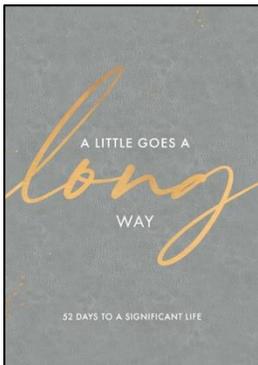


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A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

How God Uses the Simple and Ordinary for His Extraordinary Purposes



Lexington, KY: In a culture where value is placed on grand displays of power and influence, it is easy to get caught in the comparison trap that creates an enormous pressure to do more, try harder, or “go big or go home.” The constant striving for greatness and abundance can disrupt our peace, happiness, and confidence.

Like many women, **Rachael Adams** questioned her worth, which she based on her contributions as a wife, a mother, and a child of God. She believed that her modest, routine work was insignificant and meaningless. Rachael needed a reminder that God finds importance and significance even in the simplest, most ordinary tasks and that He multiplies the smallest efforts for his kingdom and will.

In her book, *A Little Goes a Long Way: 52 Days to a Significant Life* (BroadStreet® Publishing), Rachael offers biblical truths about God’s ability to unlock eternal influence when we consistently pursue and obey Him. Her desire is that other women find fulfillment, satisfaction, and purpose—not based on their circumstances but based on God’s promises. Some of the reflective truths she offers include the following:

- **A little work:** God honors our work and can make it meaningful—just as He did in the Bible. Scripture instructs us to do things with all our heart because we serve the Lord through our work. If we don’t see immediate results of our efforts or feel unappreciated, we need to remember that our work is to be done out of our devotion to him (see Col. 3:23–24).
- **A little conversation:** Jesus’ conversations went beyond brief pleasantries. When He asked questions, He showed His desire for a conversation and the intent to create a connection and fellowship. We should take the initiative and respond to others like Jesus did, remembering our words hold the power to bless others (see Proverbs 18:21).
- **A little effort:** God desires to use us to fulfill his purpose even though He could do it on His own. He works through those who make an effort for him. We should have compassion to help others with needs because our kindness can lead others to Jesus (see Mark 2:3–4).
- **A little gratitude:** Jesus gave even if gratitude was not guaranteed. We should not give with the expectation of appreciation from others. Our giving isn’t based on the reciprocity from others but from our reverence and obedience to God. Everything we do for Him should be out of our love for what He has done and who He is to us (see Col. 3:16–17).
- **A little forgiveness:** Choosing forgiveness can be a difficult decision, especially if the other person has hurt us repeatedly or is not repentant. Forgiveness is a process. Believers are called to forgiveness without limit as Jesus demonstrated. When we forgive others, it is a reminder of how much we too have been forgiven (see Col. 3:13).

Rachael reflects on God’s goodness, grace and blessings that she personally experienced through her parent’s divorce as a child, and the uncertainty and healing through an adult health scare. Rachael shares that a little hope, and forgiveness, goes a long way when we pursue a life of obedience and submission to God.

“God sees and values every little thing we do when we partner with Him to impact eternity in ways we never imagined,” says Adams. “We need to remember that even small acts in our daily lives can be significant for God’s plan. Our attitude can inspire those around us and fill us with satisfaction and joy as we focus on God’s ability to utilize our efforts to accomplish great things.”

A Little Goes a Long Way features reflective stories from Rachael’s life, practical action steps to discover confidence in your life, encouraging prayers that express gratitude, and biblical examples of people whose lives seemed insignificant but were powerful in accomplishing God’s plan.

About the Author:



Writer and podcaster **Rachael Adams** started her ministry to help women realize their God-given purpose and significance. She is host of *The Love Offering* podcast that features real stories of women who are living out their faith. Rachael and her husband, Bryan, run a family business and farm in Kentucky with their two children, Will and Kate, and two doodle dogs. Her website is www.rachaelkadams.com, and social media is FB/IG: @rachaeladamsauthor.

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Suggested Interview Questions:

1. Rachael, did you write this book out of your own search for significance? What is your hope for those who read your book?
2. Who are some biblical examples of ordinary people that God used for his greatness?
3. What are some examples you share in your book of how God created abundance out of little or turned the ordinary into extraordinary?
4. You write that God wants to use us for his will, even though he doesn’t need us to complete his will. What role does our effort play in God’s kingdom plan?
5. As we gain a greater understanding of significance from God’s perspective, how can we learn to break through our doubts and insecurities in years ahead?
6. In what ways have you seen God use small things to make a big difference in your life?
7. Why did you decide to include an action plan and prayer in each reading?
8. What are some examples of simple gestures we can do to influence others or demonstrate God’s love to others?
9. How can we learn to stop questioning our value and learn to understand our importance to God?
10. Where can we find out more information about you and your work?

Notable Quotes:

Saying yes to eternity in heaven, unconditional love, unlimited forgiveness, and unmerited grace wasn't a hard decision for me. Jesus did all the hard work. I simply had to receive and trust in what he promised. What has proven to be more difficult is to keep saying yes to him for the rest of my life. It's easier to say yes to God when things are going well and life is running smoothly. But when he asks me to do something uncomfortable or inconvenient, the yes may not come as enthusiastically as before. Yet, it is precisely during these times that our answers to God's call should be a resounding yes. . . . Once we know what he is leading us to do, we simply have to trust that he has our best interests in mind and be willing to do what he asks even if we don't understand why at the time. Watch what a willing heart and a lifetime of yeses can do (pp. 22–23).

Jesus understood the power of touch. He held children, washed feet, and healed the sick through physical touch. In one of the first recorded healings Jesus performed, he healed a leper by touching him. Everyone considered lepers to be untouchable—everyone but Jesus (Mark 1). . . . Nearly nineteen centuries later, these stories are still affecting our hearts. One touch from Jesus has now affected millions, and he wants to do the same thing in our lives. Just as Jesus was moved by compassion, compassion can move us to reach out to others too. Your simple, wordless gestures could be exactly what is needed to strengthen a connection, soothe an emotion, communicate without a word, or heal a hurting heart. (pp. 65–66).

We all have an innate desire to belong. When we are excluded, whether someone does it intentionally or unintentionally, it doesn't matter—both are painful. It comforts me to remember that Jesus himself felt excluded (John 1:10–11). . . . Although Jesus created the world, the people he created didn't recognize him. However, “yet to all those who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. . . .” (John 1:12–13). . . . This truth alone reassures us that regardless of where or whether we belong in an earthly sense, we forever belong to him. . . . As painful as it seems, sometimes it is in our best interest not to fit into the “popular” earthly groups. We find our belonging in Jesus, knowing we are a part of his family (pp. 92–93).

Interruptions can be frustrating. We all have things we want to do and things that need to get done, so we don't like anything that gets in the way of those plans. But what would happen if we changed our perspective to see interruptions as opportunities to embrace God's plan rather than obstacles to our agendas? . . . I want to see each interruption as a divine appointment from God instead of an irritation to me. I don't want to be so busy with projects that I have no time for people. Though interruptions catch me off guard, they do not catch God off guard. They are not meaningless events; rather, they are divinely placed in my path for a reason. I pray we lay aside our agendas and exchange our plans for his because the next interruption is likely an opportunity to be a part of his eternal plan (pp. 128–129).

Jesus taught the value of this kind of sacrificial love when he said, “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (John 15:12–13). While Jesus doesn't intend for us to die for our friends in a literal sense, he does intend for us to lay aside our own selfish desires and put the needs of others first. . . . The key is learning to value others' interests more than our own. . . . Jesus gave his life for us. On the cross, he took our place and marked out our transgressions so our names could be forever written in his book. Because he loved us sacrificially, we now are to love others in the same way. While this feels impossible to do on our own, it is possible because we have his Holy Spirit living in us. With his empowerment, we can act in ways contrary to our fleshly nature (p. 143).