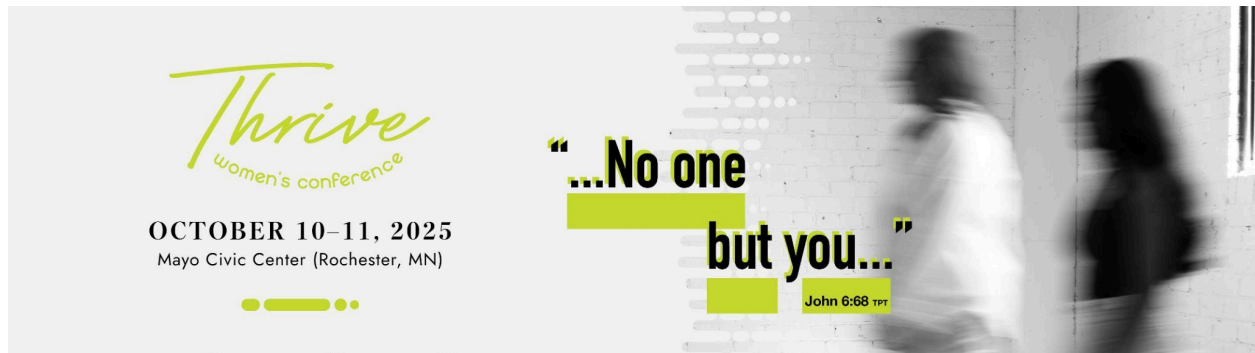




Bridging the Gap's *No One But You* Devotional Call for Submissions, Rubric, & Example Devo

What It Is:

We will be creating an **Advent** devotional consisting of 28 entries around the Thrive theme of "No One But You." Ladies will be able to purchase the book on Amazon and at Bridging the Gap's (BTG) Thrive Conference taking place on October 10-11, 2025 in Rochester, MN, at the Mayo Civic Center.

How It Works:

1. If you desire to submit an article for consideration, please follow these steps:
 - a. Read through this Call for Submissions, rubric, and example devo.
 - b. **Complete this [Google Form](#) AND share your original piece with mnbgtgsubmissions@gmail.com via Google Docs or by submitting a Microsoft Word Doc through the [Google Form](#) by February 18, 2025. (EXTENDED DEADLINE: April 1, 2025—please shape your devotional with an evident Advent/Christmas focus; thank you!)**
2. As there will be 28 devotionals included in this book, BTG will be using an anonymous rubric to select the 28 entries for publication. Though we truly value each contribution, we cannot guarantee each submission will be published if they do not align with the scope of the project.
3. Submission Format Options:
 - a. **Google Docs:** BTG utilizes Google Docs for editing devotionals, so our preferred method for submission is through Google Docs:
 - i. Please write and share your devotional to mnbgtgsubmissions@gmail.com and title the file in this way: "[Your First Name, Your Last Name, Devo Title]."
 - b. **Or a Word Doc:** Writers not comfortable submitting through Google Docs are welcome to submit your devotional as a Microsoft Word document (**not PDF**). BTG will then convert your submission into Google Docs.
 - i. Word Documents should be submitted via the [Google Form](#).
4. Communication Process/Requirements
 - a. Once selections are determined, all writers will be personally notified.

- b. If your entry is selected for publication, a BTG editor will communicate edit suggestions to you and look for your replies **via Google Docs**. Your timeliness in editing is much appreciated!
 - c. **Writers selected must have a Google account and utilize Google Docs to respond to our editing suggestions.**
 - i. How to utilize Google Docs:
 1. How to Create a Google Account if you don't have one: <https://youtu.be/9sQEDp70O2A>
 2. How To Create and Share a Google Doc: <https://youtu.be/haKzqSULaPs?si=ibHFOz9i9ZqswHqX>
 3. How to Edit a Shared Document within Google Docs: <https://youtu.be/-vAju1xWpEQ?si=3xLZILLryrWW8ro0>
5. Agreement
- a. By submitting a devotional, you affirm that your submission is your original work, is not being reviewed by another publication, and has not already been published (unless published by yourself through your own blog, etc.). You are also indicating that you realize your submission is a gift to Bridging the Gap, whereby you will not be receiving financial compensation.
 - b. If selected, you would also be agreeing to **utilize Google Docs** for all responses to BTG editors regarding their edit suggestions.
 - c. As a small way of saying thank you for being involved in this ministry opportunity, you are welcome to pick-up a complimentary book at the 2025 Thrive Conference (October 10-11 in Rochester, MN) or at the BTG office (1315 Portland Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55404) on October 20-November 25 between 8:00 am-4:30 pm. BTG will not be able to ship complimentary books to authors.
 - d. If your submission is chosen for the Advent devotional, you would be agreeing to let Bridging the Gap editors view and adjust your grammar to match the BTG writing style guide, as well as to publish any part of the finalized devotional (following your approval with the final version) along with your photo, bio, and favorite things for both publication or marketing purposes. If submitting more than one devotional, these terms will apply to each individual work. If you choose to not respond to our edit suggestions and efforts to communicate with you, BTG will have the right to make adjustments and publish your work at our discretion.

Overview of *No One But You* Advent Devotional Book (using the “No One But You” 2025 Thrive Conference theme):

Jesus is truly the “thrill of hope,” which is particularly apparent during the Advent season, as we expectantly await the arrival of peace on earth. In the days leading up to Christmas, we often reflect on what this precious baby boy embodied in the form of unconditional love, unspeakable joy, unhesitating hope, and unexplainable peace.

In John 6:68 (Passion Translation), when many disciples had turned away from Jesus, Peter replies to Jesus when asked if he will also leave, "...But Lord, where would we go? **No one but you** gives us the revelation of eternal life. We're fully convinced that you are the Anointed One, the Son of the Living God, and we believe in you!"

Bridging the Gap is excited to be part of your Advent journey, as we collectively celebrate the arrival of our newborn King! Our team of writers will share deeply personal stories and Christmas anecdotes regarding Peter's line in John 6:68, that there is "**no one but you**," which is especially true as they prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our goal is that each of us embrace the four weeks leading into Christmas by recognizing that our source for every good thing, humbly arrived in a manger, and is still deserving of all our praise and glory today!

Format: 600-700 words for the body of the article. An example of a previous devotional is attached to this email, to show the style and formatting we will be using for this book. Please include the following for each article submitted; failing to do so may prevent your submission from being selected:

1. A short biography (50 words maximum, in addition to the 700-word limit)
2. A Scripture verse
3. A brief anecdote/story (600-700 words)
4. A short prayer (1-3 sentences summarizing your devotional)
5. 1-2 reflection questions OR a call to action

Because the selection process is anonymous, please do not type your name or bio on your devotional submission. Instead, please put this information on the Google Form. Thank you!

Deadline: All submissions must be received by BTG no later than February 18, 2025. Please complete the Google Form submission form, as well as officially submit your devotional by sharing your Google Doc with mnbtdgsubmissions@gmail.com or as an alternative, submitting your devotional as a Word Document (**not PDF**) through the Google Form.

Please note that all submissions will be edited for punctuation and grammar. We use a basic style guide to maintain consistency. Though we do our best to keep the message sounding like you, at times we may need to edit your submission to coordinate with the other articles and keep them within the scope of the project.

Please see our rubric on the following page.

No One But You Devotional Rubric

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Satisfactory	1 - Needs Improvement	Score
Quality of Writing	Piece is attention-grabbing and sustaining, thought-provoking, encouraging, inspiring, and/or convincing Offers a fresh perspective Minimal edits needed			Piece needs more of a cohesive or clear direction Major edits needed	
Advent Christmas Theme	Seamlessly captures the Advent Christmas theme	Somewhat captures the Advent Christmas theme	Does not capture the Advent Christmas theme but includes adjacent concepts	Does not capture the Advent Christmas theme nor adjacent concepts	
Call to Action/ Reflection/ Prayer	Offers specific questions to ponder or clear and concise, practical, actionable steps to take			Offers general or vague questions or action steps	
Reflects the Mission of BTG (<u>Mission Statement:</u> Encourage, Equip, and Empower every woman on her faith journey with Jesus Christ.)	Greatly reflects the mission statement of BTG	Somewhat reflects the mission statement of BTG	Does not reflect the mission statement of BTG, but includes similar concepts	Does not reflect the mission statement of BTG	
Biblical / Theological Content	Piece accurately reflects sound biblical and theological teaching			Piece does not line up with a full-Gospel understanding of Scripture	

Example Devotional:

Finding Joy in His Daily Presence

“Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, Lord. They rejoice in your name all day long...”

Psalms 89:15–16 (NIV)

“Mommy, I had so much fun today!”

I smiled widely as I tucked my 4-year-old into bed but wondered at her comment. *What had we done today that she had found so special and meaningful?* We only ran some errands and did some chores—certainly nothing you would describe as fun-filled or particularly exciting. Ironically, I’d even been feeling guilty that very morning that I hadn’t managed to schedule an intentional mommy/daughter activity in the calendar for several weeks.

Yet it didn’t seem to matter to my daughter that I hadn’t made it happen. In fact, the type of activity or lack of pre-arranged time didn’t seem important to her at all. The truth was, she had a great day with me not because of what we did, but the fact that we did it *together*.

Afterward, I couldn’t help but see the parallel to how I think I *should* be spending time with God. I try to schedule 1:1 time with him as though he could possibly be contained within a 30-minute window in my day—and then feel guilty because that time slot never actually materialized. Yet God never holds me to an arbitrary appointment time. Rather, just like my daughter, he longs to be present in every single moment of my day.

Romans 12:1–2 puts it this way: “So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.” (The Message Paraphrase)

How freeing it is to live this way. To lay down our self-imposed boundaries and view every moment of our day as a new opportunity to immerse ourselves in God’s presence, meditate on his Word, lay our burdens at his feet, and come before him with praise and worship on our lips. And experience the joy that comes from simply spending the day *together*.

So if your schedule feels squeezed and your calendar crammed, or the demands of the day present a never-ending challenge to carve out the time you seek to be still before him, don’t despair. God is already by our side—longing for connection and waiting to meet with us. When we open our eyes and hearts and view him as a constant and accessible companion to walk with throughout our day, rather than a commitment we must find the time to honor, we will likely find that our daily routine is never again the same.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you always make yourself available to meet with us right where we are. Help us to make the most of every opportunity to joyfully walk in the light of your

presence and connect with you in small yet meaningful ways throughout the everyday moments of our lives.

Take it Further

Look for ways you can intentionally spend time with God in the midst of your day this week. Perhaps try out a few practices to experience his presence during your daily activities in a more tangible way, such as praying aloud while folding laundry, meditating on Scripture while in the car, or singing a worship song as you clean. Reflect on how these daily habits not only positively affect your attitude throughout the day but also your relationship with the Lord.

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