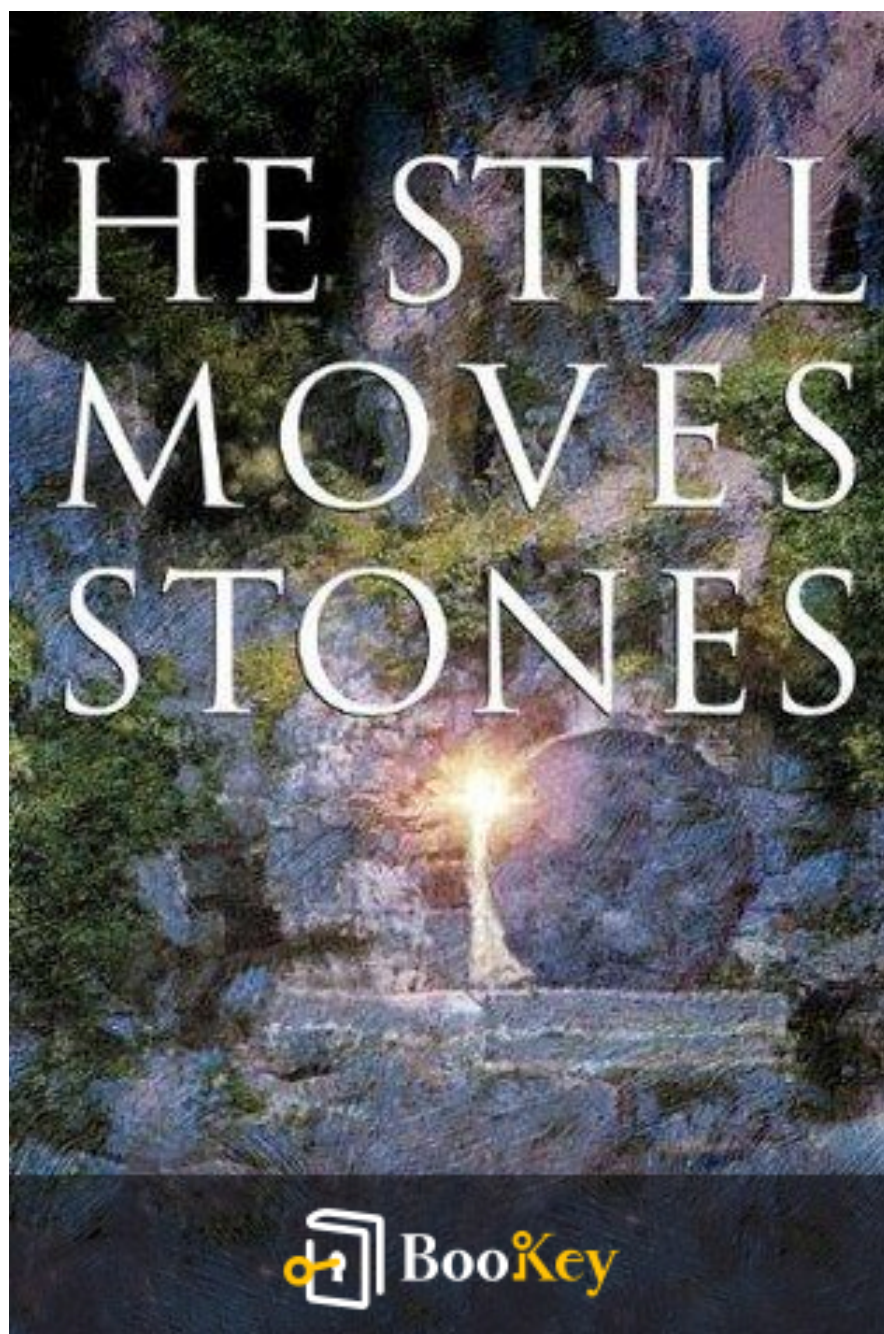


He Still Moves Stones PDF (Limited Copy)

Max Lucado



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He Still Moves Stones Summary

Finding hope in life's challenging moments.

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About the book

In "He Still Moves Stones," Max Lucado invites readers on a transformative journey of faith, exploring the profound truth that God is ever-present in our lives, especially in moments of despair and struggle. With compassionate storytelling and lyrical prose, Lucado illuminates how the same God who rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb continues to work in our lives, lifting burdens and breaking through barriers that seem insurmountable. By sharing powerful biblical narratives and personal reflections, he encourages us to trust in God's ability to bring hope from hopelessness and to recognize the miraculous possibilities that emerge from our deepest trials. Dive into this inspiring read and discover how even the gravest stones in your life can be moved, allowing you to experience the transformative power of unwavering faith.

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About the author

Max Lucado is a best-selling Christian author and pastor, renowned for his uplifting and thought-provoking writings that inspire millions around the globe. Born on January 11, 1955, in San Angelo, Texas, Lucado has a unique gift for weaving poignant storytelling with biblical truths, making complex theological concepts accessible to readers of all backgrounds. His work often reflects a deep understanding of human struggles and the transformative power of faith, evident in his numerous books, devotionals, and sermons. Over the years, Lucado has garnered multiple awards and honors, solidifying his influence in Christian literature and helping to encourage a deeper relationship with God among his audience.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

In "Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks," the chapter unfolds on a serene October Saturday, leading you through a reflective journey after a chance encounter with an art exhibit at the local library. Seeking to fill your newfound free time, you discover an intriguing exhibit titled "Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks." Curiosity piques, prompting you to embrace this artistic experience.

As you enter the exhibit, you're enveloped by the comforting atmosphere of a cozy room filled with bookshelves and a crackling fireplace, setting the stage for the evocative paintings that await. The artworks are not mere landscapes or nature scenes; they are profound narratives charting the emotional journeys of individuals confronting despair and finding hope, illustrating a powerful dichotomy between trauma and healing.

Each pairing of paintings tells a story. The first depicts a leper entreating compassion, juxtaposed with a scene of his miraculous healing, symbolizing the transformative power of faith and connection. Subsequent artworks follow suit, featuring a woman on the brink of despair leaping across a chasm, only to be uplifted to solid ground, and a tormented man finding peace as he listens intently in newfound serenity.

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The exhibit resonates with the recurring theme of struggle giving way to triumph. Each “before” and “after” tableau encapsulates the essence of human experience—pain and redemption, despair and joy. These portraits serve as testimonials to encounters with the divine, underscoring the depth of personal transformation that can arise from moments of despair.

In the center of the gallery stands a notable painting devoid of faces—only a bruised reed and a smoldering wick. Here, the symbolism deepens. The bruised reed represents those who feel weakened and broken, while the smoldering wick signifies a spirit dwindling but not yet extinguished. These images evoke profound reflections on personal low points—betrayals, failures, and societal rejection that led to feelings of fragility.

However, the heart of the chapter is the reassurance that, unlike the harsh judgments of society, God offers compassion and renewal. The scriptures highlight God's commitment to revitalizing the downtrodden—through Christ's actions, bruised reeds are made whole, and flickering wicks are rekindled. The art gallery itself becomes a celebration of hope, revealing that every individual—without exception—has a place within this narrative of grace.

Lastly, the chapter invites readers to connect personally with the theme. Your own canvas awaits, symbolizing your unique journey and the potential for renewal. With brushes and paint beside you, the message is clear:

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transformation and healing are always possible, waiting for your engagement with the divine in the midst of life's trials. Through this artistic exploration, the chapter weaves a profound narrative about resilience, hope, and the tender touch of the Creator that embraces the bruised and the weary.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Transformation through faith and connection

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing before a canvas of your life, with all its bruises and flickers of hope. This chapter reminds you that even in your most fragile moments, there is a divine promise of renewal waiting just for you. Like the leper healed through compassion and the smoldering wick rekindled, you too can rise from despair into healing, demonstrating that your struggles are not the end but rather the prelude to your greatest triumph. Embrace the grace that offers you a renewed spirit, and step into the transformation that faith can inspire, for every stroke of your journey is part of a beautiful masterpiece in the making.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2. Not Guilty

Chapter 2: Not Guilty

Overview

This chapter delves into themes of shame, judgment, and grace, juxtaposing a biblical story of a woman accused of adultery with the tragic life of a modern woman named Rebecca Thompson. Both stories illustrate the deep psychological scars left by public and private shame, as well as the transformative power of grace and forgiveness.

The Woman Caught in Adultery

The chapter opens with a dramatic encounter in the Temple where Jesus teaches the people. The religious leaders, specifically the Pharisees, bring a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, seeking to trap him with the law of Moses, which prescribes death by stoning for such an offense. Their motives are sinister; they aim to compromise Jesus's authority and undermine his compassion.

As the Pharisees demand a response, Jesus intriguingly bends down and writes in the dirt. When pressed for an answer, he challenges them, stating

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that only those without sin should cast the first stone. One by one, the accusers leave, starting with the older men, until only Jesus and the woman remain. She stands relieved but trembling, having narrowly escaped a brutal fate.

Jesus, embodying grace and mercy, does not condemn her. Instead, he acknowledges her victimization and tells her to "go and sin no more," offering her a chance at redemption rather than punishment. This pivotal moment emphasizes Jesus's radical departure from traditional judgment, resonating deeply with the message of hope and forgiveness.

Rebecca Thompson's Tragedy

Transitioning to a modern narrative, we meet Rebecca Thompson, whose life is marked by trauma and shame. At eighteen, she and her younger sister are abducted, and after a horrific ordeal, Rebecca survives while her sister does not. This tragedy haunts her for nearly two decades, shaping her existence with feelings of guilt, shame, and fear—emotions that become her own personal "canyon of shame."

Nineteen years later, burdened by unresolved pain and facing the potential release of her attackers, Rebecca returns to the site of her trauma. The nightmarish memories overwhelm her, leading to her tragic death as she succumbs to the unresolved weight of her past.

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The Power of Shame and Guilt

Through both stories, the chapter explores the complexities of public versus private shame. Rebecca's shame is amplified in the eyes of society, while the woman caught in adultery experiences brutal public humiliation—reduced to a mere pawn in the Pharisees' scheme. The author poignantly communicates that both women are victims of circumstances beyond their control.

As the narrative unfolds, the chapter argues that shame can be deeply ingrained and lasting unless addressed. Whether stemming from public scandal or private trauma, the implications of shame are dire, creating a chasm that many struggle to bridge. The acknowledgment that both women did not deserve their fates is paramount; they are portrayed as the true victims of a harsh judgmental society.

Conclusion: The Offer of Grace

In the final moments of the chapter, the author calls readers to reflect on Jesus's message to both the woman and those burdened by guilt: "I don't judge you guilty." It invites a powerful contemplation about self-forgiveness and the nature of divine grace. This message resonates not just in the historical context but also serves as a potent reminder that no one is beyond redemption. Just as Jesus stood witness to the woman's suffering, he calls

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each person to bring their own struggles forward and experience healing.

Ultimately, the chapter connects the ancient and the modern, highlighting how universal themes of shame, grace, and the need for forgiveness transcend time and context. Whether it's through a personal canyon of sorrow or a courtroom of public scrutiny, the hope remains constant: there is always the possibility of emerging from darkness into the light.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3. Don't Miss the Party

Certainly! Here's a smooth, logical, and readable summary of the provided chapters, along with some background information to help clarify the themes and concepts discussed:

Chapter 3: Don't Miss the Party

In Jesus' parable about the prodigal son, the story contrasts two brothers: the younger son, who squanders his inheritance but returns home seeking forgiveness, and the older son, who remains faithful yet harbors jealousy and bitterness at the celebration of his brother's return. When the older son refuses to join the feast, the father gently reminds him that everything he has is already his. This highlights that true joy comes from reconciliation and the love of family, and it serves as a caution against bitterness. The author compares the older brother's resentment to real-life instances of jealousy and bitterness, emphasizing that dwelling on what we lack can lead us to miss out on joy and connection. The narrative encourages readers to overcome jealousy and celebrate the successes of others, reinforcing that God desires our presence at His banquet of joy.

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Chapter 4: When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter reflects on the challenges of dealing with difficult family members, illustrated by specific examples shared in conversation. The author prompts introspection about the presence of “tar baby relatives,” individuals with whom communication feels impossible. Jesus Himself faced a difficult family dynamic and was even rejected by those closest to Him, highlighting that familial acceptance is not guaranteed. Yet, He teaches us to define family beyond blood relations by focusing on those who do God’s will. The chapter encourages readers to seek strength from their spiritual family and emphasizes God’s unyielding support, even amid familial discord.

Chapter 5: It’s All Right to Dream Again

This chapter emphasizes the importance of hope and persistence in the face of discouragement. It reflects on the resurrection of Jesus as an anchor for hope and a call to continue dreaming amidst trials. Through the narrative of Jesus’ followers discovering the empty tomb, the chapter illustrates how initial fear can transform into joy when encountering divine intervention. It stresses the need to act in faith, encouraging readers to take steps toward their dreams. By drawing parallels to personal experiences of hope and resilience, it motivates us to choose faith over despair, reminding us that God’s action often follows our willingness to believe and act.

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Chapter 6: Sour Milk

The focus here is on maintaining a positive attitude amidst life's stresses. The story of Martha and Mary serves as a backdrop to illustrate how worry can sour our disposition. Martha, busy with work, chastises her sister Mary for not helping. Jesus gently reminds Martha that spending time in His presence is more important than busyness. The chapter challenges readers to reflect on their attitudes and how focusing on duty over relationship can lead to bitterness. It calls for prioritizing sincere, heartfelt service over merely fulfilling obligations, encouraging a return to quiet moments at Jesus' feet.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Centering around the healing of the woman with a bleeding disorder, this chapter highlights the power of faith. The woman's act of merely touching Jesus' garment reflects her desperate hope, and it emphasizes that even the smallest gesture of faith can lead to miraculous results. This underscores the idea that faith is about conviction and the expectation of possibility despite daunting challenges. The chapter affirms that God responds to even our timid prayers, reminding readers that their small steps of faith are seen and honored by Him.

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Chapter 8: Forever Young

This chapter reflects on aging and the attitudes we hold towards it. The author discusses the inevitability of growing older and the various regrets that come with age, highlighting how these regrets can prompt rebellion or a desire to chase after lost youth. Encouragement is given to pursue an adventurous life rather than a safe, complacent one. The stories of figures like Moses and Caleb serve as inspiration, demonstrating that older years can still hold significant purpose and vitality. Aging is not an end but a preparation for new adventures and opportunities.

Chapter 9: Read the Story

Reflecting on the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, this chapter illustrates how disappointment can cloud our perception of God's presence. Cleopas expresses his disillusionment after the crucifixion, revealing the struggle to recognize hope amid despair. Jesus' response is to reiterate the scriptural narrative, helping them see that the story is still unfolding. The chapter encourages readers to engage with their hopes and disappointments, emphasizing that understanding God's overarching plan can provide comfort in times of heartache.

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Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

This chapter focuses on the power of humble prayers. It presents a father's desperate plea to Jesus for his demon-possessed son, emphasizing that even frail faith can yield profound results. The author argues that the effectiveness of prayer lies not in its eloquence but in the heart behind it. In recognizing our limitations and turning to God for help, we meet Him at our weakest moments, assuring readers that genuine cries for help do not go unheard.

Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Jesus' encounter with the paralytic man at Bethesda showcases His compassion for those suffering. The chapter encourages readers to confront their own conditions of helplessness and to realize that Jesus sees and cares. It emphasizes the story of the man who couldn't find healing and who struggled to reach the waters, drawing parallels to contemporary struggles with doubt and the search for hope. The takeaway is that Jesus enters our pain and invites us into healing, regardless of our circumstances.

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Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Reflecting on Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, this chapter redefines the significance of seemingly minor acts of kindness amid grander expectations of divine intervention. It highlights that God's priorities may differ from our own—what matters to us often matters to Him. By transforming water into wine, He attended to the needs of His friends, emphasizing that God cares about our joys and sorrows alike, thus reiterating His tenderness toward humanity.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

In this chapter, Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus conveys the vital message that spiritual rebirth is necessary for entry into God's kingdom. Nicodemus represents the legalism that often characterizes human approaches to spirituality, thinking that righteousness can be achieved through personal effort. However, Jesus introduces the concept of grace, revealing that salvation is a gift rooted in belief and not based on our works. This chapter serves as a wake-up call, encouraging readers to shift from legalistic mindsets to an acceptance of grace.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

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The focus here is on Peter's denial of Jesus and the subsequent restoration he experiences. The chapter illustrates how failure does not define one's worth and emphasizes the grace offered by Christ, who allows for redemption and restoration. It reflects on how Jesus' early encounters with Peter involved both challenge and grace, urging believers to find hope even after failure, reinforcing that personal setbacks can lead to greater purposes in God's plans.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

Reflecting on the miracle at the wedding in Cana, this chapter emphasizes God's attentiveness to our needs, even in ordinary moments. It portrays Jesus as deeply empathetic to our struggles, highlighting that all that is significant to us holds weight in His eyes. This chapter underlines the need for believers to frame their thoughts around God's loving participation in our lives, including in the mundane, and challenges readers to see His involvement as intimate and caring.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

This chapter explores the powerful transformation of the man possessed by demons, who becomes the first missionary sent by Jesus. It emphasizes the

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fact that no one is too far gone for redemption and that Jesus meets individuals at their lowest points, offering freedom and purpose. This story illustrates the irony of God's grace reaching the most unworthy, proving that even the most broken can be used by God for great purposes.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

Through the story of Jairus, who seeks help for his dying daughter, this chapter emphasizes the importance of faith against the backdrop of hopelessness. Jairus confronts fear and despair when he hears that his daughter has died, but Jesus encourages him to believe. This creates a call to action for readers to trust God even when situations seem dire, and it stresses the significance of maintaining faith amidst uncertainty.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

Examining the role of Joseph during the birth of Jesus, this chapter highlights his confusion and struggle to align his plans with God's. Joseph serves as a model for obedience in the face of uncertainty, illustrating that true faith involves trusting God even when circumstances seem illogical or challenging. The message here is about embracing obedience, even during life's confusing moments.

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Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

This chapter addresses the reality of death and how it challenges faith. Using the narrative of Lazarus, it emphasizes that Jesus has the power over death, portraying it not as an end, but as part of the divine plan. In moments of grief, believers are reminded that God sees beyond death, and His power promises resurrection and eternal life.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

Focusing on the theme of practical faith, this chapter highlights the disconnect many feel between their spiritual beliefs and their actions. Through the narrative of the crucifixion, Max emphasizes that genuine faith is demonstrated in how we live our lives, not through empty rituals. The chapter encourages readers to reassess what it means to truly live out their faith in tangible ways, reminding them that salvation is granted through belief, not by one's works.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

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Concluding the book, this chapter invites readers to reflect on their own stories of pain and redemption. It asserts that the biblical accounts of transformation are meant to inspire contemporary believers by illustrating God's consistent character. It challenges readers to record and share their own narratives of God's faithfulness, emphasizing that these stories not only represent personal journeys, but also serve to encourage others in their faith.

This summary encapsulates the main themes and messages from each chapter, combining the narrative elements with deeper insights to offer a coherent understanding of the material.

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Chapter 4: 4. When You and Your Kin Can't

The chapters of the book reflect on real moments of pain and the divine responses to them, guiding readers through personal struggles and the transformative power of faith and grace.

Summary of Chapters

A Despondent Cripple, A Sister at a Funeral, A Father in an Emergency

These vivid scenarios challenge readers to reflect on profound human suffering, posing the question, "Where is God when I hurt?" Max Lucado artfully recounts these moments to remind us that even amidst our deepest sorrows and despair, God is present, offering support and healing in our times of need. He emphasizes that God's interventions are tangible, acting in ways we often cannot for ourselves—moving the stones that block our paths.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado uses the metaphor of "bruised reeds" and "smoldering wicks" to symbolize the fragility of human spirits. He invites us to consider how we may feel broken and lost, unable to stand tall in the face of adversity. The chapter encourages readers to recognize their own pain and vulnerability, while also highlighting God's unwavering compassion and desire to revive us, as depicted through a powerful art exhibit that showcases transformative

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encounters between Christ and those in distress.

2. Not Guilty

This chapter pivots to the story of a woman caught in adultery, exploring themes of shame, guilt, and divine forgiveness. Lucado recounts the gripping narrative where religious leaders intend to condemn the woman by the law, but Jesus intervenes with grace. He challenges the accusers, leading to an unprecedented moment of mercy for the woman. Through this powerful story, Lucado underscores that regardless of past mistakes, God does not judge us guilty but offers forgiveness and redemption—a crucial message for anyone grappling with feelings of shame.

3. Don't Miss the Party

Here, the focus shifts to the parable of the prodigal son, illustrating the contrast between joy and bitterness through the reactions of the two brothers. The elder brother's bitterness over his father's extravagant forgiveness towards the wayward son serves as a reminder that jealousy and resentment can keep us from fully experiencing joy. Lucado calls on readers to choose celebration over bitterness, understanding that God's love and blessings are available to all—if only we choose to join the party instead of sulking outside.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

In this chapter, Lucado addresses familial relationships and the struggle of

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dealing with difficult relatives. Drawing parallels to Jesus's own complicated family dynamics, he encourages readers to recognize that their value isn't determined by their family's acceptance. Instead, Jesus redefined familial bonds as those who do God's will, offering hope and encouragement to anyone feeling alienated by their family ties. Lucado emphasizes the

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. It's All Right to Dream Again

Sure! Here's a smooth, logical summary of the chapters, incorporating key elements, background context, and character explanations to enhance readability and understanding:

Chapter 5: It's All Right to Dream Again

After Jesus' crucifixion, as darkness envelops the world, two Marys brave the empty tomb to perform burial rites. To their astonishment, an angel announces Jesus' resurrection and instructs them to spread the news. Initially filled with fear, they soon find joy as they encounter the risen Christ. The chapter emphasizes that faith may be tested in duty, mirroring the women's devotion. It concludes with the message that one must not give up, inviting readers to reflect on their own hopes and dreams, especially during darkness. God never ceases to watch over them.

Chapter 6: Sour Milk

Contrasting the diligent Martha with her sister Mary, this chapter explores the pitfalls of distraction in service to the Lord. Martha's oversterious focus on tasks leads her to bitterness and frustration, neglecting the joy that comes from spiritual communion. The text encourages readers to prioritize their relationship with God over the pressures of service, highlighting that a sour

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disposition hinders one's ability to enjoy God's grace. The essence of discipleship is captured: serving God should stem from devotion, not obligation.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

The chapter recounts a woman suffering from a long-term ailment who believes that merely touching Jesus' garment would heal her. Her daring act reflects a humble but deep faith, showing that genuine belief does not require perfect understanding or confidence. Jesus honors her faith and calls her "daughter," emphasizing the personal connection he seeks to establish with all believers. The story illustrates that in times of desperation, taking action—however small—is crucial, and the power of faith underlies the miracles performed by Jesus.

Chapter 8: Forever Young

As the inevitability of aging brings sadness and regret, this chapter stresses a mindset shift; it challenges the notion of growing old as a negative experience. Emphasizing the importance of embracing life and pursuing adventures, even in old age, it advocates for viewing one's latter years as a time for continued growth and purpose. Bolstered by testimonies of historical figures who achieved great things later in life, it inspires readers to reclaim their fervor and curiosity.

Chapter 9: Read the Story

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Drawing parallels between personal experiences of disappointment and the road to Emmaus, the narrative illustrates how unfulfilled expectations can cloud one's perspective of God's presence. The chapter encourages a return to biblical stories of sorrow transformed into hope, positing that God remains active even when he seems silent. The account challenges readers to recognize their own struggles and to trust in God's presence, even in confusing times.

Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

Focusing on the story of a desperate father seeking healing for his demon-possessed son, this chapter emphasizes the importance of approaching God in prayer, regardless of how imperfectly one may do so. Jesus responds to the father's hesitant belief, illustrating that even the simplest, most vulnerable prayers are valid and impactful. The narrative encourages readers to understand that prayer, whether eloquent or timid, matters greatly to God, who values the heart behind the words.

Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

This chapter centers on the story of the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, drawing attention to Jesus' compassion for the suffering. His willingness to engage with those in need contrasts sharply with societal disregard, emphasizing God's tender attention to our struggles. Jesus challenges conventional expectations of healing, leading readers to embrace faith in the unseen and to seek God's presence amidst their own confusion.

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Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Joseph's silent obedience during the birth of Jesus is explored, questioning what thoughts may have occupied his mind amid unexpected circumstances. Reflecting our struggles with doubt and confusion about God's plans, Joseph's story encourages a posture of trust in God's will. His unwavering obedience, despite uncertainty, highlights how divine purposes often unfold beyond our immediate understanding.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

The exchange between Jesus and Nicodemus unveils the distinction between legalism and grace. Nicodemus, a Pharisee, represents those who believe salvation can be earned through works, while Jesus reveals a deeper truth—new life comes solely through the Spirit. This chapter asserts that genuine faith requires reliance on God's grace rather than human effort, inviting readers to embrace the freedom found in Christ's finished work.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

After Peter denies Jesus, he finds himself grappling with shame and regret. This chapter recounts Peter's passionate yet misguided loyalty and subsequent restoration by Jesus. The powerful encounter on the shore emphasizes God's grace, showing that failure does not define one's worth. Jesus' invitation for Peter to attempt again serves as a reminder that God's love extends beyond our shortcomings and encourages us to step back into

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relationship with Him.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

At a wedding in Cana, Mary prompts Jesus to act when the wine runs out—a situation that highlights His compassion and willingness to meet even the smallest needs. Jesus' miracle showcases not only His divine power but also His understanding of human concerns. This chapter reassures readers that God cares deeply for every aspect of their lives, reinforcing that their desires are significant to Him.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

Jesus' encounter with a demon-possessed man in Gerasene illustrates how He can transform the most degraded lives into powerful testimonies of grace. Initially rejected by society, the man learns to share his experience of freedom after Jesus delivers him from evil spirits, marking him as the first missionary in this narrative. This theme underscores the notion that no one is beyond redemption and that God uses even the most unlikely candidates for His purposes.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

When faced with uncertainty, such as when Jairus appeals to Jesus to heal his dying daughter, faith requires looking beyond visible circumstances. Jesus encourages Jairus to believe despite discouraging news, exemplifying how faith can seize opportunities beyond human understanding. This chapter

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emphasizes the battle against fear and the importance of trusting God's plans, even when the future is unclear.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

Joseph's struggle during Mary's pregnancy encapsulates many believers' tensions between faith and doubt. Reflecting on his experiences during the birth of Jesus, readers are reminded of the importance of obedience and trust, even amidst confusion. Joseph's unwavering response, despite uncertainty, illustrates the core truth of faith—sometimes we must follow, even when clarity is lacking.

Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

The narrative of Lazarus' death serves as a poignant reminder of Jesus' authority over death. Martha's encounter with Him reveals the tension between grief and hope, emphasizing that faith can thrive even when circumstances appear dire. This chapter reinforces the belief that death holds no power over the believer, as Jesus calls forth Lazarus, demonstrating that He alone brings life.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

In a reflective exploration of personal faith, this chapter examines how many rely on a "list" of good deeds to earn salvation. The narrative highlights the thief on the cross, who, despite a life of crime, receives Jesus' promise of paradise through sincere faith. This chapter challenges readers to recognize

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that true grace is given freely and cannot be earned, urging them to reconsider their understanding of salvation.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

The conclusion invites readers to contemplate their personal stories—examining both the struggles and the grace they have encountered. God's consistent provision and presence throughout painful experiences become a gallery of testimonies. The chapter encourages individuals to reflect on their journeys, appreciate God's work in their lives, and recognize that all stories of suffering and redemption have a place in His narrative.

This summary emphasizes the key themes and messages from the chapters while providing context for a more enriching reading experience.

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Chapter 6 Summary: 6. Sour Milk

Summary of Selected Chapters from "He Still Moves Stones" by Max Lucado

Max Lucado's book reflects on various biblical stories of individuals in pain and highlights how God meets them in their suffering. Throughout the text, Lucado addresses themes such as despair, faith, forgiveness, and the hope found in God's presence.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado begins by illustrating that God's compassion is particularly directed toward the weak, likening them to bruised reeds that He will not break and smoldering wicks that He will not extinguish. He invites readers to explore the biblical gallery filled with stories of transformation, emphasizing that God recognizes our pain and comes alongside us in our struggles.

2. Not Guilty

This chapter recounts the story of a woman caught in adultery, emphasizing

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Jesus' message of grace and forgiveness. Lucado discusses the power of shame and legalism and how Jesus confronts these negative forces with compassion. He emphasizes that God does not judge us guilty, and speaks to the healing power of believing in God's forgiveness.

3. Don't Miss the Party

Lucado reflects on the parable of the prodigal son, focusing particularly on the elder brother's bitterness. He discusses how this bitterness can keep us from joining in the joy of redemption and divine celebration. The father's invitation to both sons to come to the feast illustrates God's desire for all to join in the joy of His love and grace, demonstrating the importance of letting go of jealousy and embracing gratitude.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter addresses the challenges of dealing with difficult family dynamics, exemplified through Jesus' own interactions with His unsupportive family. Lucado encourages readers to focus on their spiritual family, emphasizing that their worth and identity come from God rather than human relationships. He provides practical advice on how to cope with family members who may not understand or support one's spiritual journey.

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5. It's All Right to Dream Again

Here, Lucado urges readers to move beyond discouragement and embrace hope, using the resurrection as a powerful symbol of new beginnings. He tells the story of the women discovering the empty tomb, showing how faith requires action; it's about taking steps forward despite doubts.

6. Sour Milk

This chapter contrasts the attitudes of Martha and Mary towards Jesus and highlights the importance of spending time with Him. Lucado discusses how service can become sour when our focus shifts from honoring God to seeking recognition for ourselves. He emphasizes that true faith is marked by a humble heart, willing to sit at Jesus' feet and receive His guidance.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Lucado recounts the story of a woman with a bleeding disorder who showed great faith in reaching out to touch Jesus. Her story serves as a powerful example of how desperate circumstances can lead to remarkable acts of

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faith. He defines faith as a combination of believing in God's power and hoping for His intervention.

8. Forever Young

Aging is explored as a reality that brings both challenges and opportunities for growth. Lucado encourages readers to embrace aging positively, recognizing it as a chance to share wisdom and experience with others. The chapter calls for reclaiming a sense of adventure rather than succumbing to the fears of getting older.

9. Read the Story

The narrative of two disciples on the road to Emmaus illustrates how disappointment can cloud our vision, preventing us from seeing the work of God in our lives. Lucado emphasizes that recounting and understanding God's story can fortify our faith, helping us to navigate through difficult times.

In summary, Max Lucado's "He Still Moves Stones" is a compassionate exploration of the human experience of pain and the divine response of grace. It reminds readers that regardless of their struggles, God is present,

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responsive, and faithfully involved in their lives, urging them toward resilience and faith. Throughout the chapters, personal reflections and biblical anecdotes intertwine to reinforce Lucado's central themes of hope, healing, and divine presence amidst human suffering.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Summary of Chapters

Introduction

Max Lucado begins by addressing the question, "Where is God when I hurt?" He invites readers to explore stories of real pain where God meets individuals in their suffering, offering hope and healing.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado illustrates the fragility of the human spirit akin to bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. He emphasizes that while the world often casts aside the broken, God reaches out to heal and restore. The chapter posits that we all experience times of weakness, akin to bruised reeds, and need to recognize God's tenderness and willingness to mend our sorrows.

2. Not Guilty

Using the story of Rebecca Thompson, who suffered severe trauma and ultimately took her own life, Lucado explores themes of shame and guilt. The chapter discusses how Jesus responds to the woman caught in adultery, demonstrating grace and forgiveness, emphasizing that shame is a universal experience but can be transcended through acceptance and love from God.

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3. Don't Miss the Party

Lucado tells the parable of the Prodigal Son, highlighting the bitterness of the elder brother. He explores feelings of resentment and envy and the joy of celebration in forgiveness and reconciliation. By reflecting on the father's love and the son's redemption, the chapter encourages readers to rejoice in others' successes rather than harbor bitterness.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter addresses the challenges of dealing with difficult family members, using humor and relatable anecdotes to illustrate the common frustrations of family dynamics. Lucado explains that, like Jesus, we must find our roots in relationships with those who share our faith rather than being derailed by familial troubles.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again

Lucado reflects on the importance of hope and renewal in the face of discouragement, re-living the resurrection story from Jesus' resurrection, which offers new life and possibility. He urges us to persevere, reminding us of God's constant presence as we move forward from past disappointments.

6. Sour Milk

This chapter explores how a negative attitude can sour one's spirit, using the story of Mary and Martha to illustrate the importance of balance—serving versus simply being present with Jesus. Lucado emphasizes that God cares

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more for our hearts than our activities, urging readers to remove distractions to sit at Jesus' feet.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Lucado illustrates the woman with the issue of blood who believed that touching Jesus' garment would heal her. This chapter discusses the boldness and faith it takes to approach Jesus even in desperation, encouraging readers to act in faith and take steps toward healing.

8. Forever Young

Lucado addresses the fear of aging, encouraging a perspective of adventure rather than safety. He highlights biblical figures who continued to achieve great feats in their later years, asserting that growing older can unlock new purpose and opportunities for contributions to the world.

9. Read the Story

Lucado tells the story of Phineas T. Barnum, emphasizing the impact of disappointment and disillusionment. He argues that we must open our hearts to God's plans and see how He transforms our disappointments into pathways to deeper faith.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

This chapter focuses on the father of the possessed boy who, in a moment of desperation, prays a timid prayer for Jesus to help him believe. Lucado

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reassures readers that even the weakest prayers are heard and can impact the divine, highlighting the significance of faith regardless of its size or style.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Lucado depicts the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda, comparing him to those who feel trapped without options. He illustrates how Jesus brings light into dark situations and encourages readers to seek God in the midst of personal struggles.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Utilizing the story of Jesus' miraculous intervention at a wedding, Lucado discusses how God's plan often prioritizes people over protocol. He reflects on the significance of attending to the smaller struggles of life over lofty expectations, reinforcing that God's compassion is ever-present.

13. What Only God Can Do

Lucado discusses Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus, contrasting legalism with grace. He underscores that true spirituality originates from the Spirit and not from religious law, insisting on God's grace being the path to salvation.

14. Galilean Grace

Here, the narrative returns to Peter, focusing on his denial of Jesus and subsequent restoration. Lucado reflects on Jesus' forgiveness and hope,

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emphasizing that even after failure, one can return renewed in faith and purpose.

15. The Tenderness of God

Focusing on Jesus' first miracle—turning water into wine—Lucado emphasizes the tenderness of God toward human struggles, illustrating that what matters to us matters to Him. He reassures readers that they can bring their concerns to God without fear of judgment.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary

This chapter narrates the story of a man possessed by demons who is healed by Jesus and sent to share his story, highlighting the irony that the first missionary was a former lunatic. This stresses the transformative power of God's grace for anyone, regardless of their past.

17. Seeing the Unseen

Lucado explains that, like Jairus, we often have to overcome fear to have faith in the unseen. By recounting Jairus' encounter with Jesus, he emphasizes the importance of believing despite visible odds, highlighting God's sovereignty.

18. Joseph's Prayer

Lucado speculates on Joseph's thoughts during Jesus' birth and how he navigated confusion and doubt. He encourages readers to trust God even

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when life doesn't unfold as expected. Obedience becomes a theme as readers are encouraged to follow through on their faith without full understanding.

19. The Grave Fact

In this chapter about Lazarus' death and resurrection, Lucado discusses how grief challenges faith and paints a picture of Jesus' power over death. He emphasizes the promise of eternal life and the comfort of God's plan in the face of loss.

20. Listless Christianity

Lucado discusses the disparity between our good deeds and the true path to heaven, which is rooted in faith in Jesus rather than personal merit. The narrative of the crucified thieves illustrates grace and redemption, showing that it is never too late to turn to God.

21. The Stone Mover's Gallery

The final chapter emphasizes that the stories of the hurting found throughout the Bible serve to remind us of God's continuing presence and power in our lives today. Lucado calls upon readers to reflect on their own stories, culminating in the notion that God still moves stones, bringing light and hope into darkness.

Conclusion

Lucado closes by inviting readers to consider their personal narratives and

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how they can share their experiences of God's touch and grace, asserting that hope and healing are always available through Christ.

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Chapter 8: 8. Forever Young

Certainly! Here's a condensed and coherent summary of the chapters from Max Lucado's "He Still Moves Stones," capturing the main themes and key points while incorporating relevant background information.

Summary of Chapters

Introduction: The Search for God in Pain

The book opens with Max Lucado presenting poignant scenarios—of a cripple, a sister at a funeral, and a father in crisis—highlighting the universal question, "Where is God when I hurt?" Lucado asserts that these accounts serve as reminders that God engages with human pain and heartbreak, promising healing and presence in despair.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado explores the imagery of "bruised reeds" and "smoldering wicks" from Matthew 12:20, symbolizing those who are fragile and close to despair.

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He emphasizes that just as a bruised reed is not broken and a smoldering wick is not snuffed out, God offers hope and revival to the weary and hurting. Readers are invited to reflect on their own moments of vulnerability.

2. Not Guilty

The story of a woman caught in adultery serves as a demonstration of Christ's radical grace (John 8:1-11). In contrast to legalistic condemnation, Jesus offers forgiveness and freedom. Lucado examines how personal shame can weigh heavily on individuals, and he draws parallels to Rebecca Thompson's tragic story, emphasizing the power and necessity of grace in overcoming shame.

3. Don't Miss the Party

Lucado recounts the parable of the prodigal son, illustrating the bitterness of the elder brother who resents his father's grace towards his wayward sibling (Luke 15:25-32). The call to celebrate restoration is central; we are encouraged to avoid the dungeon of bitterness by recognizing our own blessings instead of comparing ourselves to others.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

Interpersonal relationships can be challenging, especially with difficult

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relatives. Lucado draws from Jesus' own family dynamics to reflect on how to navigate familial tensions (Mark 3:35). He encourages readers to seek grace and maintain their identity in Christ, despite the shortcomings of family.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again

In a moment of despair, two women go to Jesus' tomb, expecting to grieve but instead finding the hope of resurrection (Matthew 28:2-10). Lucado encourages believers to pursue dreams and visions for their lives, despite past disappointments. This chapter emphasizes that God is continually at work, moving stones and making transitions possible.

6. Sour Milk

Drawing from the story of Martha, who is consumed with tasks while her sister Mary listens to Jesus (Luke 10:38-42), Lucado discusses how serving can sometimes overshadow true devotion. He uses the metaphor of milk turning sour due to neglect to illustrate how our attitudes can become bitter when we stray from focusing on Christ.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

The woman suffering from a chronic illness reaches out to touch Jesus'

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garment, believing it will heal her (Mark 5:24-34). Lucado frames her desperate faith as an example for readers, illustrating that even the smallest gesture of faith can draw God's attention and result in profound change.

8. Forever Young

Aging can bring regret and rebellion, reflecting on the importance of living a life filled with purpose and passion rather than settling into complacency. Lucado inspires readers to reclaim curiosity and embrace life's journey, encouraging that the best is yet to come, regardless of age.

9. Read the Story

Through the story of P.T. Barnum, who reflects on his own disappointments, Lucado illustrates that many people live with unmet expectations. He urges readers not to let disappointment blind them to God's presence, and he encourages souls to read and find hope in biblical narratives, linking their struggles to the trials of biblical characters.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

The narrative of a father bringing his demon-possessed son to Jesus (Mark 9:14-29) highlights the hesitance we often feel in prayer. The father's pleading, "I do believe; help me with my unbelief," captures the essence of

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heartfelt prayer. Lucado emphasizes that the effectiveness of prayer lies in the One who hears it, not in the eloquence of the prayer.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Lucado discusses the story of the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-18). He parallels this to the human experience of feeling lost and powerless. The chapter examines the power of faith in God during dark times, prompting the recognition that Jesus offers light and healing to those in need.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

In a reflective exploration of Joseph's perspective during the birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:24), Lucado addresses the confusion that often accompanies divine plans. He acknowledges the struggle of trusting God fully amid circumstances that seem contradictory or lacking, emphasizing obedience in spite of uncertainty.

13. What Only God Can Do

Lucado shares Nicodemus's encounter with Jesus (John 3:1-21), illustrating the contrast between legalism and grace. Nicodemus learns that salvation is a gift from God rather than a reward for good behavior. This chapter

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encourages readers to embrace the grace that transcends legalistic measures.

14. Galilean Grace

In the aftermath of Peter's denial of Christ, Lucado recounts Peter's restoration (John 21:1-14). Jesus extends grace to Peter, offering him a new opportunity. Lucado champions the notion of second chances and invites readers to remain hopeful and willing to receive God's grace, regardless of past failures.

15. The Tenderness of God

At a wedding in Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle by turning water into wine (John 2:1-11). Lucado emphasizes Jesus's compassion for human needs and beautifully illustrates how God cares about the details of our lives, reinforcing that He meets us in moments big and small.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary

Jesus encounters a possessed man and frees him, commissioning him as the first missionary (Mark 5:1-20). Lucado reflects on the transformative power of Jesus to change lives, showing that God uses the most unlikely vessels for His purpose, pointing towards the importance of embracing hope and new beginnings.

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17. Seeing the Unseen

This chapter discusses the encounter of Jairus with Jesus and the resurrection of his daughter (Mark 5:21-43). Lucado eloquently points out the importance of faith in seeing beyond our circumstances, urging readers to focus on God's promises and ability to intervene in impossible situations.

18. Joseph's Prayer

Max contemplates Joseph's silent struggles during the birth of Jesus, exploring his confusion and obedience amidst uncertainty. He encourages readers to trust in God's plan even when it seems unclear, emphasizing that faith often requires stepping outside of our understanding.

19. The Grave Fact

The account of Lazarus's resurrection (John 11:1-44) addresses the reality of death and its complex emotions. Lucado highlights that despite death's finality, Jesus offers hope and reinforces that faith in Him provides a deeper understanding of life and resurrection.

20. Listless Christianity

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Reflecting on the criminal next to Jesus who finds forgiveness at the last moment (Luke 23:39-43), Lucado challenges the notion that good deeds grant access to heaven. He encourages readers to understand that relationship with Jesus, not a record of actions, secures salvation.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9. Read the Story

Summary of "When Others Let You Down"

On the same day as Jesus' resurrection, two of his followers, Cleopas and another disciple, were traveling to Emmaus, discussing the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion and the reports of his resurrection. Their hearts were heavy with disappointment as they felt desolate and lost, having hoped that Jesus would free Israel from Roman oppression. Grief shrouded their perception, keeping them from recognizing Jesus, who approached them on the road.

Their dialogue reveals their despair: they express incredulity that anyone could be unaware of the events in Jerusalem, including Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion, and the news from women who claimed to have seen angels at the empty tomb. Jesus listened and patiently addressed their lack of understanding, explaining the scriptures that foretold his suffering and resurrection. He pointed out their slowness to believe, emphasizing that the events unfolding were part of a divine plan necessary for the arrival of glory.

As they reached Emmaus, the travelers urged Jesus to stay with them, and at the dinner table, he broke bread, allowing them to recognize him for who he truly was. As soon as their eyes were opened, he vanished from sight.

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Overwhelmed with revelation, they felt a burning passion in their hearts while he spoke of scripture, prompting them to return immediately to Jerusalem to share their experience with the other disciples, who had already confirmed that Jesus had risen.

Parallel to this biblical account is the story of a ten-year-old boy named Phineas in 1820, who eagerly awaited a visit to his inherited land, Ivy Island. With dreams of becoming a landowner, he envisioned a future full of possibilities. However, upon arrival, he discovered that the island was nothing more than desolate swamp. This shocking reality shattered his youthful aspirations and left him feeling deceived by his grandfather's cruel joke.

This disappointment transformed Phineas into P.T. Barnum, a master showman and promoter known for his clever deceptions. His life serves as a cautionary tale about the pain of unmet expectations and the choices made in the face of disappointment. Barnum's story parallels many lives, as it points out that everyone experiences disillusionment to varying degrees—whether through losses in business, broken trust, or unfulfilled dreams.

The text compels readers to reflect on how they respond to disheartening experiences. Instead of hardening their hearts like Barnum, the message encourages revisiting the poignant stories of faith found in scripture to reshape expectations and restore hope. Jesus' encounter with the Emmaus

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disciples serves as a reminder that God does not forsake those who struggle with disappointment; rather, he walks alongside them, gently leading them back to understanding and faith.

Through Jesus' teachings, we learn that while disappointment arises from unmet expectations, the remedy lies in adjusting those expectations and recognizing that God's plans often transcend our immediate desires. Like Barnum, we may face moments of feeling misled or diminished, yet we are encouraged to trust in a higher purpose and allow our hearts to be rekindled with hope. The biblical narrative reminds us that in times of despair, we should seek the stories of faith, which illuminate the profound truth that God is always in control and prepared to guide us through our darkest moments.

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Chapter 10 Summary: The Smoldering Wick

Summary of Chapters from "He Still Moves Stones" by Max Lucado

Acknowledgments

Max Lucado expresses gratitude to those who supported him throughout his writing journey. He acknowledges his assistant, editor, publishing team, family, and readers for their contributions and encouragement.

Chapter 1: Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado introduces the metaphor of bruised reeds and smoldering wicks to describe vulnerable individuals in distress. He illustrates how life can leave us feeling broken and hopeless. Despite societal dismissals, God cherishes the fragile and the weary, offering healing and resurrection. Lucado invites readers to see themselves as part of God's artwork, showcasing moments of pain transformed into hope through Christ.

Chapter 2: Not Guilty

Reflecting on real-life tragedy, Lucado tells the story of Rebecca Thompson, a survivor of horrific abuse, who ultimately succumbed to shame. He

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connects this to the biblical account of a woman caught in adultery whom Jesus forgives, emphasizing that shame and guilt can be confronted through grace. The overarching message is that God's judgment does not equate to condemnation but offers freedom and a second chance.

Chapter 3: Don't Miss the Party

Lucado discusses the parable of the prodigal son, focusing on the bitterness of the elder brother, who feels overlooked compared to his wayward sibling. He reflects on how jealousy and resentment can trap us in a “dungeon of bitterness.” The chapter encourages readers to recognize their worth and celebrate the restored relationships, asserting that envy jeopardizes our joy and connection to God.

Chapter 4: When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter explores dealing with challenging family relations and compromised dynamics. Lucado resonates with readers who experience familial struggles, drawing parallels with Jesus' own experiences of rejection by his family. He encourages embracing spiritual family ties and finding identity in God's unconditional acceptance rather than in flawed family dynamics.

Chapter 5: It's All Right to Dream Again

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Lucado shares the resurrection story, highlighting the transformation from despair to joy for the women at the tomb. Their journey toward healing reminds us not to give up hope. He emphasizes that God is aware of our struggles and surprises us with breakthroughs, encouraging a willingness to step forward in faith.

Chapter 6: Sour Milk

Using the story of Martha and Mary, Lucado underscores the perils of letting service eclipse a relationship with God. He illustrates how bitterness can sour our spirits, calling readers to re-evaluate priorities and focus on nurturing their connection with Jesus over mere activity.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

This chapter tells the story of a woman suffering from chronic illness who believes that touching Jesus' garment will heal her. Lucado defines faith as a mix of belief in God's ability and hope for intervention, emphasizing that even the smallest acts of faith can yield miraculous results.

Chapter 8: Forever Young

Lucado reflects on the journey of aging, encouraging readers to embrace

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life's later stages with purpose and joy. He discusses the importance of staying curious and adventurous, noting that the latter chapters of our lives can be some of the most fulfilling if we remain engaged and open to new experiences.

Chapter 9: Read the Story

Lucado draws parallels between P.T. Barnum's disappointment in his childhood with the theme of unfulfilled dreams and disillusionment. He illustrates how the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus reflects a common struggle with heartbreak and despair. The chapter emphasizes the importance of recognizing hope through faith even when circumstances seem bleak.

Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

Focusing on the father of a sick boy, Lucado illustrates the power of prayer, even when laced with doubts. When the father's prayer reflects uncertainty, Jesus responds to the need of the heart, not the eloquence of the words. Lucado reassures readers that even simple, honest pleas are heard and valued by God.

Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

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The account of Jesus healing the sick man at the pool of Bethesda exemplifies that we often feel like invalids, unable to help ourselves. Lucado argues that just as Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed, so too does He invite us to seek His help when we feel trapped or out of options.

Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

The chapter covers Jesus' first miracle, the turning of water into wine at a wedding. Lucado reflects on how this miracle demonstrates God's care for our everyday needs. The miracle's humble origin reveals that God is interested in both grand and small aspects of our lives, ultimately highlighting His desire to meet us where we are.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

Lucado discusses the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus, the Pharisee struggling with legalism. He contrasts legalism's demands with God's grace, illustrating that spiritual life comes from God's spirit, not from human effort. The message of grace transcends lists of merits, extending an invitation to a transformative relationship.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

The chapter recounts Peter's denial of Christ and his subsequent restoration.

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Lucado emphasizes the power of grace and God's willingness to forgive and rescue those who fall. The message is clear: regardless of past failures, God continues to invite us to start anew.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

Lucado shares the story of Jesus turning water into wine, emphasizing that God cares about the seemingly trivial aspects of life. This miracle reveals that God is compassionate and attentive to our needs, inviting us to bring our concerns to Him without hesitancy.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

Exploring the story of the possessed man from Gerasa, Lucado illustrates Jesus' power over evil. The man healed by Jesus goes on to become the first missionary, showcasing how God can transform anyone, no matter their past. It reflects the theme of redemption and purpose found in embracing the grace of God.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

Lucado examines the fear of the unknown future using the story of Jairus seeking help for his sick daughter. He emphasizes the necessity of faith and concentrating on God's promises rather than the fears and lies that cloud our

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vision.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

In this chapter, Lucado reflects on Joseph's experience during Mary's pregnancy and the birth of Jesus, pondering the confusion and doubt he must have felt. It invokes the notion of obedience in the face of uncertainty, encouraging believers to trust in God's plan even when it appears unclear.

Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

Lucado addresses the theme of death through the story of Lazarus. He illustrates the feelings of despair associated with loss but contrasts it with the hope of eternal life provided by Jesus. It emphasizes that death is not the end, as Jesus offers resurrection.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

This chapter looks at the misconceptions surrounding salvation and how people often rely on personal lists of good deeds to justify their worthiness. Lucado uses the example of the thief on the cross to illustrate that salvation comes not from our efforts but from faith in Christ.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

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The final chapter encourages readers to reflect on their own stories and consider how God has transformed their pain into purpose. It ties back to the gallery of hope presented throughout the book, portraying how God moves stones in our lives, healing the bruised and igniting the dim, inviting all to share their personal experiences of faith and redemption.

In "He Still Moves Stones," Lucado skillfully weaves personal anecdotes, biblical narratives, and encouraging reflections to remind readers that amidst struggles, pain, and confusion, God's presence remains constant, providing hope and healing.

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Chapter 11 Summary: 10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

Max Lucado's "He Still Moves Stones" is a profound exploration of faith, suffering, and divine intervention, focusing on how God meets people in their pain. The book consists of 21 chapters, each delving into various biblical narratives and contemporary reflections, inviting readers to consider where God is in moments of despair. Here's a summary of the key themes and chapters:

Overview

Lucado argues that God's presence is felt most strongly when we are at our lowest. Through stories of individuals who encountered God at crucial moments of their lives, he illustrates that God is both a healer and a source of hope. The question he seeks to answer throughout the book is, "Where is God when I hurt?"

Chapter Summaries

1. **Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks:** The chapter centers on the metaphor of bruised reeds and smoldering wicks, symbolizing those who feel broken or insignificant. Lucado reassures readers that God does not discard the hurting but rather gently restores them.

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2. **Not Guilty:** This chapter tells the story of a woman caught in adultery who is brought to Jesus for judgment. Instead of condemning her, Jesus offers forgiveness, emphasizing that shame does not define one's worth. He emphasizes that we are not judged by God when we seek forgiveness.

3. **Don't Miss the Party:** Lucado reflects on the parable of the Prodigal Son, focusing on the elder brother's bitterness over his younger sibling's return and the resulting celebration. He reminds readers to celebrate grace rather than envy others' blessings.

4. **When You and Your Kin Can't** Dealing with difficult family relationships, Lucado uses Jesus' experience with His family to show that we must sometimes accept our limitations and not let others' opinions inhibit our faith or calling.

5. **It's All Right to Dream Again:** This chapter encourages readers to rekindle their hopes and dreams, comparing the resurrection of Christ to personal resurrection in our lives. He stresses the importance of not giving up hope.

6. **Sour Milk:** Here, Lucado contrasts Martha and Mary, examining how Martha's anxiety turns her attitude sour despite her good intentions. He encourages readers to focus on being present with Jesus rather than busy

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with tasks.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope: Lucado tells the story of a woman with a bleeding condition who reaches out to touch Jesus. His message emphasizes that even a timid gesture of faith is powerful and can lead to healing.

8. Forever Young This chapter explores aging and the challenges it brings while highlighting that life can be meaningful at any age. Lucado encourages embracing life's adventures rather than clinging to safety and comfort.

9. Read the Story: Lucado narrates the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who are disheartened after Jesus' death. He emphasizes that God often meets us in our sorrow and reassures us through His presence.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer: This chapter features a father seeking help for his possessed son. It stresses that God hears even our weakest prayers, acknowledging the father's desperation and resulting in salvation.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights: Lucado recounts the story of the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, underscoring that, like the sick man, we might feel overwhelmed and powerless, but God is always present to help.

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12. **The Hardest Thing God Ever Did:** This chapter examines the significance of Jesus' miracles, especially the radical act of forgiveness, as He demonstrates His priority towards spiritual healing over mere physical comfort.

13. **What Only God Can Do:** Lucado discusses the essence of grace, drawing from Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus. He contrasts legalism and grace, highlighting that salvation is a gift from God rather than a result of our actions.

14. **Galilean Grace:** Focusing on the aftermath of Peter's denial, Lucado showcases redemption and the grace that God offers, even to those who have failed Him.

15. **The Tenderness of God:** Through the wedding at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine, Lucado illustrates that God's concern extends even to the seemingly small issues in life, reinforcing that He cares.

16. **The Madman Turned Missionary:** This chapter tells of the demon-possessed man who becomes the first missionary, demonstrating that God's grace can transform anyone, regardless of their past.

17. **Seeing the Unseen:** Lucado discusses the importance of faith in

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difficult times, encouraging believers to trust in God's presence even when perception tells them otherwise.

18. **Joseph's Prayer:** Here, the focus is on Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, and how he navigates uncertainty and confusion, obeying God's commands despite not understanding the full picture.

19. **The Grave Fact:** Lucado addresses death through the story of Lazarus, illustrating that while death is a reality, through Christ there is hope and resurrection.

20. **Listless Christianity:** This chapter condemns a mere checklist approach to faith, arguing that true belief is not based on works but on accepting grace and relationship with God.

21. **The Stone Mover's Gallery:** In the final chapter, Lucado invites readers to record their stories of transformation, emphasizing that the gallery of God's work in lives continues to grow and unfurl.

Conclusion

Max Lucado effectively intertwines biblical narratives with personal reflections, encouraging readers to embrace their faith journeys, acknowledge their struggles, and recognize the persistent presence and grace

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of God in their lives. "He Still Moves Stones" serves as a reminder that, at our points of greatest need, God is at work, moving the stones we cannot budge.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: God is always present to help us in our struggles

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself standing at the edge of despair, feeling overwhelmed and powerless, much like the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda. In that moment, your heart aches under the weight of life's challenges, and you wonder if you will ever find healing or relief. Lucado's powerful reminder that God is always present to help you, even in your darkest nights, can inspire you to reach out in faith. Just as that man encountered Jesus and felt the gentle touch of divine intervention, you too can find the courage to believe that help is around the corner. Allow this truth to ignite hope within you, knowing you are never truly alone, and that God's presence is waiting to guide you back to wholeness.

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Chapter 12: 11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Summary of "He Still Moves Stones" by Max Lucado

MAX Lucado's "He Still Moves Stones" explores how God interacts with human pain and suffering through various biblical stories, illustrating His compassion and power to restore hope.

Introduction: Where is God When it Hurts?

Lucado opens by addressing the profound question of suffering, emphasizing that God meets us in our pain. The stories he recounts are not mere fables but historic moments showcasing God's presence in humanity's lowest times.

Chapter 1: Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado introduces the metaphor of "bruised reeds" and "smoldering wicks," symbolizing the frailty and vulnerability of humanity. These figures

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represent those who feel broken and hopeless yet have a place in God's heart. God is portrayed as tender, nurturing the weak rather than breaking them, inviting us to see our own stories in these portrayals of pain transformed into peace.

Chapter 2: Not Guilty

This chapter tells the poignant story of Rebecca Thompson, a victim of horrific violence whose struggles echo the shame we all experience in various ways. Jesus meets a woman caught in adultery, illustrating that God does not judge us guilty but offers forgiveness. Lucado emphasizes that everyone, especially those with shame, has access to God's grace and that our worth is not defined by our past actions.

Chapter 3: Don't Miss the Party

Using the parable of the Prodigal Son, Lucado discusses bitterness and jealousy in relationships, especially the elder son's reaction to his brother's return. He reminds readers that we can choose to celebrate redemption rather than harbor resentment, underscoring the importance of joy in our spiritual journeys and the danger of allowing bitterness to cloud our hearts.

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Chapter 4: When You and Your Kin Can't

Lucado addresses the challenge of dealing with difficult family members, sharing how even Jesus faced skepticism from His own family. He encourages readers to find their identity beyond familial ties, suggesting that our true family includes those who follow God. The call is to love and support one another despite disagreements and difficulties.

Chapter 5: It's All Right to Dream Again

Referring to the resurrection, Lucado paints a picture of hope for those feeling lost or without dreams. He assures readers that, like the two Marys at the tomb, we can reclaim our hopes and trust that God is still active in our lives, urging us to remain persistent in faith even during times of despair.

Chapter 6: Sour Milk

Lucado uses the example of Martha and Mary to explore the dangers of letting anxiety and busyness overshadow the moments of being with God. He emphasizes that, like sour milk, attitudes can turn bitter when left unchecked, encouraging readers to pause and seek time with Christ as a

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remedy for stress and impatience.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Focused on the woman with the issue of blood, Lucado highlights her desperate faith to touch Jesus' garment. He stresses that faith is not about having everything figured out but about taking small steps toward God in hope, validating the timid prayers that arise from desperation.

Chapter 8: Forever Young

Here, Lucado reflects on the aging process and the societal focus on youth. He encourages readers to embrace life's seasons with adventure and purpose, highlighting figures in the Bible who accomplished great things later in life. The call is to find meaning and zest in every phase of life.

Chapter 9: Read the Story

Lucado tells the story of the Emmaus disciples, who were blinded by their sorrow. He encourages readers to share their own stories of pain and recovery, understanding that God's narrative in their lives is ongoing and

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transformative. This chapter reinforces that we can still connect with God, even when feeling disheartened.

Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

Focusing on the father of the boy possessed by a demon, Lucado illustrates how genuine, albeit hesitant, prayers can still lead to miraculous results. He reassures readers that prayer is less about eloquence and more about the authenticity of the heart's yearning, encouraging them to reach out to God no matter how timid their approach may be.

Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Lucado reflects on the pool of Bethesda, portraying the many who wait for healing. He invites readers to consider the personal struggles where they feel stuck and reassures them that when we come to God, we can expect His light to break through darkness, transforming our circumstances.

Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

The chapter portrays how love can motivate God's actions, illustrated by the

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forgiveness granted to the paralytic. Through God's grace, we find not only forgiveness but restoration, revealing how much our need matters to Him.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

Lucado explores the story of Nicodemus to illustrate how legalism binds rather than frees. The emphasis is on grace as the means of salvation rather than adherence to rules, challenging readers to let go of legalistic tendencies and embrace the transformative relationship with God.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

This chapter highlights Peter's denial of Christ, emphasizing that despite our failures, God offers forgiveness and a chance to start anew. Lucado encourages readers to understand that God's grace is always available, enabling us to rise from our past mistakes.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

Lucado discusses Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, highlighting His concern for the small needs in our lives. He emphasizes that God cares

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about even the smallest details, reiterating that what matters to us matters to Him.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

Here, Lucado tells the dramatic account of the demoniac who was healed and became the first missionary. God's power is showcased as He transforms the most unlikely individuals into vessels of grace, encouraging readers to remember that God can use anyone for His purpose.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

In a dialogue reflecting on Jairus, Lucado stresses the importance of faith over fear. He emphasizes that while we cannot see the future, trusting in God's plans allows us to navigate uncertainty confidently.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

Lucado examines Joseph's confusion and obedience during Mary's pregnancy. He encourages readers to obey God's directives, even when they do not understand His methods or plans.

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Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

This chapter discusses the story of Lazarus, exploring how death can shake our faith and understanding of God. Lucado emphasizes that Jesus' authority over death offers hope, revealing that through Christ, there is life beyond the grave.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

Lucado highlights the problems of legalism and self-reliance in faith. He tells the story of the thief on the cross to illustrate the grace of God that saves even the most unworthy, reinforcing that our worth is not defined by our actions.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

In the final chapter, Lucado reflects on the purpose of the stories shared throughout the book. They serve to remind us of God's unending grace and power to move the "stones" in our lives. He encourages readers to document their own stories of transformation, claiming that no stone is too heavy for

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God to move.

Overall Message

"He Still Moves Stones" encapsulates a message of hope and grace, illustrating through scripture and personal stories that God is intimately involved in our suffering, ready to bring restoration and healing to every broken heart. Lucado asks readers to reflect on their own journeys, encouraging them to embrace faith as a transformative power while trusting God's goodness in every aspect of their lives.

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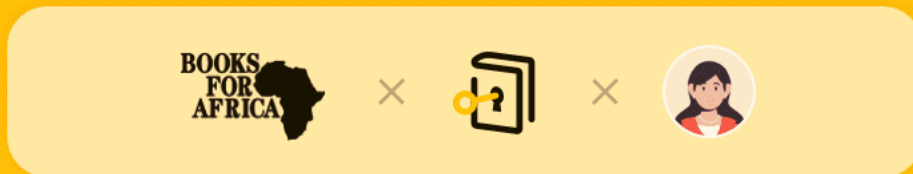




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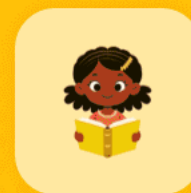
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Chapter 13 Summary: 12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Summary of Selected Chapters of Max Lucado's *He Still Moves Stones*

*

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado reflects on various biblical narratives where individuals encounter pain, despair, and moments of crisis, exploring their significance and the revelation of God throughout these struggles. The book addresses the profound question of where God is in our suffering and emphasizes His presence in our darkest moments.

Chapter Summaries

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks:

This chapter begins with the imagery of a bruised reed and a smoldering wick, symbolizing those who feel weak and broken. Lucado discusses how people can feel spiritually bruised by life's hardships but reassures readers that God does not break the bruised or snuff out the faint. Through stories of healing and hope depicted in Scripture, he urges readers to recognize their worth and the potential for renewal through faith.

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2. Not Guilty:

Lucado recounts the story of a woman caught in adultery, highlighting the themes of shame and legalism. He emphasizes Jesus' radical compassion and the declaration "not guilty," showcasing how grace transcends human judgment. The narrative of Rebecca Thompson, who faced immense trauma, illustrates the power of shame and the necessity of forgiveness. Ultimately, the chapter portrays Jesus as a liberator who offers redemption, affirming that our past does not define our future.

3. Don't Miss the Party:

The younger prodigal son returns home to a jubilant welcome, while the older brother remains bitter, highlighting the struggle between resentment and celebration. Lucado discusses how bitterness can imprison us, and emphasizes the importance of recognizing what we possess rather than focusing on what we lack. The parable serves as a reminder to celebrate the grace extended to others and participate in the joy of forgiveness.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter addresses the inevitable challenges of familial relationships, likening difficult family members to "tar babies" — hard to engage and

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potentially messy. Jesus himself faced family skepticism, demonstrating that not even the closest relationships are free from difficulty. Lucado urges readers to find support in their spiritual family and to seek God's affirmation rather than being controlled by familial expectations.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again:

Lucado writes about the importance of hope and not giving up on dreams, even in the face of life's challenges. He recounts the resurrection of Jesus as a pivotal moment of hope, inviting readers to believe in possibilities despite discouragement. Through the resurrection, Lucado emphasizes God's power to bring forth new life and encourage genuine faith, manifesting the importance of persistence in prayer and action.

6. Sour Milk:

This chapter delves into the danger of developing a sour attitude, as exemplified by Martha and Mary. Martha, overwhelmed by service, embodies the pitfalls of worry, while Mary exemplifies devotion through her willingness to be present with Jesus. Lucado argues that true service stems from a heart at peace, and he calls readers to examine their motivations and attitudes, recognizing the value of spiritual nourishment over mere activity.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope:

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Lucado tells the story of a woman suffering from chronic illness who believes that touching Jesus' garment will heal her. Her act of faith, born from desperation, exemplifies that the smallest gesture can lead to miraculous outcomes. Lucado defines faith as a mix of recognition of God's power and hope in His goodness, emphasizing that genuine faith requires action and trust in God's ability to work in our lives.

8. Forever Young

A reflective engagement with the aging process, Lucado encourages readers to embrace their later years with purpose and vitality. The risk of settling for safety over adventure is highlighted. He encourages individuals to pursue dreams regardless of age and shares stories of biblical figures who achieved great things later in life, reinforcing the notion that it's never too late to fulfill God's calling.

9. Read the Story:

Lucado invites readers to find strength and connection in the biblical narratives that resonate with their individual experiences. He discusses how shared stories build community and hope. The confrontation of heartbreak and the potential for healing through storytelling reflect the universal need for connection and understanding of God's ongoing work in the world.

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10. The Power of a Timid Prayer:

Exploring the vulnerability inherent in prayer, Lucado recounts a father desperate for his son's healing, demonstrating that sincerity and honesty drive genuine communication with God. He emphasizes that the power of prayer does not lie in eloquence, but in the relationship with the divine. Lucado urges readers to trust that God hears even the weakest, most timid prayer and acts upon it.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights:

Using the story of a paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, Lucado draws parallels to personal struggles and the feeling of being paralyzed by life's challenges. He emphasizes that Jesus meets individuals in their suffering and urges them to reach out for help, demonstrating His power to heal and restore.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did:

In this chapter, Lucado explores the significance of God's plan through the lens of Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine. He emphasizes the tenderness of God's nature and His willingness to respond to human needs, revealing that the mundane aspects of life do matter to Him.

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13. What Only God Can Do:

Lucado reflects on the theme of legalism versus grace exemplified in the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. He explains that true spirituality comes from spiritual rebirth through God's work, not from human achievements. The focus is on grace, and Lucado argues against the suffocating nature of legalism, encouraging readers to embrace grace.

14. Galilean Grace:

In the story of Peter's denial, Lucado emphasizes grace and the possibility of restoration. Jesus' interactions with Peter highlight that even when we falter, we can find hope and a fresh start. The chapter illustrates that it's possible to come back to a place of acceptance and love with God, despite past failures.

15. The Tenderness of God

This chapter emphasizes God's intimate concern for our lives as exemplified in the story of Jesus turning water into wine. It shows that even our minor struggles and worries are significant to Him, encouraging readers to share their burdens and trust God's involvement in their everyday lives.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary.

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The transformation of a demon-possessed man into a missionary signifies the power of redemption and the destinies God has for even the most unlikely individuals. Jesus' actions show that through faith and a willingness to follow, anyone can become a vessel of God's grace.

17. Seeing the Unseen:

Lucado discusses the difficulty of navigating uncertainty and fear about the future, drawing on imagery from everyday life to make his point. He reinforces the need for faith to guide us through the unseen, even when the future feels threatening.

18. Joseph's Prayer:

In contemplating Joseph during the birth of Jesus, Lucado presents a picture of confusion mixed with unwavering obedience. He suggests that Joseph's story is relatable, where individuals often grapple with God's seemingly unusual plans while attempting to follow Him faithfully.

19. The Grave Fact:

Expounding on the resurrection of Lazarus, Lucado stresses that death should not elicit despair among believers. Instead, it offers hope through the

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promise of eternal life with God, highlighting that Jesus' resurrection assures us of victory over death.

20. Listless Christianity:

Lucado argues that many people approach their faith with checklists rather than genuine relationship and understanding of grace. He contrasts the thief on the cross, who experiences true redemption in his last moments, with those seeking to earn their way into heaven and emphasizes the importance of faith over works.

Conclusion:

Max Lucado's **He Still Moves Stones** serves as a poignant reminder that God is actively involved in our pain, urging us to bring our struggles and disappointments to Him. Each story illustrates the promise of grace and renewal, encouraging us to live with hope and trust in a God who moves stones that we cannot budge.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 14. Galilean Grace

He Still Moves Stones: A Summary

Max Lucado's "He Still Moves Stones" explores the theme of God's presence in times of pain and distress through a series of biblical narratives, emphasizing how God interacts with individuals facing difficult situations. Lucado invites readers to reflect on their own experiences of hurt, loss, and the desire for healing, showcasing that God meets people in their struggles and restores hope.

Chapter Summaries:

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado introduces the metaphor of bruised reeds (representing the weak and weary) and smoldering wicks (symbolizing flickering hopes). He indicates that God nurtures and restores those who feel broken or lost, affirming that He does not discard the broken-hearted but strengthens them.

2. Not Guilty

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The chapter recounts the story of a woman caught in adultery, whom Jesus forgives despite societal judgment. Lucado connects this to feelings of shame and emphasizes that everyone struggles with guilt. God's forgiveness, he asserts, isn't based on merit but grace, showing that acceptance is available to all.

3. Don't Miss the Party

The focus shifts to the parable of the prodigal son, illustrating the bitterness of the elder brother who feels overlooked. Lucado warns against letting bitterness taint one's joy and encourages embracing the joy of others, showing that God desires celebration and reconciliation over resentment.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter addresses family dysfunctions and the difficulty of dealing with challenging relatives. Lucado reflects on Jesus's own troubled relationships with His family, suggesting that finding peace does not rely on changing the family dynamics but instead on cultivating one's own relationship with God.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again

Lucado encourages readers to rekindle their dreams and hopes in face of

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disappointment, using the resurrection story as a metaphor for renewal. He reminds us that even in times of doubt, God is present and capable of surprising us with grace.

6. **Sour Milk**

The story of Martha and Mary exemplifies how an unhealthy focus on duty can lead to sour attitudes. Lucado emphasizes that spirituality is rooted in relationship rather than mere activity, encouraging readers to seek moments of stillness and communion with Christ.

7. **A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope**

Lucado highlights a woman with a twelve-year health issue who takes a chance on Jesus, believing that a mere touch would heal her. This chapter underlines the importance of risk and faith in God, portraying that genuine faith often begins with simple, desperate gestures.

8. **Forever Young**

Growing old is explored, addressing the fears and regrets that often accompany aging. Lucado encourages embracing life, pursuing dreams regardless of age, and finding fulfillment beyond conventional societal markers of success.

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9. Read the Story

Lucado discusses the power of narrative in understanding personal hurt. He emphasizes learning from biblical stories to heal current wounds, advocating for remembering where we came from to appreciate the transformation God offers.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

This chapter focuses on a desperate father's plea for help regarding his son possessed by a spirit. Lucado illustrates that even timid prayers are powerful and mustered through pain can lead to miraculous answers from a compassionate God.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Using the story of the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda, Lucado illustrates God's willingness to confront suffering directly. He depicts Jesus as a source of hope amidst despair, encouraging readers to trust God's timing and presence in their trials.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

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Lucado dives into the significance of Jesus' first miracle (turning water into wine) as an act of love and kindness. He shows that every detail, including the miraculous, reveals God's tender heart towards human struggle.

13. What Only God Can Do

This chapter centers on Nicodemus, a Pharisee who struggles between legalism and grace. Lucado emphasizes that true spiritual rebirth and salvation cannot be earned through good deeds alone but is a divine gift from God.

14. Galilean Grace

Peter's denial of Christ and his subsequent restoration is explored, showcasing the theme of grace and second chances. Lucado reassures readers that despite failures, God's invitation to try again remains open and unending.

15. The Tenderness of God

Lucado examines the love Jesus shows at the wedding in Cana, portraying how God cares about our small troubles. He encourages readers to bring both small and big concerns to God, emphasizing their value in His eyes.

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16. The Madman Turned Missionary

The transformation of the possessed man in the tomb into a missionary illustrates how God can redeem the most broken individuals for His purpose. Lucado shows that anyone can be used by God to share His grace, even those society deems unworthy.

17. Seeing the Unseen

Lucado encourages readers to embrace faith amid uncertainty, sharing the story of Jairus and his daughter. He highlights how believing in God's goodness, even when circumstances seem bleak, can lead to hope and healing.

18. Joseph's Prayer

The narrative of Joseph caring for Mary and the newborn Jesus emphasizes obedience in confusion. Lucado calls upon readers to trust in God's plan even when it is unclear, demonstrating that understanding may come through action more than knowledge.

19. The Grave Fact

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Reflecting on death through the story of Lazarus, Lucado reassures that God has power over death and despair. He illustrates that the hope of resurrection transforms the way believers view death itself.

20. Listless Christianity

This chapter addresses the notion of “being good” and legalism in the Christian faith. Lucado argues that reliance on lists of good deeds distracts from the grace of God, and the hope of salvation is available freely through faith in Christ.

21. The Stone Mover’s Gallery

Concluding his work, Lucado envisions a gallery of God’s transformative acts in people's lives, urging readers to reflect on their own stories of pain and healing. He reminds us that the God who healed and moved stones in biblical times still does so today.

Overall, Max Lucado’s "He Still Moves Stones" serves as a poignant reminder of God’s unwavering presence in the face of human pain, provokes reflections on personal faith, and encourages ongoing hope and healing through life’s trials.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 15. The Tenderness of God

Summary of Chapters in "He Still Moves Stones" by Max Lucado

Introduction:

Max Lucado opens with powerful vignettes illustrating real pain involving a cripple, a sister at a funeral, and a father in a crisis. These stories are meant to remind readers that God is present in moments of suffering, offering help beyond our capacities. Lucado emphasizes that this book seeks to explore how God meets us in our struggles.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks:

Lucado uses the metaphor of a bruised reed and a smoldering wick to describe those who feel fragile and close to breaking. This chapter encourages readers to recognize their own pain and to remember that God protects the vulnerable, restoring hope and strength. The gallery of God's grace showcases life-changing encounters, urging readers to consider their own stories of renewal.

2. Not Guilty:

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This chapter centers on the story of Rebecca Thompson, a young woman who endures immense trauma, leading to her despair. Lucado addresses the theme of shame and emphasizes that Jesus does not condemn those burdened by sin, inviting them to live anew. He reflects on the woman caught in adultery, highlighting Jesus' message of grace, "I don't judge you guilty."

3. Don't Miss the Party:

Lucado compares the elder son from the Prodigal Son parable to modern experiences of bitterness and resentment. He argues that joy in others' blessings can help combat bitterness. Focusing on what we have rather than what we lack is important for spiritual health, and readers need encouragement to join in the celebration of life's victories.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't:

Lucado discusses dealing with difficult family members and acknowledges that families can be sources of stress and strife. He cites Jesus' own challenging family dynamics, showing that it's essential to define family not just by blood but by mutual faith and support. He encourages readers to find identity and affirmation in their relationship with God rather than familial approval.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again:

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This chapter addresses the feeling of hopelessness and the importance of service born out of love rather than obligation. Lucado reminds us that God honors small acts of faith, urging readers not to give up hope. Like the women at Jesus' tomb, our faith, however small, can lead to powerful outcomes.

6. Sour Milk:

Lucado uses the metaphor of sour milk to illustrate how sour attitudes can develop when pressure and agitation are left unchecked. Martha's anxiety at serving contrasts Mary's quiet attentiveness to Jesus. Recognizing the importance of serving with a joyful heart can help combat negative attitudes.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope:

Examining the story of the woman who touches Jesus' garment, Lucado emphasizes that faith often starts as a desperate hope. He defines faith as believing that God can help and earnestly wanting that help. True faith requires action; even the smallest gestures drawn from faith can lead to miraculous results.

8. Forever Young:

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Lucado reflects on the anxieties and regrets associated with aging, contrasting the fear of growing old with the opportunity to embrace life actively. He highlights that the final chapters of life can be as meaningful as the earlier ones, emphasizing the importance of pursuing life and purpose instead of retreating into safety.

9. Read the Story:

He connects the life experiences of P.T. Barnum with the challenges people face today. Through the journey of two disciples on the road to Emmaus, he illustrates how disappointment can blind us to God's presence. Lucado encourages readers to find strength by remembering their own stories of faith and the miraculous ways God can encourage and restore.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer:

The chapter focuses on the desperate plea of a father seeking help for his demon-possessed son. Lucado illustrates that even timid prayers, filled with doubt, can evoke powerful responses from God. The real power lies not in the prayer itself but in the one who hears it.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights:

This chapter is about the paralytic healed at the pool of Bethesda,

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emphasizing that Jesus meets us in our helplessness. The paralyzed man symbolizes spiritual paralysis—one who doesn't know how to reach out for help. Jesus' command to him serves as a powerful reminder of God's willingness to rescue those who are hurting.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did:

Lucado describes the tension between expectation and reality, reflecting on moments where God's actions may seem hard to understand. The story of Jesus changing water into wine at a wedding demonstrates that Jesus cares about the small troubles of life, illustrating that what matters to us matters to God.

13. What Only God Can Do:

Focusing on Nicodemus, a Pharisee questioning Jesus, Lucado contrasts legalism with grace. He emphasizes that spirituality comes from divine action rather than human effort, and that God's love extends to all who believe, breaking through the barriers constructed by our expectations and failures.

14. Galilean Grace:

This chapter follows Peter's journey after denying Jesus. Lucado emphasizes

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God's readiness to offer grace and a second chance, just as He does with Peter after the resurrection. The message is one of hope and reassurance that no one is too far gone to come back to Jesus.

15. The Tenderness of God:

Lucado describes the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding of Cana, emphasizing that God's concern for our needs, even the seemingly trivial, reflects His love for us. It serves as a reminder that God sees and cares for even our minor struggles.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary:

This chapter recounts the transformation of a demon-possessed man into a messenger of God. Jesus' compassion for the outcast illustrates that God's grace can redeem even the most troubled individuals, turning their brokenness into a powerful testimony.

17. Seeing the Unseen:

Lucado tells the story of Jairus, who seeks Jesus for help when his daughter is dying. Jesus encourages Jairus to have faith despite discouragement from others. The focus is on the importance of trusting in God's plan even in the face of despair and confusion.

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18. Joseph's Prayer:

Reflecting on Joseph's uncertainty during the birth of Jesus, Lucado acknowledges the struggle between faith and doubt. He emphasizes that though God's plans can be perplexing, trust and obedience are essential, much like Joseph's quiet compliance amid confusion.

19. The Grave Fact:

Lucado explores the mystery of death through the story of Lazarus, affirming that while death is a tragic reality, it is met with hope through Jesus. The resurrection is presented not as a mere event, but as the ultimate assurance that God can give life beyond the grave.

20. Listless Christianity:

This chapter discusses misconceptions about salvation, contrasting the idea of 'earning' a place in heaven with the concept of grace freely given to those who believe. Lucado urges readers to understand that salvation is a gift, not a reward for good behavior.

21. The Stone Mover's Gallery:

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In concluding, Lucado challenges readers to view themselves in the gallery of God's grace. He encourages personal reflection on their journeys and transformations, reminding that God not only moves the stones blocking their paths but also invites them to share their stories of healing and hope.

Overall, Lucado weaves a message of hope, grace, and the tangible presence of God in moments of struggle, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives while embracing the transformative power of faith.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: God cares about our minor struggles

Critical Interpretation: Imagine for a moment the weight of your worries—those seemingly small but persistent struggles that cloud your day. In the chapter 'The Tenderness of God,' you'll discover that you are not alone in these feelings. Lucado vividly paints a picture of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding of Cana, showcasing how deeply God values every aspect of our lives, no matter how trivial they may seem. This reminder can inspire you to embrace your vulnerabilities, knowing that they matter to a loving God who sees and hears you. So, take heart; allow His compassion to fill you with hope and courage to face your daily challenges, as you realize that your needs are acknowledged and cared for in a divine way.

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Chapter 16: 16. The Madman Turned Missionary

Max Lucado's **He Still Moves Stones** addresses the profound question of "Where is God when I hurt?" through poignant biblical narratives illustrating how God meets us in our pain. The book holds a mirror to our struggles and hopes, reminding us that we are not alone and God is actively involved in our lives.

Chapter Summaries

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado opens with images of fragility—bruised reeds and smoldering wicks—as metaphors for broken people, emphasizing that God cares for those who are weary and wounded. He draws on biblical stories demonstrating that God offers hope and healing where we see despair.

2. Not Guilty

Lucado recounts the story of a woman caught in adultery. Jesus's response highlights his mercy, illustrating how shame can weigh us down. He connects this to the real-life tragedy of Rebecca Thompson, who struggled with shame after surviving a horrific experience. The chapter encourages turning to God for redemption rather than staying trapped in guilt.

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3. Don't Miss the Party

In the story of the prodigal son, Lucado discusses the elder brother's bitterness and the need to celebrate second chances. He contrasts this with joy and grace, encouraging readers to focus on the blessings they have rather than what they lack.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

Here, Lucado explores the challenges of dealing with difficult relatives, using Jesus's own complicated family dynamics to illustrate that we are not alone in our family struggles. He suggests that our true spiritual family is defined by shared faith rather than bloodlines.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again

The author emphasizes the importance of allowing ourselves to dream even after disappointment. He highlights the women who went to the empty tomb, showcasing their devotion and the power of hope that springs from faith.

6. Sour Milk

Using the story of Martha and Mary, Lucado illustrates how anxiety and

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busyness can sour our spirits. He urges readers to prioritize being present with Jesus above the weight of responsibilities, encouraging a shift in focus from duties to relationship.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

This chapter revolves around the woman who touched Jesus's cloak, demonstrating faith through her desperate action. It serves as a reminder that even small acts of belief can lead to significant transformation.

8. Forever Young

Lucado addresses aging and the common fears associated with it. He provides a call to embrace life, adventure, and the potential for deep meaningfulness at every age, drawing inspiration from biblical figures who thrived in their later years.

9. Read the Story

The author presents the tale of P.T. Barnum to illustrate how unmet expectations can lead to bitterness. He shows how grief and disappointment can cause us to miss God's presence but also encourages us to recognize that God walks with us through our trials.

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10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

In a poignant narrative, a father with a sick son prays a shaky, desperate prayer to Jesus, exemplifying how even faint hope has the power to elicit God's response. Lucado emphasizes that prayer is not about eloquence but about connection.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Exploring the story of the man at the pool of Bethesda, Lucado reflects on feelings of despair and helplessness. The encounter serves to remind readers that God sees us in our darkest moments and is willing to enter our struggles to provide healing and hope.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

This chapter highlights Jesus's first miracle at a wedding, showcasing God's care for our personal struggles. Lucado emphasizes that God's intervention often comes not in grand events but in discrete acts of kindness that show his love for everyone.

13. What Only God Can Do

Through the encounter with Nicodemus, Lucado contrasts legalism with

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grace. He explains that spiritual rebirth is necessary and that acceptance of God's grace is vital for experiencing true freedom.

14. Galilean Grace

In the wake of Peter's denial, Lucado reflects on redemption and the importance of striving to reconnect with Jesus after failing. Peter's journey from denial to restoration serves as a powerful reminder that God offers grace regardless of our past failures.

15. The Tenderness of God

Lucado uses the wedding at Cana to illustrate Jesus's compassionate nature and willingness to meet our needs, no matter how trivial they may seem. God's attention to detail in our lives reassures us of his continued care and presence.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary

Focusing on the deliverance of the possessed man, Lucado portrays the radical transformation that can occur with a single encounter with Jesus. The madman's commission to share his story emphasizes the power of testimony in spreading God's grace.

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17. Seeing the Unseen

Jairus's plea for his daughter's healing exemplifies the tension between sight and faith. Lucado encourages readers to trust in God's plans, to ignore detracting voices, and to see the unseen possibilities that faith can provide.

18. Joseph's Prayer

Lucado reflects on Joseph's confusion during the events surrounding Jesus's birth. In his moments of doubt, God's presence comforts Joseph, teaching that our obedience is crucial even when we do not understand.

19. The Grave Fact

Through the story of Lazarus, Lucado addresses our fears surrounding death and God's triumph over it. He encourages readers to embrace the hope found in resurrection, reinforcing that death is not the end.

20. Listless Christianity

This chapter examines the futility of trying to achieve heaven through "lists" of morality and good deeds. Lucado uses the example of the thieves on the cross to underscore salvation as a gift, not a reward.

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21. The Stone Mover's Gallery

In the concluding chapter, Lucado returns to the theme of God's intervention in the lives of the hurting. He illustrates that the stories of grief and grace are not merely historical but are also vehicles for hope today, encouraging readers to share their stories of God's moving in their lives.

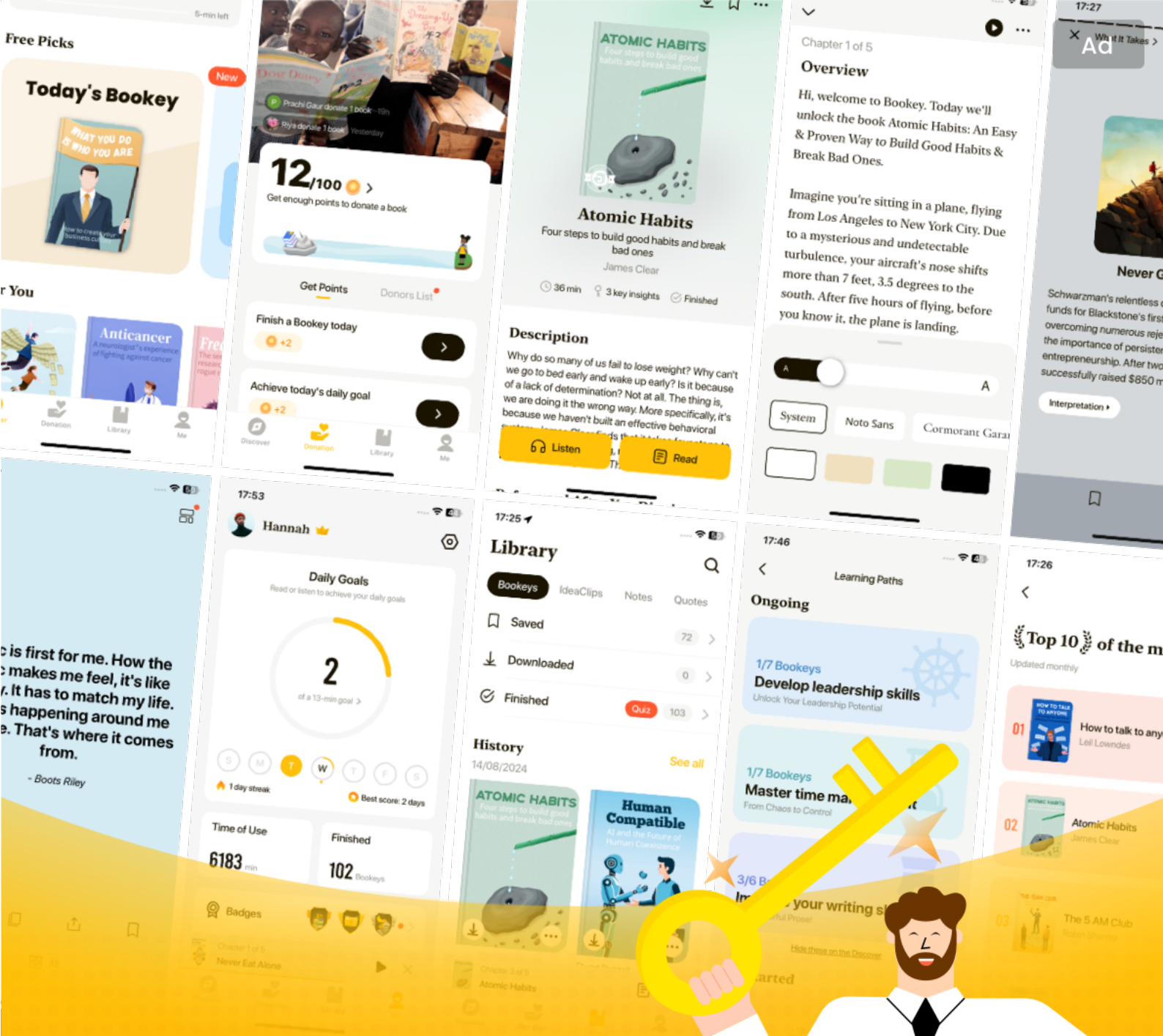
Conclusion

Through Scripture, personal anecdotes, and relatable examples, Max Lucado invites readers to confront their pain and recognize divine love and support amidst life's struggles. The overarching message is clear: God moves stones, and his presence is felt deeply in times of need.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 17. Seeing the Unseen

Summary of Key Themes and Chapters

Introduction: Where is God When I Hurt?

Max Lucado begins by inviting readers to explore various biblical stories that illustrate God's presence in moments of human suffering. Through these narratives, we are encouraged to confront our pain and question where God is when we are in distress.

Chapter Summaries:

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Two powerful metaphors symbolize people in pain: the bruised reed, representing those who feel broken, and the smoldering wick, indicating those with fleeting hopes. Lucado reassures that God does not break the broken-hearted but instead offers healing and hope.

2. Not Guilty

The chapter tells the story of Rebecca Thompson, a victim of violence who

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struggles with shame and guilt. Lucado mirrors her situation with the biblical account of a woman caught in adultery, highlighting Jesus's grace and uncondemning nature. He emphasizes the importance of realizing we are not defined by our past failures.

3. Don't Miss the Party

This chapter reflects on the parable of the Prodigal Son, focusing on the bitterness of the elder brother, who feels overlooked. Lucado urges readers to abandon bitterness in favor of joy and celebration in God's grace.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't

Examining the challenges of family relationships, Lucado uses Jesus's experience with His unsupportive family to illustrate that we often cannot control others' perceptions. He encourages readers to find their identity and support in their relationship with God rather than in their familial connections.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again

Lucado speaks of the hope and encouragement found in faith. He relates the story of the resurrection to the rekindling of dreams and aspirations, urging readers to stay hopeful despite their circumstances.

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6. Sour Milk

This chapter uses the story of Martha and Mary to discuss the dangers of worry and sour attitudes. Lucado emphasizes the joy of focusing on Jesus rather than being overwhelmed by life's duties.

7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

The narrative refers to the woman who touches Jesus's garment, illustrating that faith often starts as a small action led by a desperate need. Lucado reminds readers that even a minimal act of faith can lead to significant change.

8. Forever Young

Lucado explores aging, confronting feelings of regret and rebellion that can come with growing older. He encourages readers to embrace life's journey and recognize the value of every stage of life.

9. Read the Story

He uses the account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus to emphasize that disappointment can blind us to God's presence in our lives.

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Familiarity with biblical stories can renew hope and perspective.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer

Here, the story of a father with a possessed son illustrates that prayer, even when weak and uncertain, is still powerful. Lucado emphasizes that God hears our feeble pleas, and His ability to respond is not dependent on our eloquence.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Focusing on the healing of the paralytic at the Pool of Bethesda, Lucado speaks of the desperate situations we sometimes find ourselves in. Jesus's compassion and readiness to help inspire hope and action.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Lucado defines “lovebursts,” moments of intense and spontaneous love, using the story of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana as an example of God's attention to our smaller struggles in everyday life.

13. What Only God Can Do

The chapter explores the life of Nicodemus, a Pharisee, and contrasts

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legalism with grace. Lucado highlights that true spirituality is a gift from God, not something we can earn.

14. Galilean Grace

In the aftermath of Peter's denial, Lucado discusses God's grace and forgiveness. Peter's return to the Sea of Galilee serves as a metaphor for second chances and God's unending grace.

15. The Tenderness of God

Lucado illustrates that God is attentive to our needs, big or small. The first miracle of Jesus at the wedding at Cana showcases His compassionate nature, affirming that what matters to us matters to God.

16. The Madman Turned Missionary

The story of the demon-possessed man emphasizes that God's grace can transform even the most broken individuals into powerful messengers of hope. Jesus's encounter with this man shows the radical transformation available in Christ.

17. Seeing the Unseen

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This chapter discusses the need for faith to look beyond visible circumstances. Jairus, a synagogue leader, must choose to believe despite the bad news about his daughter, illustrating how faith can create hope where there seems to be none.

18. Joseph's Prayer

Reflecting on Joseph's obedience in uncertain scenarios, Lucado contemplates how doubt and confusion interact with faith. Joseph's trust in God's plan despite lack of understanding serves as a model for our own journeys.

19. The Grave Fact

Lucado discusses the reality of death through the story of Lazarus. He emphasizes that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, providing hope in the face of loss and reminding us that death is not the final word.

20. Listless Christianity

Addressing the concept of "being good" and how it's insufficient for salvation, Lucado highlights that trusting in Jesus, not lists of achievements, secures our place in heaven.

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21. The Stone Mover's Gallery

Lucado concludes with a vision of a gallery showcasing the transformation of despair into hope through Christ's intervention. Each story of healing serves to encourage us that God continues to move stones in our lives.

Themes of the Book:

- **Divine Compassion:** Lucado emphasizes God's active love and care in the midst of human suffering.
- **Hope and Healing:** The narratives illustrate how faith, despite its frailty, can lead to profound healing and transformation.
- **Grace over Legalism:** The contrast between grace and legalism offers a deeper understanding of spirituality and God's gifts to humanity.
- **Authenticity in Faith:** He presents the idea that true spirituality is rooted in honesty and genuine relationship with God rather than mere adherence to rules.

The overarching message encourages readers to recognize God's presence in their struggles and to maintain hope and faith even in difficult circumstances.

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Chapter 18 Summary: 18. Joseph's Prayer

Summary of Selected Chapters from "He Still Moves Stones" by Max Lucado

In *"He Still Moves Stones,"* Max Lucado explores profound biblical narratives to address the question: "Where is God when I hurt?" Through various stories, he illuminates God's enduring presence and compassion in human suffering and pain.

Chapter 1: Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

Lucado introduces the metaphor of a bruised reed and a smoldering wick to illustrate human fragility. He emphasizes that, like these delicate symbols, many people feel broken and weary under life's challenges. However, God does not reject the hurting; He offers healing and hope. Each biblical account presented demonstrates moments where God intervenes in pain, offering restoration and new life. Lucado invites readers to see themselves in these stories, transforming their perspective on suffering and God's involvement.

Chapter 2: Not Guilty

The focus shifts to shame, using the story of a woman caught in adultery. Jesus's response reveals a profound truth: He does not condemn her,

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highlighting the scandalous grace of forgiveness. Lucado parallels this with contemporary stories of trauma, like that of Rebecca Thompson, emphasizing how pain festers and becomes shame. He urges readers to recognize the permanence of shame and the necessity of confronting it with God's grace, reminding us that no failure disqualifies us from God's love and forgiveness.

Chapter 3: Don't Miss the Party

Lucado reflects on the parable of the prodigal son to explore the themes of bitterness and jealousy, exemplified in the older brother's anger at the celebration of the younger brother's return. The elder brother's resentment signals a common struggle—focusing on what one lacks instead of appreciating abundant blessings. Lucado emphasizes the importance of rejoicing in others' triumphs and how bitterness can trap us in a dungeon of despair, leading us to miss out on the celebration of grace.

Chapter 4: When You and Your Kin Can't

This chapter discusses the difficulties of familial relationships, highlighting Jesus' own challenges with His family. Lucado asserts that Jesus teaches us to find our true family—the spiritual community of believers—rather than dwelling on the failings of biological ties. He encourages readers to focus on what unites them with God, promoting the need for emotional acceptance of God as a caring Father rather than adhering strictly to flawed human expectations.

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Chapter 5: It's All Right to Dream Again

Lucado underscores the theme of hope, particularly in times of despair. He centers the story of the resurrection, reiterating that God frequently surprises His followers with grace. When hope dims, Lucado reminds readers that persistence in seeking God's help can lead to remarkable transformation. He stresses the importance of faith in God's promises and offers an uplifting reminder to hold onto dreams even when circumstances seem dire.

Chapter 6: Sour Milk

The focus is on maintaining a positive outlook as represented in the story of Martha and Mary. Lucado emphasizes the danger of allowing service to overshadow spiritual connection. He reflects on the importance of being present in God's presence rather than merely performing tasks for Him. The message is clear: God desires our hearts over our hustle, and an attitude grounded in gratitude can prevent frustration and bitterness.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

Lucado presents the story of a woman who is healed after touching Jesus' garment, illustrating the power of faith—even when it starts timid and uncertain. He offers an insightful definition of faith—believing that God can and trusting that He will. Lucado reinforces that true faith often requires stepping out with courageous gestures, even if those steps seem small or inconsequential.

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Chapter 8: Forever Young

In this chapter, Lucado addresses the societal pressures of aging and the fear that accompanies it. He argues against viewing aging as a loss and instead encourages embracing life's final chapters with vibrancy and hope. He relates stories of biblical figures who continued to serve and make impactful contributions late in life, urging readers to pursue their purpose regardless of age.

Chapter 9: Read the Story

Lucado introduces the idea that disappointment can cloud our perception of God's presence. Through the narrative of the Emmaus disciples, he showcases how unfulfilled expectations can lead to despair. However, through their encounter with Jesus, they recognize His presence and their hope is rekindled, reminding readers of the importance of remaining open to God's revelations even when circumstances feel dire.

Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

This chapter focuses on the importance of prayer, using the story of a desperate father seeking healing for his son as a framework. Lucado illustrates that effective prayer can emerge from a place of vulnerability, showcasing that it's not the eloquence of words but the sincerity of the heart that moves God. He reassures that even feeble prayers are potent in the hands of an attentive God.

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Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

Lucado contrasts moments of hopelessness in our lives with God's unyielding presence. He explores the account of the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda, illustrating that God sees us in our suffering and is willing to intervene. Despite physical and emotional challenges, God offers hope, healing, and the strength to move forward.

Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Lucado emphasizes that God's greatest act of love was sending Jesus to reconcile humanity to Himself. By recounting the wedding at Cana, he depicts God's willingness to engage with our everyday problems, stressing that even minor concerns in our lives are significant to Him. His miracles reflect His desire to care for us deeply.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

Examining Nicodemus' encounter with Jesus, Lucado illustrates the contrast between legalism and grace. He presents the necessity of recognizing our limitations and the futility of trying to earn salvation. Galilean grace is a gift available to everyone, regardless of their fruits, and this chapter underscores the beauty of faith as a transformative process birthed by God.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

The chapter explores Peter's denial of Jesus, elaborating on the grace

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available to him despite his failures. Through Peter's return to Galilee, Lucado illustrates that reconciliation with God is always possible, no matter how far we stray. The message is one of hope—that God's grace is sufficient to redeem even the most broken lives.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

Lucado reflects on Jesus' first miracle at the wedding at Cana, illustrating how God is intently aware of our struggles and joys. He reassures readers that God's care extends to the simplest aspects of life and emphasizes the importance of approaching God with our burdens and needs.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

In a narrative about a man possessed by demons, Lucado explains how Jesus transformed a life previously marked by chaos into a vessel of grace. The story illustrates that no one is beyond redemption and that God will reach even the most troubled lives to share His message. The former madman becomes the first missionary, underscoring God's grace and the possibility of change.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

Lucado encourages readers to trust in God's promises, even when the future seems uncertain. Drawing from the experiences of Jairus, who sought healing for his daughter, Lucado illustrates the importance of faith in the face of fear. He invites readers to choose faith over fear, knowing that God is

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at work even when unseen.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

Lucado portrays Joseph's internal struggles during the birth of Jesus, emphasizing the confusion and doubts that accompany God's plans. Joseph remains obedient despite his uncertainty, showcasing that faith often involves following God's guidance even when it doesn't align with our expectations.

Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

This chapter delves into the realities of death, specifically through the story of Lazarus. Lucado highlights the questions and anguish that come with loss but also affirms the promises of resurrection and eternal life through Christ. He reassures readers that death has been conquered and offers hope for believers.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

Lucado discusses a common misunderstanding about salvation and the human tendency to rely on self-righteousness as a means to earn favor with God. He emphasizes that true redemption comes from faith, not works, and encourages readers to understand their own lists of qualifications and how they contrast with the grace of God.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

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In the conclusion, Lucado reflects on the collective stories of pain, redemption, and hope found throughout the book. He encourages readers to document their own stories of faith and the transformative encounters with God that have shaped their lives. Ultimately, he reminds us that God is active and present, moving the stones of our lives and offering healing and grace.

This summary encapsulates the chapters, emphasizing Lucado's core messages of faith, grace, divine compassion, and the continuous presence of God in our lives amidst suffering and uncertainty.

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Chapter 19 Summary: 19. The Grave Fact

He Still Moves Stones by Max Lucado explores the intersection of divine intervention and human suffering, emphasizing that God is present in our pain and knows our struggles. Throughout the book, Lucado addresses various biblical stories and personalizes them to reflect our own experiences and doubts.

Chapter Summaries:

- 1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks:** Lucado introduces the concept of fragility in humans through the metaphor of bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. He assures readers that God tenderly cares for the broken and weary, reminding them that their pain matters to Him.
- 2. Not Guilty:** The story of the woman caught in adultery illustrates God's grace over shame. Lucado discusses how Jesus offered forgiveness, emphasizing that no one is beyond the reach of His mercy, regardless of their past.
- 3. Don't Miss the Party:** This chapter contrasts the responses of two brothers in the parable of the prodigal son. Lucado focuses on the elder brother's bitterness and resentment, illustrating that self-pity can prevent us

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from celebrating others' successes.

4. **When You and Your Kin Can't:** Lucado addresses the difficulty of dealing with family challenges, reflecting on Jesus' own complicated family dynamics. He emphasizes the importance of accepting love and support from one's spiritual family, even when biological ties are strained.

5. **It's All Right to Dream Again:** Lucado encourages readers facing discouragement. Drawing from the resurrection story, he stresses that God can bring life from dead situations, urging readers not to give up hope.

6. **Sour Milk:** The story of Martha and Mary contrasts busy work with the need for spiritual nourishment. Lucado emphasizes the importance of prioritizing time with God over mere activities.

7. **A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope:** Focusing on the woman with the issue of blood, Lucado highlights the power of faith. He encourages readers to reach out to Jesus, as faith, no matter how small, can lead to healing.

8. **Forever Young:** Lucado discusses the challenges of aging, urging readers to embrace life's adventures and remain open to God's direction, regardless of their age.

9. **Read the Story:** In the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus,

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Lucado points out that disappointment can cloud our vision of God's presence. He emphasizes the importance of recalling God's faithfulness to heal our hearts.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer: Through the account of a desperate father seeking healing for his son, Lucado illustrates that sincere prayers, even when weak, can reach the heart of God.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights: This chapter focuses on the sick man at the pool of Bethesda. Lucado discusses how God notices our struggles and invites us to trust Him despite the darkness.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did: Lucado explores God's plan in sending Jesus, emphasizing love over logic. He assures readers that divine help is available, even in unexpected ways.

13. What Only God Can Do: The story of Nicodemus reveals that true spirituality involves a born-again experience rather than mere compliance with religious laws. Lucado contrasts legalism with grace, asserting that only God can bring true transformation.

14. Galilean Grace: Peter's encounter with Jesus after the resurrection illustrates forgiveness and restoration. Lucado emphasizes that God seeks to redeem us, no matter our failures.

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15. **The Tenderness of God:** At the wedding in Cana, Jesus turns water into wine out of compassion for the hosts. Lucado shows how God's attentiveness extends to the mundane details of our lives.

16. **The Madman Turned Missionary:** Jesus' healing of the possessed man reveals His power over evil and His ability to transform lives. Lucado highlights that even the most broken can become instruments of God's grace.

17. **Seeing the Unseen:** This chapter encourages trust in God when we cannot see what lies ahead. Lucado invites readers to focus on faith rather than despairing over uncertainty.

18. **Joseph's Prayer:** Reflecting on Joseph's obedience despite confusion around Jesus' birth, Lucado emphasizes submission to God's will, even when circumstances seem unclear.

19. **The Grave Fact:** Lucado discusses Jesus raising Lazarus, presenting it as a testament to God's power over death and hope for believers facing loss.

20. **Listless Christianity:** The conversation with the thief on the cross illustrates that salvation is a gift based on faith rather than works. Lucado

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challenges readers to examine their ideas of worthiness in terms of grace.

21. **The Stone Mover's Gallery:** Concluding the book, Lucado presents a metaphorical gallery showcasing the stories of those God has helped. He encourages readers to embrace their narratives, affirming that God continues to move stones and transform lives today.

Through personal anecdotes and biblical accounts, Lucado emphasizes that God is intimately involved in our lives, moving in our pain and offering grace, showing that our stories matter in His hands.

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Chapter 20: 20. Listless Christianity

He Still Moves Stones by Max Lucado explores the timeless question of "Where is God when I hurt?" through a lens of biblical stories and contemporary reflections. The author emphasizes that God encounters human pain, offering comfort, healing, and grace, thereby inviting readers to explore their connection with the divine.

Chapter Summaries

Acknowledgments: Lucado thanks those who contributed to the book's creation, including his family, friends, and colleagues.

1. Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks: The chapter introduces the metaphor of bruised reeds and smoldering wicks to portray the fragility of human spirit. Lucado encourages readers to see God as the one who doesn't break the bruised or extinguish the dim. Through Jesus' touch, the broken can be restored, igniting hope where there seemed to be none.

2. Not Guilty: This chapter recounts the story of the woman caught in adultery, illustrating themes of shame and forgiveness. Jesus confronts the accusers, demonstrating that God's mercy erases guilt. Like this woman, many carry shame, but Lucado reassures that through Christ, guilt can be lifted.

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3. Don't Miss the Party: Lucado reflects on the parable of the prodigal son, focusing on the bitter elder brother who resents his father's grace towards the wayward sibling. The author emphasizes that envy can blind us to the joy of others' redemption and encourages embracing God's grace as a celebration of life.

4. When You and Your Kin Can't The chapter addresses the challenges of dealing with difficult family members. It draws parallels between Jesus' own family experiences and the relational struggles readers face, suggesting that one must find strength beyond familial expectations and embrace God's definition of family.

5. It's All Right to Dream Again: Utilizing the resurrection narrative, Lucado highlights the importance of hope and perseverance amid despair. Like the women at the empty tomb, readers are encouraged to push through their grief and disappointment, as God often works in ways we won't initially comprehend.

6. Sour Milk: This chapter contrasts Martha and Mary, illustrating how serving the Lord can sometimes overshadow our devotion to him. Lucado warns against allowing busyness to sour our spirits, urging readers to prioritize their relationship with Jesus.

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7. A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope: The story of the woman with the issue of blood exemplifies faith through desperation. Lucado emphasizes that genuine faith doesn't require strength but is often born from the most challenging circumstances; it's the bold attempt to reach out that draws God's attention.

8. Forever Young Reflecting on aging, Lucado encourages readers to embrace vitality and purpose in later years, reminding them of biblical figures who achieved great things later in life. He advises against conforming to cultural fears of aging and instead embracing new adventures.

9. Read the Story: Lucado shares a story about disillusionment and recovery, drawing parallels to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Their encounter with Jesus highlights how vital it is to share our experiences and find hope in God's story when faced with disappointment.

10. The Power of a Timid Prayer: This chapter emphasizes the potency of earnest prayers, even if they are simple and hesitant. Lucado illustrates this through a father's plea for help with his demon-possessed son, acknowledging that God hears and responds to even the small, frightened prayers.

11. Bright Lights on Dark Nights: The narrative of the paralyzed man by the pool at Bethesda illustrates the importance of seeing God amidst

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suffering. Jesus' question to the man underscores the necessity of expressing our desires and confusion, affirming that healing often begins when we reach out to God, regardless of our circumstances.

12. The Hardest Thing God Ever Did: Lucado reflects on God's plan, emphasizing that love can sometimes be borne out of difficult situations. The conversation between Mary and Joseph during Jesus' birth captures God's tendency to fulfill his promises in ways we wouldn't predict.

13. What Only God Can Do: This chapter examines legalism as a barrier to true faith. Through Nicodemus' story, Lucado illustrates the necessity of spiritual rebirth, emphasizing that entry into God's kingdom is not earned but rather given through grace.

14. Galilean Grace: After his denial of Jesus, Peter's journey back to faith is chronicled. Lucado examines how redemption is offered even after failure, underscoring the importance of trying again with God, who sees our potential beyond our mistakes.

15. The Tenderness of God: This chapter reflects on Jesus' ability to care about personal concerns, urging believers to trust that their everyday struggles matter to God. The miracle of transforming water into wine symbolizes God's intimate involvement and readiness to respond to our needs.

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16. The Madman Turned Missionary: Jesus' healing of a demon-possessed man illustrates God's transformative power. Lucado emphasizes that Jesus can change even the most broken individuals into messengers of hope, often in unexpected ways.

17. Seeing the Unseen: Here, Jairus' story demonstrates faith in unseen possibilities. Jesus challenges the doubt that accompanies grief, prompting readers to focus on faith rather than fear when uncertain about the future.

18. Joseph's Prayer: The story reflects on Joseph's struggles and confusion amidst God's plan. Lucado emphasizes obedience to God's call, even when it doesn't make sense—a lesson on trusting God despite not understanding His moves.

19. The Grave Fact: Through the resurrection of Lazarus, Lucado invites readers to confront the reality of death, defining it as a passage rather than an end. The story serves to reaffirm hope in God's power over death and the promise of eternal life.

20. Listless Christianity: This chapter highlights how many believe they can earn heaven through good deeds. Through the story of a thief on the cross, Lucado illustrates that grace is not earned by deeds but received through faith.

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21. The Stone Mover's Gallery: The book concludes with the idea of a gallery showcasing God's works from healing the broken to moving stones. The stories of biblical characters serve as reminders that what God did then, He still does today—bringing hope and healing into our lives.

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Chapter 21 Summary: 21. The Stone Mover's Gallery

Summary of Selected Chapters:

Introduction

In the opening, author Max Lucado presents the central question: "Where is God when I hurt?" He invites readers to explore biblical stories where God meets human pain, emphasizing that the divine presence is not only historical but also relevant in personal struggles.

Chapter 1: Bruised Reeds and Smoldering Wicks

This chapter depicts the fragile state of human beings symbolized by bruised reeds and smoldering wicks. Through vivid imagery of art showcasing individuals suffering and then finding healing, Lucado emphasizes God's unwavering compassion for the weary and broken-hearted. It serves as a reminder that God cares for the vulnerable and offers hope where there seems to be none.

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Chapter 2: Not Guilty

Lucado recounts the story of a woman caught in adultery brought before Jesus. Instead of condemning her, Jesus offers forgiveness, illustrating that one's past does not define their future. The chapter discusses the struggle with shame and guilt, highlighting how God's grace is available regardless of one's mistakes, ultimately asking readers to embrace forgiveness and move forward.

Chapter 3: Don't Miss the Party

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Lucado contrasts the joy of the heavenly banquet to the bitterness of the elder brother who feels overlooked. He argues that resentment can imprison a person, while recognizing one's worth in God's eyes allows participation in the joy of celebration. God invites everyone to partake in His grace and love, urging us to forsake jealousy and bitterness.

Chapter 4: When You and Your Kin Can't

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Lucado discusses the challenges of dealing with difficult relatives through relatable anecdotes. He points to Jesus' own family dynamics, illustrating that even the closest kin can be sources of difficulty. The emphasis is on establishing one's identity through spiritual family rather than biological ties, and the importance of accepting God's affirmation amidst familial struggles.

Chapter 5: It's All Right to Dream Again

This chapter portrays the transformative power of hope. Lucado narrates the story of the resurrection, emphasizing that despair doesn't have to lead to resignation. Following the empty tomb, he encourages readers to renew their dreams and aspirations, illustrating that when hope seems lost, God can bring new life and promise.

Chapter 6: Sour Milk

Lucado uses the story of Martha and Mary to illustrate how attitudes can sour amid serving others. He emphasizes the importance of maintaining a gracious heart while serving. Martha's exhaustion and irritation serve as a

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reminder that serving should stem from love rather than obligation, urging readers to refocus their priorities on the presence of Jesus.

Chapter 7: A Crazy Hunch and a High Hope

This chapter centers on a woman with a long-term illness who reaches out to Jesus for healing, demonstrating the potency of faith that acts. Lucado emphasizes that faith doesn't require grand gestures; even small acts of belief can produce extraordinary results. Faith is positioned as the driving force behind miracles, reminding readers to reach for hope in the face of despair.

Chapter 8: Forever Young

Lucado reflects on aging and the wisdom that accompanies it, urging people to embrace the later stages of life with purpose and joy. He articulates that growing older can mean gaining deeper faith and wisdom, arguing that the final chapters of life can be the most fulfilling. He inspires readers to embrace life's adventures regardless of age.

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Chapter 9: Read the Story

Through the narrative of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Lucado illustrates how God engages with His followers even in their doubts and sorrows. He emphasizes the importance of Scripture as a source of hope and connection. The chapter encourages readers to revisit God's Word to find reassurance amid uncertainty and disappointment.

Chapter 10: The Power of a Timid Prayer

In a story about a father desperate to help his sick son, Lucado explores the theme of faith that doubts yet reaches out. He demonstrates that even a timid prayer can hold great significance. God's compassion and willingness to respond to even the smallest expressions of faith reassure readers that their prayers are valued and heard.

Chapter 11: Bright Lights on Dark Nights

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The account of Jairus and his dying daughter underscores the idea of holding onto faith amid hopelessness. Lucado discusses how Jesus' comforting words encourage believers not to succumb to fear. Instead of focusing on their visible circumstances, readers are prompted to maintain faith in God's unseen workings.

Chapter 12: The Hardest Thing God Ever Did

Focusing on the miracle of Jesus healing a paralyzed man, Lucado stresses the fundamental transformation that occurs within individuals when they encounter Jesus. This chapter emphasizes the priority of spiritual healing over physical ailments and reinforces the idea that God's grace surpasses our expectations.

Chapter 13: What Only God Can Do

This chapter centers on Nicodemus, a Pharisee who seeks Jesus but struggles to grasp the concept of being "born again." Lucado reveals how legalism can stifle the life-giving aspects of faith, highlighting the necessity of spiritual rebirth that only God can provide. It challenges readers to abandon attempts

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to earn their way to heaven through good deeds.

Chapter 14: Galilean Grace

Lucado revisits Peter's reconstruction after denial of Christ. The story illustrates grace as Peter returns to fishing, which mirrors his earlier life. The message here is that despite our failures, we are invited to get back into the game of life, embracing hope and renewal through God's redemptive grace.

Chapter 15: The Tenderness of God

Through the miracle at the wedding in Cana, this chapter shows God's personal investment in the small details of human life. Jesus transforms water into wine out of concern for a social embarrassment, demonstrating that God's attentiveness to our lives extends to the little things that matter.

Chapter 16: The Madman Turned Missionary

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Lucado tells the gripping story of the demon-possessed man from Gerasenes who became the first missionary to the Gentiles after his healing. This chapter emphasizes that God can turn the most broken among us into beacons of His message, showcasing the transformative power of grace.

Chapter 17: Seeing the Unseen

In recounting the story of Jairus's daughter, Lucado urges readers to focus on faith amid despair. He underscores the importance of believing in God's unseen plans and trusting that He is working for our good even in the most difficult circumstances.

Chapter 18: Joseph's Prayer

Reflecting on Joseph, the husband of Mary, Lucado considers the confusion and uncertainty he faced upon the birth of Jesus. He illustrates how obedience amid doubt is crucial. Joseph's life exemplifies how listening to God's calling can lead to fulfilling His greater purpose.

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Chapter 19: The Grave Fact

Lucado explores the narrative of Lazarus, emphasizing the reassurance that death is not the end due to Jesus' resurrection victory. This chapter addresses the painful reality of death but provides comfort that faith in Christ offers eternal life, reinforcing hope even in the face of loss.

Chapter 20: Listless Christianity

This chapter confronts the idea that being "good" is insufficient for entering heaven. Lucado recounts the story of Jesus' crucifixion, particularly the repentant thief who found grace at the last moment, showing that salvation is ultimately about faith in Christ rather than our own lists of good deeds.

Chapter 21: The Stone Mover's Gallery

Lucado concludes by inviting readers to reflect on their own "before-and-after" stories and how God has intervened in their lives. He urges us to keep our faith alive, remembering that God, who has moved

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stones for countless others, remains actively involved in our lives today. The message encapsulates the entire book: God is present in our hurt and always offers us hope, healing, and a chance for redemption.

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