

The  
*Anne*  
of  
GREEN GABLES  
Devotional

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A Chapter-by-Chapter Companion  
*for Kindred Spirits*



Rachel Dodge

## Praise for *The Anne of Green Gables Devotional*

“Rachel Dodge’s devotional is not only a chapter-by-chapter companion to *Anne of Green Gables* but also a day-by-day companion to the modern reader seeking encouragement, enlightenment, and holy scope for the imagination. An absolute joy to be immersed in the deep, abiding roots of kindred spirit living.”

–Sarah McCoy, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and international bestselling author of *Marilla of Green Gables*

“Rejection, disappointment, loneliness—ways to cope with these and many other of life’s challenges are highlighted in this book of devotionals drawn from L. M. Montgomery’s classic *Anne of Green Gables*. ‘Rich spiritual themes and truths’ found in each of the thirty-

eight chapters inspire and encourage us to find joy, beauty, and serenity in our own lives. A valuable addition to Anne collections everywhere.”

–Carolyn Strom Collins, author of *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*, *Anne of Green Gables: The Original Manuscript*, etc.

“This book is a treasure. I loved it! Rachel took some of our favorite moments in the classic Anne stories and infused them with deeper insights by pairing them with scripture. If this charmer of a devotion were a dress, it would have puffed sleeves. The puffiest.”

–Robin Jones Gunn, author of the Haven Maker series and Christy Miller series

“*The Anne of Green Gables Devotional* is a delight from cover to cover! Rachel Dodge has filled its pages with beautifully crafted reflections and prayers inspired by the beloved novel. This is a stirring, timely devotional for all of us who seek to belong and yearn for our loving, forever home.”

–Julie Klassen, author of the Tales From Ivy Hill series

“*The Anne of Green Gables Devotional* paints vividly on the canvas for us the subtle themes of faith, chapter-by-chapter, that are sprinkled throughout the beloved story of Anne Shirley. Kindred spirits, this is the scripture-based introspective book we’ve all been missing from our Anne collection and need to immediately add to our bookshelves!”

–Jen Smith, book collector, photographer, and curator  
of Storybook Style (@storybookstyle)

“What a gift to Anne fans! Our favorite literary heroine has much to teach us about love and acceptance, and Rachel Dodge does a beautiful job unwrapping the complexities of Anne’s story within the context of the greatest adoption story of all—showing us how we too can be transformed by the gift of true belonging.”

–Jenny Williams, artist and owner of Carrot Top Paper Shop

“In this soul-rejuvenating book, Rachel Dodge takes these gleaming treasures out one by one and hands them to her readers.”

–Lorilee Craker, author of 15 books, including *Anne of Green Gables, My Daughter and Me: What My Favorite Book Taught Me About Grace, Belonging and the Orphan in Us All; Money Secrets of the Amish; Through the Storm* with Lynne Spears; and *My Journey to Heaven* with Marv Besteman

“Heartwarming and truly inspired, a must-read for anyone who’s ever felt rejected—that’s all of us.”

–Wendi Lou Lee, author of *A Prairie Devotional: Inspired by the Beloved TV Series*

“This book is perfect for any age, including the young lady in your life who is meeting Anne for the first time. It is the perfect companion to a beloved book and is a wonderful gift for yourself and others!”

–Julie Fisk, co-author of *The One Year Daily Acts of Kindness Devotional* and *The One Year Daily Acts of Friendship Devotional*



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*Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.*





*To my loving family,  
for their encouragement and support*



*It's a million times nicer to be  
Anne of Green Gables than Anne  
of nowhere in particular, isn't it?*

ANNE SHIRLEY

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## A Kindred Spirit Welcome

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Reading and rereading *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery is a favorite tradition of mine—and I know I’m not alone. Anne Shirley’s story of adoption and belonging has delighted generations of readers from around the world for over one hundred years. Set in the fictional town of Avonlea, against the picturesque backdrop of Prince Edward Island, *Anne of Green Gables* brims with charming characters and heartwarming moments.

Anne’s story is beloved because it expresses some of life’s most universal longings and assures us that goodness and beauty still exist in this world. Anne’s character inspires us to love the loveless, see the good in others, give people second chances, dream big dreams, and embrace life with open arms. Her grit spurs us to press on through life’s challenges. We understand her feelings of rejection and loneliness, her longing for a family and a home, and her many trials and tribulations. And our hearts swell when Anne finds what we all want most: unconditional love, a safe place to dream and grow, and the freedom to explore her place and purpose in the world.

*Anne of Green Gables* is also filled with rich spiritual themes and truths. Anne’s story provides a gentle allegory for God’s redemptive, adoptive plans for each of us. Not only is she adopted, as we are adopted into God’s family when we place our trust in Jesus as our Savior, but she grows and flourishes in a loving family, just as we do as part of the body of Christ.

Even Anne’s arrival at Green Gables—by a “queer mistake”—is later recognized as a divine appointment. Matthew says, “She’s been a blessing to us, and there never was a luckier mistake than

what Mrs. Spencer made—if it was luck. I don't believe it was any such thing. It was Providence, because the Almighty saw we needed her, I reckon" (ch. 34). And Marilla tells Anne, "I don't know what I'd do if you weren't here—if you'd never come" (ch. 37).

Anne's own journey of faith is central to the plot as she learns to pray, attends church, goes to prayer meetings, sings in the choir, contemplates morality and theology, and practices curbing her temper. Early on, Marilla realizes Anne knows "nothing about God's love, since she had never had it translated to her through the medium of human love" (ch. 7); thus, much of the story centers on Anne's experience of human love and loyalty. Surrounded by wholesome friends, mentors, and role models, Anne's faith blossoms and her character develops.

Finally, Anne's story reminds us that God makes no mistakes. His thoughts are not like our thoughts; His ways are not like our ways (Isaiah 55:8). He's intimately involved and invested in our growth and well-being. God's plans for us are for our *good* (Jeremiah 29:11). He knows what we need far better than we do, and He gives us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4).



Kindred spirit, this book is your invitation to explore the spiritual themes in Anne's story and God's unique plans and purposes for your life as a child of God. It's designed as a devotional companion to *Anne of Green Gables*, with a corresponding devotional entry for each chapter of the book. Each entry includes key Bible verses, examples from the book, thoughts for personal application, and a short prayer. Several special features, including discussion questions, can be found at the back of the book. You can read this devotional on your own, with your family, in a group, or with a bosom friend.

As you sit down to read each day, picture yourself curled up in Anne's east gable room, looking out at the giant blossoming cherry tree. This is your quiet time with Jesus—a time when you can set

aside life's trials and tribulations and breathe in God's healing love and acceptance. May this devotional nourish your soul and lead you into a deeper understanding of God's redemptive plans for your life.

\*Note to parents: If you're reading this book with younger children, I've created a special set of supplemental application questions for kids that you can print out to go along with your daily readings. Please visit [www.RachelDodge.com/anneforkids](http://www.RachelDodge.com/anneforkids) for more.

Day 1  
A DIVINE DETOUR



*The mind of man plans his way,  
but the Lord directs his steps.*

PROVERBS 16:9 NASB



*“Well, we’re not getting a girl.”*

(CH. 1)

When Marilla Cuthbert says this to Mrs. Rachel Lynde, her well-meaning, busybody neighbor, she has no idea what (or who) is coming her way. She’s preparing to welcome a “desired and expected” young boy into her home, “old enough to be of some use in doing chores. . .and young enough to be trained up proper.” She’s anticipating a practical solution to a pressing problem: Matthew is getting on in years, his heart troubles him, and they need help on the farm.

In this chapter Marilla expects several things. She expects Mrs. Lynde’s visit: “She had known that the sight of Matthew jaunting off so unaccountably would be too much for her neighbor’s curiosity.” She expects Matthew and the new boy home in time to eat: she has set the table for three. And she expects the boy to sleep in the kitchen: she has prepared a simple “couch” for him there.

Marilla is *not* expecting her carefully ordered life to turn upside down. Though she’s planning to give the boy “a good home and schooling,” she’s completely unprepared for motherhood. Anne’s arrival opens a new world to Marilla and satisfies a longing buried deep in her heart. Soon enough, she and Matthew both realize that the “queer mistake” that landed Anne at Green Gables is actually a blessing. Matthew credits “the Almighty” for sending Anne because He saw that they “needed her” (ch. 34). And Anne becomes Marilla’s “joy and comfort” (ch. 37).

Marilla’s best-laid plans didn’t go as expected. She and Matthew thought they needed an extra pair of hands around the

farm, but God knew they needed a daughter. Often God's plans for us are unexpected. We anticipate one thing, and something else—or someone else—shows up instead. We plan, make schedules and lists, do our part to get the ball rolling, and then something akin to a girl instead of a boy comes waltzing into our lives.

God is not surprised by our detours and delays. He works in and through them in divine ways. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us of God's promise to direct and establish our steps. We can and should make plans, but God is ultimately in charge. When you allow Him to direct your life, He brings about things beyond your imagination. His plans for you are for your good—not to harm you but to prosper you (Jeremiah 29:11). We're told in Romans 8:28 that God works for the good of those who love Him. He sees the big picture of your life, and nothing surprises Him.

*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom  
and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his  
judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

ROMANS 11:33 KJV

## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

This opening scene in the Green Gables kitchen points us to an important reminder: God often gives us what we don't know we need. As you make plans, invite God to make revisions. If you're prone to making hasty decisions, pray and give God space and time to lead you forward. If you find yourself on a divine detour, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to God's bigger plans for you. He may have something in mind that you can't yet imagine.

Is there someone in your life who needs encouragement? Someone facing an unexpected twist or turn? Someone with a broken heart? Take a few minutes to make a call or send a note this week. Share Proverbs 16:9 and Jeremiah 29:11 and remind him or her of God's loving plans.



## PRAYER FOR TODAY:

*Lord, thank You for directing and establishing my steps. I lay all of my best-laid plans at Your feet. I need Your wisdom and guidance to navigate the unexpected circumstances in my life. Help me to see Your purposes in the detours and delays I'm currently facing, and show me the right way to go. [Add your prayer request.] In Jesus' name, amen.*



*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

JEREMIAH 29:11 NIV

Day 2  
SOMEONE TO LISTEN



*The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive  
to their cry.*

PSALM 34:15 NIV

