

Jesus, I Need You

HONEST PRAYERS FROM A TRUSTING HEART

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Jesus, I Need You

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Requests for information should be addressed to:

Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

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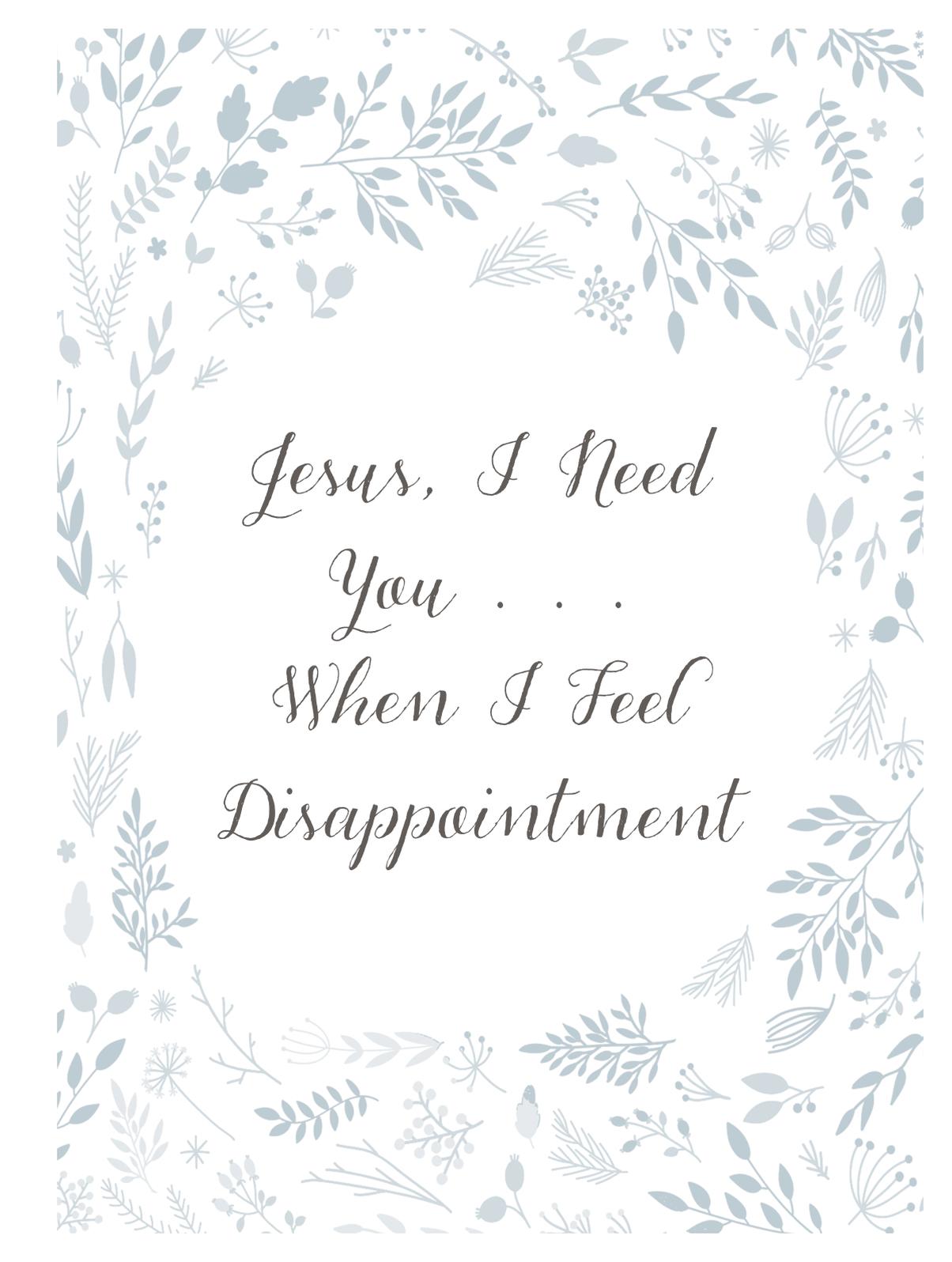
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*Jesus, I Need
You . . .
When I Feel
Disappointment*



This Mixed-Up World

Dear Jesus,

I'm frustrated with this mixed-up world. Everything seems turned upside down. What You've declared to be evil and wrong is often considered to be right and good. There are even those who change Your Word so it fits what they want to do and who they want You to be. You're not welcome in many schools and public places anymore. If You knock, so many doors are locked up tight. People hurt each other, Jesus. Everywhere I look I see fighting and discord, and bad news outweighs the good.

You mean so much to me. I want the whole world to know You and follow You. I do my best to tell others about Your goodness, but sometimes I feel as if it isn't doing any good. I know that isn't true, and I pray that You would renew my hope. I pray that You would work in the hearts of those who do not believe in You. Help me rise above my anger, Lord. Use me to make a difference and to lead others to You.



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



—MATTHEW 28:19-20



Pull Me Back to You

Dear Jesus,

I'm slipping away from You. I can feel it, and I don't want it to happen. But it's just been so hard, Lord. You know all that's happened. I'm hurt. I'm disappointed. This isn't the way I thought things would go. And now You seem so far away.

But I love You, Lord. My mind tells me You are faithful, that You are trustworthy. It may not feel that way to me right now—but I *will* believe it. Oh, Lord, help my unbelief.

Open my eyes to Your presence in my life. I know You are here, but I need to see You working in this mess. You promise that if I come closer to You, then You will come closer to me. I'm here on my knees before You. Come to me, Lord, and hold me close. Heal my heart, clear my mind, and strengthen my will.

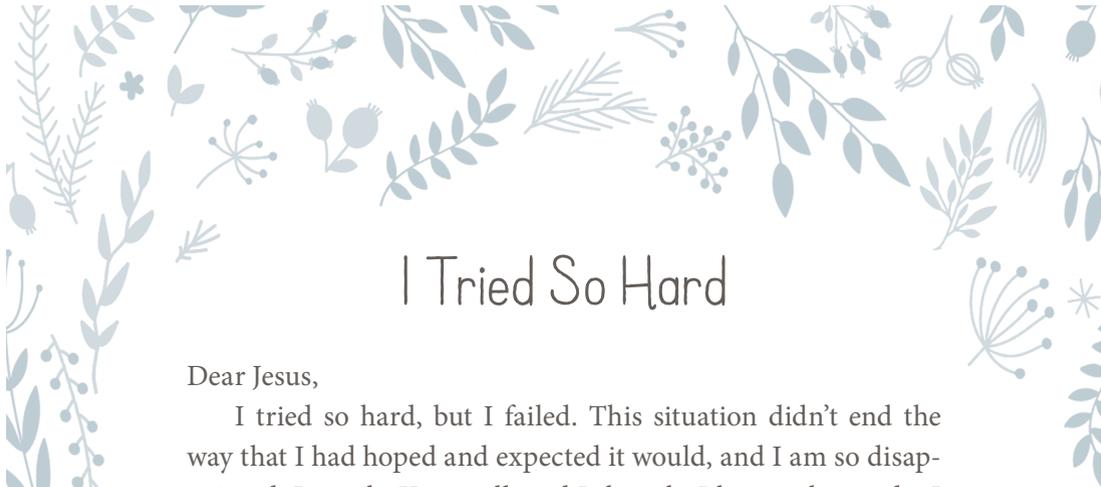
There's so much I do not know and do not understand. But these things I *do* know: You love me, and I love You. I am Yours. And when I call out to You, You will not let me slip away. I am calling, Lord. Thank You for pulling me back to You.



*"I will search for the lost and bring back the strays.
I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak."*

—EZEKIEL 34:16





I Tried So Hard

Dear Jesus,

I tried so hard, but I failed. This situation didn't end the way that I had hoped and expected it would, and I am so disappointed. I sought Your will, and I thought I knew what to do. I used great care moving forward toward the goal, and I stopped often to pray. When obstacles got in my way, I asked for Your guidance, and I waited patiently for You to answer me. I was diligent in my work, never giving up. And then, with the finish line in sight, everything came crashing down. I felt as if all my work was for nothing!

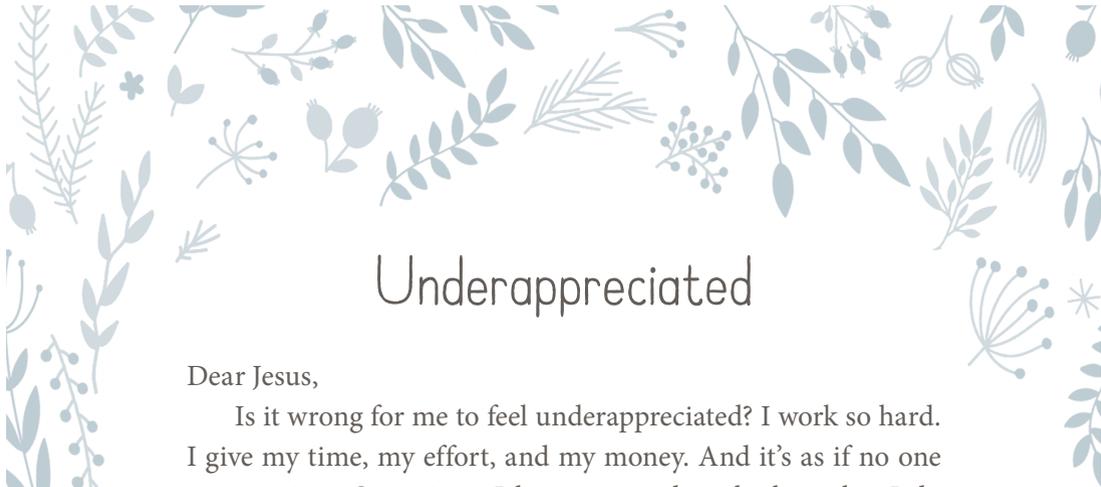
Why, Jesus? Why did You allow me to work so hard and get so close just so I would fail?

Oh, but Jesus, as I hear myself pray this prayer, I realize how much of it is focused on me and my efforts. Forgive me, Lord. I don't understand, but I trust You. You will bring good from this, somehow and some way. The rain falls on the just and the unjust. And still I must say—still I choose to say—“Blessed be the name of the Lord!”



*I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith.*

—2 TIMOTHY 4:7



Underappreciated

Dear Jesus,

Is it wrong for me to feel underappreciated? I work so hard. I give my time, my effort, and my money. And it's as if no one even notices. Sometimes I have to wonder whether what I do even matters. Would anyone notice if I just . . . stopped?

I know I'm having a bit of a pity party, Lord. And Your Word tells me to serve in secret, to give in secret, but a simple "thank you" would do wonders for my spirit right now. I'm hurt and discouraged. Please clear away these feelings and all the negative thoughts from my mind. Help me see clearly what it is I need to be doing—what You want me to do. Guide me through this dark time with Your perfect light.

You tell me, Lord, that it is more blessed to give than to receive and that in serving others, I am really serving You. So I give myself to You and to Your service. Use my hands, my feet, these gifts You've given me to shine for You. And while I still wouldn't mind a bit of appreciation here on earth, I know that You are smiling down on me from heaven.



*"Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*



—ISAIAH 41:10



Disappointing Others

Dear Jesus,

I hate to disappoint others, but at times I must say no to what they want. You know how many demands are made on my time. If I gave in and accepted every request for my help, I would have no time for You. If I accepted every project—even every good project—I would be neglecting my own needs to have quiet time, to worship, to praise, or simply to rest. Logically, I know this, but I still feel guilty saying no—which too often leads me to say yes when I shouldn't.

It's especially hard with those people who heap guilt on me. I understand how they feel because I'm sometimes disappointed when You say no to me. Yet I understand that when You turn me down, it's for a good reason. Please help others to understand that when I say no, it's also for a good reason. Teach me to bring every request to You, to ask You if I should say yes or no—before I commit to anything.

And dear Jesus, help me realize that it really is okay to say no to others—especially when it means saying yes to You.



*"Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*



—PSALM 46:10 NASB

