

A 7-Day Reading Pack for a Widow or Widower

For someone in the first months after losing a husband or wife.

Comforting KJV scriptures for widows and widowers grieving the death of a husband or wife.

How to use this pack

- One page a day, or one a week. There is no schedule for this.
- The prompts assume the house is quiet. That is the hardest part.
- Give the pack to a widow six weeks after the funeral, when the visits stop.

The seven days

Day 1 — The empty house · Psalm 34:18

Day 2 — God as defender · Psalm 147:3

Day 3 — Practical burdens · Isaiah 54:5

Day 4 — Anger · Deuteronomy 10:18

Day 5 — Memory without pretence · Psalm 68:5

Day 6 — Loneliness and church · Romans 8:38-39

Day 7 — A future you did not choose · 2 Corinthians 5:8

The death of a husband or wife is a uniquely devastating loss — the ending of a shared life, a partnership, and a covenant. The Bible speaks tenderly to widows and widowers, assuring them of God's special care, His nearness to the brokenhearted, and the hope of eternal reunion. These King James Bible verses are for the darkest days of grief and for the long road of learning to live again.

The empty house

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:18 (KJV)

God is near in grief

Devotion prompt

Which hour of the day is worst? Plan one small thing to put in it this week.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

God as defender

He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3 (KJV)

God binds up wounds

Devotion prompt

Scripture gives God a particular care for widows. What does it mean to let him take a role your spouse used to fill?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Practical burdens

For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Isaiah 54:5 (KJV)

God as husband to the widow

Devotion prompt

What task feels impossible right now — paperwork, the car, the accounts? Who can you ask to sit with you while you do it?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

God's special care for widows

Write your answer

Memory without pretence

A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

Psalm 68:5 (KJV)

God defends the widow

Devotion prompt

Write one true memory that is not the polished version told at the funeral.

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

Loneliness and church

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV)

Not even death separates us from God's love

Devotion prompt

Sunday is often the loneliest day. What would make it bearable, and who could you ask?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

A future you did not choose

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (KJV)

Your spouse is present with the Lord

Devotion prompt

What is one thing you are willing to hope for again, however small?

Write your answer

Pray it back to God before you close the page.

More verses for this season

Keep this page for cards, texts, and the days when you need different words.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalm 73:26 (KJV)

When your heart fails

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4 (KJV)

No more death or tears

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (KJV)

Sorrow with hope

A prayer for this season

*Lord, the house is quiet and I did not choose this. Be near in the hours I dread,
provide for what I cannot manage, and give me hope for a life I never planned. Amen.*

Practical ways to use these verses

- Isaiah 54:5 is uniquely meaningful for widows — God steps into the role of husband
- Romans 8:38-39 assures that not even death can break God's love
- Send Psalm 147:3 to someone in the early weeks and months of grief
- 2 Corinthians 5:8 offers immediate comfort that their spouse is with the Lord
- Psalm 73:26 speaks to the physical and emotional exhaustion of grief

Notes and prayer requests

Read the full collection, with every verse in context, at biblesundays.com/life-events/death-of-spouse-verses — free KJV verse collections, printables, and reading plans for every season of life. Free to print and share; please keep this page attached.