



## Moments of Beauty and Grace

A few weeks into the Pennsylvania lockdown, there was an exact moment when I was struck by the beauty of our world in a new and profound way. The flowering plum tree in our front yard was at its peak bloom. The delicate color palette of the petals, leaves and branches caught me off guard. I was stunned by its striking beauty. I also began hearing springtime birds; their songs more melodic than I'd remembered. Slowing down, having less “busyness”, was having an unexpected and wonderful effect on me.

I've begun to mark such moments of beauty and grace with intention. Taking notice brought a new sense of gratitude in everyday moments – like noticing the extravagant clouds that adorned my church across the street as I took out the trash early one morning. Or seeing a flash of sunlight reflected on a trash worker's arm as he lifted all my messy things and shuttled them away.

I love the image of Jesus on the beach after the Resurrection in the Gospel of John. Jesus Himself is making breakfast. I picture the morning sun on His arm as He takes the cooked meal and offers His disciples bread and fish. I see light breaking from dawn into day as He offers grace to Peter, wiping away his messes with healing words. Moments of beauty and grace.

SU is privileged to offer God's Word to those who are fearful, anxious and hurting as well as to those who seek to dig deeper. A photo shows a young girl, smiling, as she holds a special copy of a SU Scripture comic she received that accompanied a dinner provided by church volunteers. Children who used to gather with friends at an after-school program are now joining together on Zoom and in conference calls offering joyful, sincere prayers of faith and hope.

I trust that you are savoring your moments, rejoicing in beauty and grace. May you find plenty of each in these pages. Be still, quiet your soul, and listen for the Creator's Voice as you meet with Him each day.

**By Gail A. Martin**

*President*

Scripture Union USA