

COMPLETED EXAMPLE / RACHEL (FICTIONAL)

# Working Journal Definition

Rachel's provisional Week Two definition for Trusting God in Uncertain Times. These are working decisions, not a finished plan.

**WORKING TITLE (OPTIONAL)** Trusting God in Uncertain Times

## 01 Your central message

What biblical truth or spiritual concern will connect your 30 daily entries?

I want to help Christians explore what it means to trust God when they don't know how their circumstances will turn out. The journal could help readers examine their concerns, remember what Scripture teaches about God's character, and consider how to respond faithfully.

## 02 Your intended readers

Who might particularly benefit from this journal, and what are they facing or seeking?

I'm writing primarily for Christians who are facing uncertain circumstances and want to learn how to trust God while they wait, make decisions, or deal with situations beyond their control. They may already understand that God is faithful but struggle to apply that truth when they don't know what will happen next.

## 03 Your desired reader outcome

What understanding, personal reflection, and response do you hope to encourage?

Through this journal, I want to help Christians examine the uncertainties they're facing in light of Scripture, grow in their understanding of God's faithfulness, and discover meaningful ways to respond through prayer, wise decisions, and continued trust in Him.

These statements give your journal direction. You may refine them as you study Scripture, plan the entries, and draft the manuscript.

## SOURCE MATERIALS / DECISIONS FOR LATER

# Materials & Next Steps

Record promising starting points, not every source you own. Your detailed Material Inventory can stay in your Journal Project Organizer.

## 04 Promising source materials

Select three to five notes, Scripture leads, experiences, or questions that may serve your message.

| MATERIAL / SCRIPTURE / IDEA | POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OR NEXT STEP                                                   |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| R01 • Personal journal      | Uncertain career decision; possible illustration. The lesson is not yet clear.       |
| R02 • Psalm 77 notes        | Distress, hard questions, remembering God's works; study the passage in context.     |
| R04 • Prayer notebook       | Waiting for certainty versus seeking wisdom; may support reflection on decisions.    |
| R05 • Teaching outline      | Counsel, facts, prayer, responsible action; biblical foundation still needed.        |
| R06 • Scripture slips       | Several possible passages, including Psalm 13 and James 1:5; verify context and fit. |

## 05 Material needing more development

What should you study, clarify, verify, or expand before you use it?

Study Scripture passages in context before building entries, especially Psalm 77 and R06 leads.

Establish biblical support for the practical outline (R05); investigate the questionable sermon claim (R07).

Develop varied, meaningful prompts; do not use the friend's private experience (R08) without permission.

## 06 Decisions for later

Record choices that are not required to finish this week's definition.

| DECISION OR QUESTION                          | WHEN TO REVISIT         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Scripture-led, experience-led, or a blend?    | Week Three              |
| Thirty distinct topics and their order?       | Week Four               |
| Final title, page size, writing-space layout? | Publication preparation |

### WEEK TWO FINISH LINE

Rachel now has a message, intended readers, desired reader outcome, and promising materials. Her original source notes remain unchanged in Starting Snapshot 01; the 30-day outline comes later.

Rachel and her experiences are fictional teaching illustrations created for Create Great Books.