. The first thing we're saying is that the things we know and understand at this time and place are the pinnacle of our knowledge and that we can't learn any more. The second thing we assume is that the things we know in this time and place are all correct. These are two pretty big assumptions to make and can be pretty dangerous.

Throughout Scripture the Bible warns against being prideful in what we think we know and to always be open to learning more and having our ideas and convictions change. Some will say that when our convictions change we don't have enough faith or that we're compromising. The truth is that we have faith, it's just not in our own scope of knowledge. We're essentially saying that yes, we can and hope to learn more than what we know now. My hope is that you'll be anchored in God and let God continually grow and challenge you and your faith for the rest of your life.

### **Go and Do**

This isn't something you can just do today or tomorrow, but hopefully for the rest of your life. I want you to enter into every conversation about faith with an open mind. I want you to seek out God and God's truth and only that. We can learn from everyone. Listen to other's views and ideas and give them real thought. But seek after that which is true. God is all truth, and when I seek Him I believe I will find God. I hope that you'll do the same.

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# APPLE

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## > *Genesis 3:2-5* <

The woman said to the serpent. "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

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Isn't it amazing how the things we can't have are so often the things we want? You tell a child to not touch a cord and the first thing they do when you turn your back is sprint for the nearest corded item in sight! We're the same. You're the same. I am too. It's crazy how we obsess over those things that we shouldn't or can't have. Why is that?

I think it goes back to two things. First, we think that the thing we shouldn't have is mysterious and must be awesome (or else why would people not want us to have it). Second, most of us don't do a good job telling ourselves no. We want what we want when we want it, especially if we're not supposed to have it!

Here's the thing, the reason why some things are off limits is because we can't handle or should not have to handle the consequences that those things bring. Take the fruit in the Garden for example. God wanted Adam and Eve to live in a world where they didn't have to worry about what's wrong and what's right. God wanted them to live where their entire focus was on God. Then they ate. Their eyes were opened and life became a lot more complicated, for all of us!

The moral of the story is this. There are just some things in life that we either need to wait on or not do at all. There are also people in your life who want to help us know which fruit to try and which to leave alone. Find these people (parents are usually a good place to start) and listen, learn, and don't bite off more than you can chew!

### **Go and Do**

Make a list of those people who will help you look out for the rotten apples in life.

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# BEACH

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> *Job 6:2-3* <

"If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas—no wonder my words have been impetuous.

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I love the beach. I bet you do too. The breeze, the ocean and all of the billions of grains of sand that sift through your toes as you walk barefoot beside the water. The beach is usually a happy place, a place for vacations, youth trips, and getaways of all sorts. For a guy named Job it reminded him of something far more depressing.

Job had a good life, family, friends, wealth, possessions, and power. Then in a blink of an eye, it was all gone. At one point in chapter 6 he says that if all of his troubles were put on a scale, they would weigh more than all of the sand in the sea. Wow. That is an incredible statement. I bet you have felt like that at some points in your life. I know I have.

I actually found this verse just after my parents divorced, my mom left, I broke my leg, had ankle surgery, had a lung collapse, and watched my girlfriend break up with me! That all happened in just a few months. Needless to say, I was feeling a little Job-like. The amazing thing about the Book of Job is not that all of the bad things happened to him, but that through all of that he remained faithful to God. Through it all he did not blame God, he simply tried to draw closer to him and hold on tightly in the storm. So if you're feeling buried, and like your pain and pressure are weighing down on you in colossal proportions, take heart, lean into God, and know that you're not alone.

## **Go and Do**

One of the best ways to process difficult times is to write out what you're feeling in a journal or note-taking app. Today, take some time and begin a journal. It could be an everyday journal or simply a journal that you use when you're in high and low points in your life. Use these journal entries as prayers and letters to God.

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# BELL

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> *Isaiah 30:21* <

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

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Bells create different emotions in most teenagers, right? It's crazy how the exact same bell can mean you're late for class, going to gym, starting a period with your worst teacher (or your best), and even releases you to go on Summer break! When we're in school, bells mark transitions in our lives. They mark the time during the day when we're supposed to move from one part of our day to the next. And yet, there are times in our lives where bells would be really helpful in letting us know that it's time to move from one thing to the next.

Wouldn't be nice if a bell went off every time we needed to stop hanging out with a friend who is making bad choices, or really commit to a relationship that is in its early stages? Wouldn't it be great if a bell started ringing when we visited the college that is right for us, or when it was time to break up with that boyfriend or girlfriend? As you get older it would be even more helpful, like when to ask someone to marry you, take a new job, move, buy a new car, and even when to start having kids. The tough part is that there are not audible bells that go off to mark transitions.

We have to depend on some less concrete markers like our heads, our hearts, prayers, Scripture and the advice of trusted friends and adults. Listen closely to these bells in your life and together they will help you know when it's time for a change.

## **Go and Do**

It's important to always be in a mode where we're listening for God and making good decisions (this is called discernment) about our lives. One way to make decisions is to take a sheet of paper, turn it sideways, and make five columns marked Head, Heart, Prayers, Scripture, and Friends/Mentors. Then take the decision you have to make and write what each one of those is telling you.

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# SCRIPTURES COVERED IN (EXTRA)ORDINARY

Anchor.....	Proverbs 1:5	Leaf.....	Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
Apple.....	Genesis 3:2-5	Lighthouse.....	Genesis 1:2
Beach.....	Job 6:2-3	List.....	Colossians 3:17
Bell.....	Isaiah 30:21	Mailbox.....	Proverbs 11: 24-25
Bench.....	Matthew 11:28-30	Meat.....	Hebrews 5: 12-14
Bird.....	Matthew 6:26	Milk.....	1 Corinthians 3:1-2
Blanket.....	Psalms 73:28	Mountain.....	Exodus 19:18-20
Book.....	1 Timothy 4:12	Ocean.....	Job 11: 7-9
Bread.....	Matthew 26:26	Ostrich.....	Job 39:13-16
Breath.....	Genesis 2:7	Path.....	2 Kings 2: 13-14
Brick.....	Jude 1:21-22	Phone.....	Hebrews 10:24-25
Bridge.....	Matthew 28:18-20	Picture.....	Romans 5:8
Cacoon.....	2 Corinthians 5:17	Puppy.....	Ecclesiastes 3:1
Cactus.....	Matthew 5:45b	Radar.....	Luke 24:13-35
Camera.....	Genesis 12:7	Radio.....	Isaiah 55:7-8
Canvas.....	Genesis 2:19-20	Rain.....	Matthew 3:16-17
Car.....	2 Samuel 11:2-4	Rainbow.....	Genesis 9:16
Cathedral.....	Isaiah 6:1-3	Rake.....	Micah 4:3
Chain.....	Acts 12:7	Rearview.....	Phillipians 3:13
Chair.....	Proverbs 3:5-6	Ring.....	Matthew 3:13-17
Church.....	1 Corinthians 12:12-13	River.....	John 7:38
Clay.....	Isaiah 64:8	Road.....	Luke 24:29-32
Closet.....	Genesis 3:8	Screen.....	John 10:10
Coat.....	Luke 3:10-11	Seed.....	Luke 19:1-10
Compass.....	Phil 4-8	Ship.....	Matthew 14:28-29
Compost.....	John 11:39	Shoe.....	Joshua 1:3
Concert.....	Acts 2:44-47	Sign.....	2 Tim 3:16
Cross.....	Matthew 16:24	Skyscraper.....	Psalms 72:8
Cup.....	Matthew 10:42	Smile.....	Proverbs 15:30
Diamond.....	Romans 12:2	Song.....	1 Chronicles 15:22
Ditches.....	Psalms 7:15-16	Stars.....	Psalms 8:3-4
Door.....	Revelation 3:20	Statue.....	Proverbs 22:1
Dove.....	Matthew 5:9	Steps.....	1 Corinthians 6:12
Dust.....	Genesis 3:19	Stone.....	Joshua 4:20-23
Ear Phones.....	Luke 5:16	Stop Sign.....	John 14:26
Face.....	2 Corinthians 3:18	Storm.....	Matthew 14:23-30
Field.....	John 4:35	Suitcase.....	Isaiah 43:25
Fire.....	Jeremiah 20:9	Sun.....	Matthew 5:16
Fish.....	Matthew 13:47	Swrod.....	Mathew 26:52
Flower.....	Matthew 6:28-29	Table.....	Acts 2:42
Fly.....	Proverbs 12:16	Tongue.....	James 3:3-5
Gas.....	Genesis 2:2-3	Tower.....	Genesis 11:1-9
Glasses.....	1 Corinthians 13:12	Trashcan.....	1 Corinthians 15:58b
Globe.....	Psalms 103:12	Tree.....	Jeremiah 17:8
Goggles.....	Acts 9:8, 17-18	Umbrella.....	Psalms 18:1-2
Gold.....	Matthew 6:19-21	Valley.....	Ezekiel 37;1-3
Guardrails.....	Luke 6:39	Vase.....	1 Peter 3:3-4
Hand.....	Mark 8:34	Vine.....	John 15:5
Heart.....	Luke 10:27	Water.....	John 4:14
House.....	2 Corinthians 1: 3-4	Web.....	Ephesians 4:29
Instafacetwit.....	Galatians 3:26-27	Wind.....	1 Peter 1:8
Key.....	Galatians 5:1	Wood.....	Matthew 7:3-5
Lake.....	Luke 5:1	Zoo.....	Colossians 3:23
Lamp.....	2 Samuel 22:29		