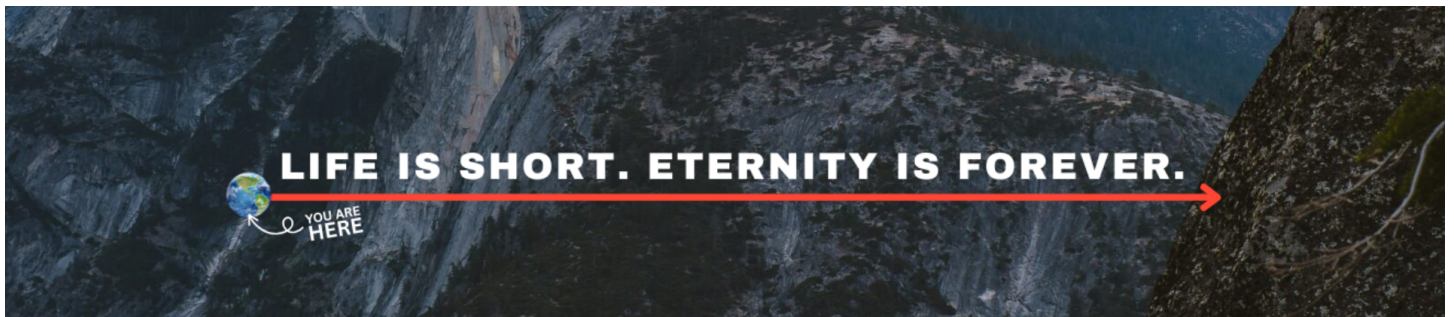


THINK ABOVE THE BOX
Bible Study Guide for
The Crow Child*
By Mary Mapes Dodge



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens



2 Corinthians 4:18 TLB So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.



THE CROW CHILD

Midway between a certain blue lake and a deep forest there once stood a cottage, called by its owner "The Rookery."

The forest shut out the sunlight and scowled upon the ground, breaking with shadows every ray that fell, until only a few little pieces lay scattered about. But the broad lake invited all the rays to come and rest upon her, so that sometimes she shone from shore to shore, and the sun winked and blinked above her, as though dazzled by his own reflection. The cottage, which was very small, had

sunny windows and dark windows. Only from the roof could you see the mountains beyond, where the light crept up in the morning and down in the evening, turning all the brooks into living silver as it passed.

But something brighter than sunshine used to look from the cottage into the forest, and something even more gloomy than shadows often glowered from its windows upon the sunny lake. One was the face of little Ruky Lynn; and the other was his sister's when she felt angry or ill-tempered.

They were orphans, Cora and Ruky, living alone in the cottage with an old uncle. Cora—or “Cor,” as Ruky called her—was nearly sixteen years old, but her brother had seen the forest turn yellow only four times. She was, therefore, almost mother and sister in one. The little fellow was her companion night and day. Together they ate and slept, and—when Cora was not at work in the cottage—together they rambled in the wood, or floated in their little skiff upon the lake.

Ruky had bright, dark eyes, and the glossy blackness of his hair made his cheeks look even rosier than they were. He had funny ways for a boy, Cora thought. The quick, bird-like jerks of his raven-black head, his stately baby gait, and his habit of pecking at his food, as she called it, often made his sister laugh. Young as he was, the little fellow had learned to mount to the top of a low-branching tree near the cottage, though he could not always get down alone. Sometimes when, perched in the thick foliage, he would scream, “Cor! Cor! Come, help me down!” his sister would answer, as she ran out laughing, “Yes, little Crow! I’m coming.”

Perhaps it was because he reminded her of a crow that Cora called him her little bird. This was when she was good-natured and willing to let him see how much she loved him. But in her cloudy moments, as the uncle called them, Cora was another girl. Everything seemed ugly to her, or out of tune. Even Ruky was a trial; and, instead of giving him a kind word, she would scold and grumble until he would steal from the cottage door, and, jumping lightly from the door-step, seek the shelter of his tree. Once safely perched among its branches he knew she would finish her work, forget her ill-humor, and be quite ready, when he cried “Cor! Cor!” to come from the cottage with a cheery, “Yes, little Crow! I’m coming! I’m coming!”

No one could help loving Ruky, with his quick, affectionate ways; and it seemed that Ruky, in turn, could not help loving every person and thing around him. He loved his silent old uncle, the bright lake, the cool forest, and even his little china cup with red berries painted upon it. But more than all, Ruky loved his golden-haired sister, and the great dog, who would plunge into the lake at the mere pointing of his chubby little finger. In fact, that finger and the commanding baby voice were “law” to Nep at any time.

Nep and Ruky often talked together, and though one used barks and the other words, there was a perfect understanding between them. Woe to the straggler that dared to rouse Nep’s wrath, and woe to the bird or rabbit that ventured too near!—those great teeth snapped at their prey without even the warning of a growl. But Ruky could safely pull Nep’s ears or his tail, or climb his great shaggy back, or even snatch away the untasted bone. Still, as I said before, every one loved the child; so, of course, Nep was no exception.

One day Ruky’s “Cor! Cor!” had sounded more often than usual. His rosy face had bent saucily to kiss Cora’s upturned forehead, as she raised her arms to lift him from the tree; but the sparkle in his dark eyes had seemed to kindle so much mischief in him that his sister’s patience became fairly exhausted.

“Has Cor nothing to do but to wait upon *you*?” she cried, “and nothing to listen to but your noise and your racket? You shall go to bed early to-day, and then I shall have some peace.”

"No, no, Cor. Please let Ruky wait till the stars come. Ruky wants to see the stars."

"Hush! Ruky is bad. He shall have a whipping when Uncle comes back from town."

Nep growled.

"Ha! ha!" laughed Ruky, jerking his head saucily from side to side; "Nep says 'No!'"

Nep was shut out of the cottage for his pains, and poor Ruky was undressed, with many a hasty jerk and pull.

"You hurt Cor!" he said, plaintively. "I'm going to take off my shoes my own self."

"No, you're not," cried Cora, almost shaking him; and when he cried she called him naughty, and said if he did not stop he should have no supper. This made him cry all the more, and Cora, feeling in her angry mood that he deserved severe punishment, threw away his supper and put him to bed. Then all that could be heard were Ruky's low sobs and the snappish clicks of Cora's needles, as she sat knitting, with her back to him.

He could not sleep, for his eyelids were scalded with tears, and his plaintive "Cor! Cor!" had reached his sister's ears in vain. She never once looked up from those gleaming knitting-needles, nor even gave him his good-night kiss.

It grew late. The uncle did not return. At last Cora, sulky and weary, locked the cottage door, blew out her candle, and lay down beside her brother.

The poor little fellow tried to win a forgiving word, but she was too ill-natured to grant it. In vain he whispered, "Cor, Cor!" He even touched her hand over and over again with his lips, hoping she would turn toward him, and, with a loving kiss, murmur, as usual, "Good night, little bird."

Instead of this, she jerked her arm angrily away, saying:

"Oh, stop your pecking and go to sleep! I wish you were a crow in earnest, and then I'd have some peace."

After this, Ruky was silent. His heart drooped within him as he wondered what this "peace" was that his sister wished for so often, and why he must go away before it could come to her.

Soon, Cora, who had rejoiced in the sudden calm, heard a strange fluttering. In an instant she saw by the starlight a dark object circle once or twice in the air above her, then dart suddenly through the open window.

Astonished that Ruky had not shouted with delight at the strange visitor, or else clung to her neck in fear, she turned to see if he had fallen asleep.

No wonder that she started up, horror-stricken,—Ruky was not there!

His empty place was still warm; perhaps he had slid softly from the bed. With trembling haste she lit the candle, and peered into every corner. The boy was not to be found!

Then those fearful words rang in her ears:

"I wish you were a crow in earnest!"

Cora rushed to the door, and, with a straining gaze, looked out into the still night.

"Ruky! Ruky!" she screamed.

There was a slight stir in the low-growing tree.

“Ruky, darling, come back!”

“Caw, caw!” answered a harsh voice from the tree. Something black seemed to spin out of it, and then, in great sweeping circles, sailed upward, until finally it settled upon one of the loftiest trees in the forest.

“Caw, caw!” it screamed, fiercely.

The girl shuddered, but, with outstretched arms, cried out:

“Oh, Ruky, if it is *you*, come back to poor Cor!”

“Caw, caw!” mocked hundreds of voices, as a shadow like a thunder-cloud rose in the air. It was an immense flock of crows. She could distinguish them plainly in the starlight, circling higher and higher, then lower and lower, until, with their harsh “Caw, caw!” they sailed far off into the night.

“Oh, Ruky, answer me!” she cried.

Nep growled, the forest trees whispered softly together, and the lake, twinkling with stars, sang a lullaby as it lifted its weary little waves upon the shore: there was no other sound.

It seemed that daylight never would come; but at last the trees turned slowly from black to green, and the lake put out its stars, one by one, and waited for the new day.

Cora, who had been wandering restlessly in every direction, now went weeping into the cottage. “Poor boy!” she sobbed; “he had no supper.” Then she scattered breadcrumbs near the doorway, hoping that Ruky would come for them; but only a few timid little songsters hovered about, and, while Cora wept, picked up the food daintily, as though it burned their bills. When she reached forth her hand, though there were no crows among them, and called “Ruky! Ruky!” they scattered and flew away in an instant.

Next she went to the steep-roofed barn, and, bringing out an apronful of grain, scattered it all around his favorite tree. Before long, to her great joy, a flock of crows came by. They spied the grain, and soon were busily picking it up with their short, feathered bills. One even came near the mound where she sat. Unable to restrain herself longer, she fell upon her knees with an imploring cry:

“Oh, Ruky! is this you?”

Instantly the entire flock set up an angry “caw,” and, surrounding the crow, who was hopping closer and closer to Cora, hurried him off, until they all looked like mere specks against the summer sky.

Every day, rain or shine, she scattered the grain, trembling with dread lest Nep should leap among the hungry crows, and perhaps kill her “little bird” first. But Nep knew better; he never stirred when the noisy crowd settled around the cottage, except once, when one of them pounced upon his back. Then he started up, wagging his tail, and barking with uproarious delight. The crow flew off in a flutter, and did not venture near him again.

Poor Cora felt sure that this could be no other than Ruky. Oh, if she only could have caught him then! Perhaps with kisses and prayers she might have won him back to Ruky’s shape; but now the chance was lost.

There was no one to help her; for the nearest neighbor dwelt miles away, and her uncle had not yet returned.

After awhile she remembered the little cup, and filling it with grain, stood it upon a grassy mound. When the crows came, they fought and struggled for its contents with many an angry cry. One of them made no effort to seize the grain. He was content to peck at the berries painted upon its sides, as he hopped joyfully around it again and again. Nep lay very quiet. Only the tip of his tail twitched with an eager, wistful motion. But Cora sprang joyfully toward the bird.

"It *is* Ruky!" she cried, striving to catch it.

Alas! The cup lay shattered beneath her hand, as, with a taunting "caw, caw," the crow joined its fellows and flew away.

Next, gunners [hunters] came. They were looking for other birds; but they hated the crows, Cora knew, and she trembled for Ruky. She heard the sharp crack of fowling-pieces [small shotguns for shooting birds] in the forest, and shuddered whenever Nep, pricking up his ears, darted with an angry howl in the direction of the sound. She knew, too, that her uncle had set traps for the crows, and it seemed to her that the whole world was against the poor birds, plotting their destruction.

Time flew by. The leaves seemed to flash into bright colors and fall off almost in a day. Frost and snow came. Still the uncle had not returned, or, if he had, she did not know it. Her brain was bewildered. She knew not whether she ate or slept. Only the terrible firing reached her ears, or that living black cloud came and went with its ceaseless "caw."

At last, during a terrible night of wind and storm, Cora felt that she must go forth and seek her poor bird.

"Perhaps he is freezing—dying!" she cried, springing frantically from the bed, and casting her long cloak over her night-dress.

In a moment, she was trudging barefooted through the snow. It was so deep she could hardly walk, and the sleet was driving into her face; still she kept on, though her numbed feet seemed hardly to belong to her. All the way she was praying in her heart; promising never, never to be passionate again, if she only could find her bird—not Ruky the boy, but whatever he might be. She was willing to accept her punishment. Soon a faint cry reached her ear. With eager haste, she peered into every fold of the drifted snow. A black object caught her eye. It was a poor storm-beaten crow, lying there numb and stiff.

For Ruky's sake she folded it closely to her bosom, and plodded back to the cottage. The fire cast a rosy light on its glossy wing as she entered, but the poor thing did not stir. Softly stroking and warming it, she wrapped the frozen bird in soft flannel and blew into its open mouth. Soon, to her great relief, it revived, and even swallowed a few grains of wheat.

Cold and weary, she cast herself upon the bed, still folding the bird to her heart. "It may be Ruky! It is all I ask," she sobbed. "I dare not ask for more."

Suddenly she felt a peculiar stirring. The crow seemed to grow larger. Then, in the dim light, she felt its feathers pressing lightly against her cheek. Next, something soft and warm wound itself tenderly about her neck, and she heard a sweet voice saying:

"Don't cry, Cor,—I'll be good."

She started up. It was, indeed, her own darling! The starlight shone into the room. Lighting her candle, she looked at the clock. It was just two hours since she had uttered those cruel words! Sobbing, she asked: "Have I been asleep, Ruky, dear?"

“I don’t know, Cor. Do people cry when they’re asleep?”

“Sometimes, Ruky,” clasping him very close.

“Then you have been asleep. But Cor, please don’t let Uncle whip Ruky.”

“No, no, my little bird—I mean, my brother. Good night, darling!”

“Good night.”

The End

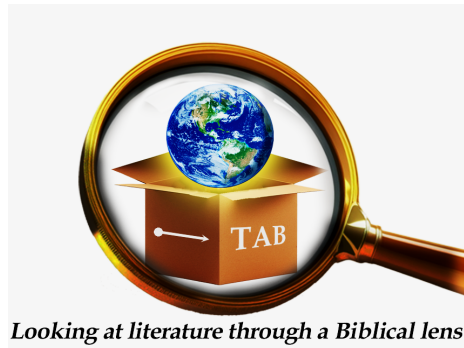
**Project Gutenberg. (n.d.). Retrieved March 20, 2025, from [Project Gutenberg](#).*

Minor changes to the text were made for today’s audience. Definitions added are within brackets.

Written by Mary Mapes Dodge in 1864. Modern Short Stories: A Book for High Schools / Editor: Frederick Houk Law

Image by Casey for [Rawpixel](#)

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1. The cottage where Cor and Ruky lived with their old uncle was called “The Rookery” which can be defined as a gathering and breeding place for crows or other birds, where nests are built in trees. The cottage certainly was situated in a beautiful spot with areas of shade from the forest and bright sparkling sunlight from the lake. Even the windows are described as some sunny and some dark. The author goes on to describe the two siblings with four year old Ruky being full of happiness and good humor and his sixteen year old sister prone to an ill temper. The following blogpost discusses light and dark with a Biblical perspective. Please listen to the audio and read along.

John 8:12 NKJV Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**”

“As Christians, when we think of the light that came into the world, which is Christ, to say his name JESUS and the word DARKNESS... it’s like they don’t belong in the same sentence. Polar opposites.... MAGNETS opposing one another.”
- Brad Hewey

What Does The Bible Say About Light And Darkness? : HopeStreamRadio

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind, but now I see.”
- John Newton, 1772



▶ **Chris Tomlin - Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

EXTRA CREDIT: Make the time to see the 2006 film [Amazing Grace](#). You won’t regret it! Here’s the trailer:



▶ **Amazing Grace movie trailer**

EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: Now let’s see what a heavy metal singer can do with Newton’s song!



▶ **Metal singer performs "Amazing Grace"**

“Dan Vasc grew up in a typical family where his mother sang in the choir at their church. His father gave him his first musical instrument at the early age of 9 which was his old harmonica...”

Then what happened?

This is how you know God loves you. . . .

Wait, can Bible stories *really* be put to music using the heavy metal genre? Click below for an interesting post on Dan's Biblical songs, including the video of the song *Tale with No End* at the very bottom of the link. Warning: Your grandma probably won't like these!

But first, please read the Bible story that corresponds to the song *Tale with No End*.

1 Kings 19 AMP - Elijah Flees from Jezebel - Now Ahab - Bible Gateway

"...in the tune 'Tale With No End' the 'Cave' of Elijah is a grotto written about in the Hebrew Bible, where the prophet Elijah took shelter during a journey into the wilderness (1 Kings 19:8-9). In the Books of Kings, Elijah had been travelling for 40 days and nights, when he takes shelter in the cave on Mount Horeb for the night. In addition, the lyrics above state 'The fire knights will soon guide me home' which is a reference to the chariot of fire that Elijah went up in as he passed his cloak onto the 'young one' which represents the apprentice-Elisha as found in [2 Kings 2](#)."



Fearless

Just for Fun Department (with some **extra credit** thrown in): Listen to Dan sing the *Hallelujah Chorus* all by himself!



One Man Choir - Handel's Hallelujah

2. Ruky is described using several avian terms such as: *"quick, bird-like jerks of his raven-black head, his stately baby gait, and his habit of pecking at his food"* and yelling *"Cor, Cor"* when he wanted his sister Cora and having an affection for sitting in trees, all of which led to his sister calling him her *"little Crow."* Since we are on the subject, let's take a look at what God has to say about crows, but we will also look at ravens, because they are also included in the crow family, affectionately known as *corvids*.

Proverbs 147:9 MSG Sing to God a thanksgiving hymn, play music on your instruments to God, Who fills the sky with clouds, preparing rain for the earth, then turning the mountains green with grass, feeding both cattle and crows.

And now for their cousins:

Luke 12:24 NKJV Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?

"Ravens are fascinating creatures. When we read about ravens in the Bible, several times throughout Scripture ravens are used as examples of darkness, however ravens also paint a beautiful picture of God's provision. It is interesting to note that God would choose to use such a bird as an example, because in Biblical times ravens were abominated by the Jews and considered to be unclean (Lev. 11:15). This is what makes the picture so beautiful: If God cares and provides for even the raven—a bottom-feeding bird that is despised and unclean—how much more must He care for us!" - [Hope Reflected](#)

Consider the ravens - Christian Living - Hope Reflected

1 Kings 17:1-6 NKJV And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith,

which flows into the Jordan. And it will be *that* you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the **ravens** to feed you there.” So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. The **ravens** brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

“God our Provider - through ‘Ravens’, we pray that hearts are moved to confidence in Him who has already given the ultimate provision through Jesus. May it stir up faith to believe Him for provision in every area of life.” - Ian Chew

When I think of how You brought the ravens to Elijah / When I think about the way You turned the water into wine / I remember all the times You came through in my weakness. / Oh Your grace is sufficient. / Jesus, You’re enough for me.



▶ **Ravens – Awaken Generation Music (feat. Ian Chew)**

3. Ruky was such a sweet and affectionate little boy, full of sunshine and loved by everyone. But...

“One day Ruky’s ‘Cor! Cor!’ had sounded oftener than usual. His rosy face had bent saucily to kiss Cora’s upturned forehead, as she raised her arms to lift him from the tree; but the sparkle in his dark eyes had seemed to kindle so much mischief in him that his sister’s patience became fairly exhausted.”

This led to her reprimanding him way out of proportion to his behavior. In a very mean and cruel way, she told him that he was bad and would get a whipping. He was then roughly undressed and put to bed without supper. Cora continued taking her anger out on the innocent Ruky, even to the point of ignoring the child's imploring pleas for forgiveness. As a final expression of her misplaced anger, she told him, *“Oh, stop your pecking and go to sleep! I wish you were a crow in earnest, and then I’d have some peace.”*

She seems *nice* ... just kidding!

“His heart drooped within him as he wondered what this ‘peace’ was that his sister wished for so often, and why he must go away before it could come to her.”

Don’t you just feel so sad for little Ruky at this point? Here’s some great advice from God Himself that would have come in handy for Cora that night:

Psalm 37:8 AMP Cease from anger and abandon wrath; Do not fret; *it leads only to evil.*

“Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26–27). To refuse to surrender our anger is to welcome the devil to wreak havoc in our hearts and relationships. It allows him to take new ground, and to extend his stay in any given situation.”

- Marshall Segal

Don’t Go to Bed with Your Anger | Desiring God

There is always hope!

“So why, Lord, do I still fail? Do I wear thin? Why do I still give in to temptation? / On my own, I am bankrupt. I don’t trust You or take You at Your word, what You’ve promised. / Hallelujah, death is overcome and we are breathing. / Hallelujah, our stone hearts become flesh that’s beating. / Hallelujah, chains have been undone and we are singing.”

- Michael Donehey / Jason Jamison / Ruben Juarez III / Jeff Owen / Brendon Shirley



▶ **Tenth Avenue North - The Struggle (with lyrics)**



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: Let's all be honest here and admit that at times we have taken our bad moods and anger out on the innocent people around us. Think about a time in your life that you were the *Cora* of the situation. How did you rectify things with your personal *Ruky*? Did you ask for and receive forgiveness? Now reverse this scene and be *Ruky*. Did you grant mercy and forgive the person, even if they didn't ask for it? Aren't we blessed to have a Savior who will forgive *us*?

EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: The following message is well worth your time (43 minutes of it!) on the subject of handling anger the way God wants us to. Learning this lesson can save you hours, days, years and even decades of pain, regret and angst:

*"... anger should not outlast the day. You should still lie down in love even **if it's not all fixed yet**. Never is your goal to just win to conquer the other person, to harm them in any way, even if there's things that aren't worked out yet. And that reality, that I can lie down in love, that I can be at peace with my brother even though we may have things still to work out, ... makes anger still righteous but if you let it go, if you have not held on to it right, it's now designed to hurt someone or if you hold on to it so long it begins to fester in you, then the reality is that **bitterness is the acid that eats its own container...**"*

- Dr Bryan Chapell

▶ Bryan Chapell Sermon | "Witness of Grace"

4. Sometimes our mental state right before sleep can set the tone for our dreams, as seems to have happened to poor Cora! Her stern rebukes and neglectful disregard for her crying little brother gave her one big realistic nightmare that lasted for two horrifying hours.

"Soon, Cora, who had rejoiced in the sudden calm, heard a strange fluttering. In an instant she saw by the starlight a dark object circle once or twice in the air above her, then dart suddenly through the open window...

Next she went to the steep-roofed barn, and, bringing out an apronful of grain, scattered it all around his favorite tree. Before long, to her great joy, a flock of crows came by. They spied the grain, and soon were busily picking it up with their short, feathered bills. One even came near the mound where she sat. Unable to restrain herself longer, she fell upon her knees with an imploring cry: 'Oh, Ruky! is this you?' Instantly the entire flock set up an angry 'caw,' and, surrounding the crow, who was hopping closer and closer to Cora, hurried him off, until they all looked like mere specks against the summer sky...

In a moment, she was trudging barefooted through the snow. It was so deep she could hardly walk, and the sleet was driving into her face; still she kept on, though her numbed feet seemed hardly to belong to her. "

Could her conscience be trying to tell her something?

Hebrews 10:22 NKJV Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

"It is so wonderful to think that God actually speaks to warn us when we are wrong, and to bless us when we do right. This may be a "still small voice" that will not let us go until we settle in our hearts what is right according to Him. We must never silence that inner voice—but always check what we believe according to God's Word." - [Billy Graham](#)

What Does the Bible Say About a Guilty Conscience?

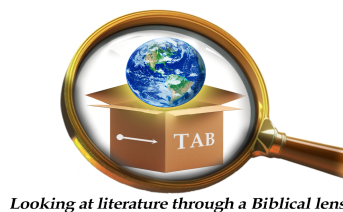
But what can someone *do* with all the guilt they feel, now that their conscience has brought it to their attention? See the link below for the recipe ingredients! Tip: make sure to scroll down all the way to the end.

"If you struggle with guilt, you're not alone. Millions of Christians constantly feel weighed down by guilt. Why? A big reason is that many Christians don't understand the difference between conviction and guilt." - [Love Worth Finding](#)

Freeing Bible Verses about Guilt | Love Worth Finding Ministries

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me. / From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. / No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand. / Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
- Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

🎵 [In Christ Alone - Keith & Kristyn Getty, CityAlight \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)



Think Above the Box: Think back to a time that you had a very guilty conscience about something you did or said. Would the Scriptures noted in the links above have helped you? Have you been able to sense God prompting you through your conscience when you need to make a decision in your life?

5. I think most readers will have figured out by the end of the story that Cora's guilty conscience gave her a very vivid experience that involved possibly losing her brother forever to the crows due to her actions towards him that night before bed. Let's explore the power of some dreams and what God wants us to understand about them.

"What I've learned through this practice is that our dreams are sometimes just a jumble of inconsequential things—what you ate for dinner, a TV show you watched, an article you read. It can be your subconscious mind reorganizing thoughts. But every once in a while, you'll have a dream that leaves you feeling as if God really is trying to get your attention. And as long as the message of that dream aligns with God's will by encouraging positive change and positive outcomes, chances are good that He very well might be."
- Rick Hamlin

The Importance of Dreams in the Bible - Guideposts

Genesis 40:8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

How about a quick drive-thru look at various times throughout the Bible that God used dreams and visions?

*"God used visions in the **Old Testament** to reveal His plan, to further His plan, and to put His people in places of influence... Visions in the **New Testament** also served to provide information that was unavailable elsewhere. Specifically, God used visions and dreams to identify Jesus and to establish His church."* - [Got Questions](#)

How did God use dreams and visions in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org

Through experiencing that very realistic nightmare, seeming to last for weeks instead of hours, Cora definitely saw the changes that needed to be made in her life.

"Suddenly she felt a peculiar stirring. The crow seemed to grow larger. Then, in the dim light, she felt its feathers pressing lightly against her cheek. Next, something soft and warm wound itself tenderly about her neck, and she heard a sweet voice saying: 'Don't cry, Cor,—I'll be good.' [what a way to twist the knife of guilt in her heart!]

She started up. It was, indeed, her own darling! [I bet a gigantic weight was lifted off of her.]

The starlight shone into the room. Lighting her candle, she looked at the clock. It was just two hours since she had uttered those cruel words!

Sobbing, she asked: 'Have I been asleep, Ruky, dear?' 'I don't know, Cor. Do people cry when they're asleep?' 'Sometimes, Ruky,' clasping him very close. 'Then you have been asleep. But Cor, please don't let Uncle whip Ruky.' 'No, no, my little bird—I mean, my brother. Good night, darling!'"

What a sweet sense of peace and relief must have been felt by Cora as she realized it was all a dream! The following song would be a great soundtrack for that moment. Listen and imagine that you are Cora, cradling Ruky in your arms:

When my mind is like a battlefield and my heart is overcome by fear and hope seems like a ship that's lost at sea. / Fiery arrows whistling, the terror of the night sets in, but I can feel Your angels all around / I am resting underneath the shelter of Your mighty wings. / Your promises are where my hope is found. - We the Kingdom

 [Peace \(Official Lyric Video\) - Bethel Music feat. We The Kingdom | Peace](#)

6. Cora definitely experienced a major change in how she treated her little brother and was ready to repent and transform her ways.

"All the way she was praying in her heart; promising never, never to be passionate again, if she only could find her bird—not Ruky the boy, but whatever he might be. She was willing to accept her punishment."

God wishes the same for us!

ACTS 3:19 NKJV Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

"Repentance is both a one-time event and a life-long process. It means to ask for forgiveness and intentionally change your ways of acting and thinking. Watch this video and think about what things you may need to repent for." - Samer Massad

▶ How Do I Repent? | Acts 3:19 | Our Daily Bread Video Devotional

Psalms 51 NKJV Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Your sight—that You may be found just when You speak, *and* blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear joy and gladness, *that* the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me *by* Your generous Spirit. *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering.

The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.

Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

"Eerdmans Bible Dictionary includes this definition of repentance: 'In its fullest sense it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future.'"

- [Got Questions](#)

Bet you always wanted to know what the Greek words *metamelomai*, *metanoeo* and *metanoia* mean! Time to find out:

What does the Bible say about repentance?



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens

Think Above the Box: It is easy, while reading this story, to think about how awful Cora is to her little brother, but let's think about the saying, *"When you point a finger at someone, there are four fingers pointing back at you!"* Ouch! I resemble that remark! Take some time to ponder your own actions that are in need of repentance and personify **Eerdmans'** definition! Listen to this while you do that:

Lord, I've been unforgiving, help me extend grace. / Father uproot my bitterness, fill me with love. / Jesus forgive my judgment, make me like you. / Holy Spirit search my heart, cleanse me within. / Lord, I seek Your grace. / Renew my heart. / Father I turn to You, restore my soul. / Jesus, heal my wounds, guide me in grace. / Holy Spirit lead me to true Repentance.



🎵 Seeking Your Forgiveness 🙏 | Worship Song of Repentance

REAL LIFE: From the post in question 2: *"When Elijah could not provide food for himself, he remained obedient to God and trusted Him. It was no coincidence that God used ravens to provide Elijah with what he needed (1 Kings 17:6). Here again we see a beautiful picture of God's providence and provision for us, painted from one of the most unlikely sources (ravens in the Bible). As Spurgeon said, 'Although the Lord may not appear for us in the way we expect, or desire, or suppose, yet He will in some way or other provide for us.'"*

So who is Spurgeon?

"Just fixing his eyes on me, as if he knew all my heart, he said, "Young man, you look very miserable." Well, I did, but I had not been accustomed to have remarks made from the pulpit on my personal appearance before. However, it was a good blow, struck right home. He continued, "And you will always be miserable—miserable in life and miserable in death—if you don't obey my text; but if you obey now, this moment, you will be saved." Then lifting up his hands, he shouted, as only a Primitive Methodist could do, "Young man, look to Jesus Christ. Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but look and live!"

The Personal Testimony of Charles Spurgeon

What a way to become saved: **"Just look!"** But what did Charles do with his life after that snowy day?

"Charles Spurgeon was a truly unique instrument of the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the most remarkable aspects of his life and legacy is that he holistically exemplified Christian virtue in his ministry. With respect to evangelistic zeal, Charles' passion for evangelism is seen in every Christ-centered facet of his life, ministry, and sermons. During his lifetime he preached the gospel to over a million people and personally baptized 15,000 new believers converted under his ministry. Furthermore, his sermons were translated into nearly forty languages including: Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Castilian, Chinese, Congolese, Czech, Dutch, Estonian, French, Gaelic, German, Hindi, Russian, Serbian, Syriac, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, and Welsh."

- Phillip Ort

Who is Charles Haddon Spurgeon?

EXTRA CREDIT: *"If you're struggling to find the eye of your hurricane, let Spurgeon focus your attention elsewhere – off of the waves and onto the wave-walker (Matthew 14:30-31). Here are twenty-two quotes to help you not just survive the storm, but sing in the storm."*

- [The Spurgeon Library](#)

"Wait a little longer. Ah, beloved! How despicable our troubles and trials will seem when we look back upon them! Looking at them here in the prospect, they seem immense; but when we get to heaven, they will seem to us just nothing at all....Let us go on, therefore; and if the night be ever so dark, remember there is not a night that shall not have a morning; and that morning is to come by-and-by."

- C. H. Spurgeon

22 Spurgeon Quotes for Surviving Life's Storms

EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT: 'Cuz it's *poetry*! Read the following poem by Spurgeon. It would go good with your morning coffee!

"Awake! This morn my heart would rise above this world to see thy face; Beyond these narrow-cloudy skies to gain from thee, supplies of grace."

Awake! This Morn My Heart Would Rise | For The Church

APOLO-GET-ITS: *"So, here's the key question for Darwinists like Dawkins: if simple messages such as Take out the garbage Mom, Mary loves Scott, and Drink Coke require an intelligent being, then why doesn't a message 1,000 encyclopedias long require one?"*
- Norman Geisler

Romans 1:20 AMP For ever since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through His workmanship [all His creation, the wonderful things that He has made], so that they [who fail to believe and trust in Him] are without excuse *and* without defense.

The Simple Amoeba - Bible Apologetics - A DAILY DEVOTIONAL

EXTRA CREDIT: for all you aspiring ornithologists!

"Discover how the European Blackbird survives brutal German winters! Fluffing its feathers for insulation, forming a perfect heat-saving ball, and lowering body temperature at night, this bird showcases the brilliance of its Creator."

- **Creation Moments**

How the Blackbird Survives Freezing Winters

LOVE TO LINK!

The depth of content offered in the Think Above the Box Study Guides would not have been possible without the many talents and Spirit-inspired links that are included for each book. Isn't it great that while you use the study guides you can click on a link and go to these great sites without searching for them?

We would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all the Bible publishers, pastors, bloggers, filmmakers, musicians and Christian media websites for the vast amount of information they provide online. Your efforts are truly a blessing to all who access your sites!

TAB highly encourages students to explore each of the links at their leisure as it is like going down a holy rabbit hole!

[HopeStreamRadio](#)

[Chris Tomlin](#)

[Dan Vasc](#)

[Bible Gateway](#)

[Christian Molten Metal](#)

[Hope Reflected](#)

[AWAKEN GENERATION](#)

[Biblia](#)

[Desiring God](#)

[TENTH AVENUE NORTH](#)

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[Got Questions](#)

[Our Daily Bread Ministries](#)

[Still Waters Christian Music - YouTube](#)

[Middletown Bible Church](#)

[Eerdmans Publishing](#)

[The Spurgeon Library](#)

[For the Church](#)

[Bible Apologetics](#)

[Creation Moments](#)

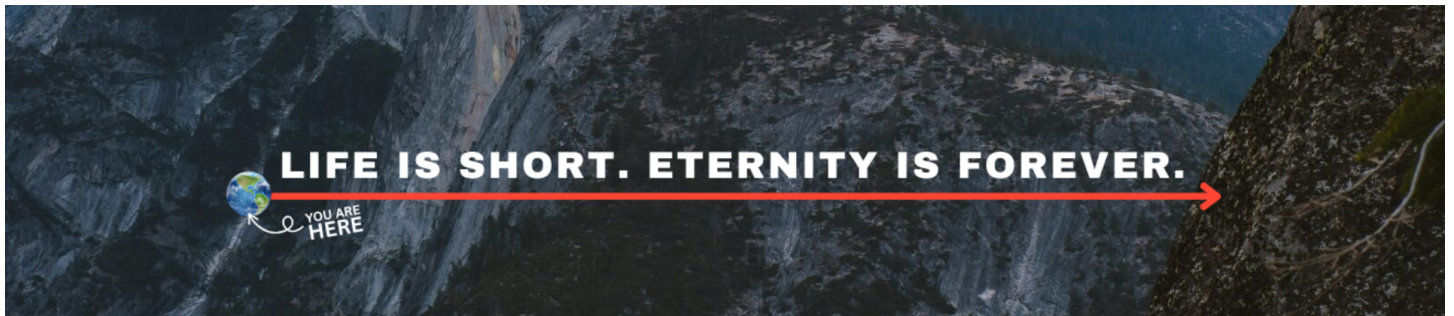
Afterword

Please check out [Think above the Box](#) for more study guides, blogs, and links to thought-provoking material.

*And please leave us a note on our site about your experience!
We would love to hear your comments!*



Looking at literature through a Biblical lens



2 Corinthians 4:18 TLB So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

