

# GOSPELFRAMES

THE **GOOD NEWS**  
IN EVERYDAY LIFE





# GOSPELFRAMES

## Weekly Brief At a Glance. . .

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### These VICES

*“And I hate being awake when the sun’s out. Lock my door and shut the blinds. They can’t see my bloodshot eyes. I got habits I can’t hide in the light.”*

**Summary:** Breakout star Mothica sings about the emptiness of temptations.

**Themes:** addictions, sin, temptation



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### All Your Twisty Parts

*“Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed.”*

**Summary:** The film “Words On Bathroom Walls” tells the story of a young man hiding the most broken parts of himself.

**Themes:** authenticity, confession, community, faults, forgiveness, vulnerability



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### Bear the Onus of Forgiveness?

*“Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?”*

**Summary:** In “The Place Where the Crawdads Sing,” Kya wrestles with the burden of forgiveness.

**Themes:** betrayal, easter, forgiveness, the cross, reconciliation



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### An Inexplicable Desire

*“Yet you stand before me a convicted felon. And for what? For the inexplicable desire to grasp even more.”*

**Summary:** A judge tells Laurie Loughlin the truth about greed and ambition.

**Themes:** ambition, contentment, greed, more, stewardship



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### Unrealistic Expectations About Love

*“The most famous movie couples have the ability to turn cynics into believers, critics into fans, and can even warm the iciest of hearts.”*

**Summary:** Hollywood paints a rosy but fictional picture of long-term relationships. But God’s love story gives real hope.

**Themes:** divorce, love, marriage



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### Did You Tell Them?

*“I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me,” (Genesis 21:22-34)*

**Summary:** When Abraham feels mistreated by Abimelech, a confrontation erupts.

**Themes:** conflict resolution



## These VICES

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McKenzie Ellis has been releasing music for 6 years as Mothica but “Vices” is the one that has cast her into the mainstream. She rushed to get the song out, releasing it without artwork. On June 22, she shared a clip of the song on TikTok and it was an immediate sensation. Within four days the song hit Billboard’s top 10 and reached no. 2 on iTunes Pop. Listen to the song’s verses:

(V1)  
Feel like I'm just passing by  
It's not love it's just a guy  
And it's got me feeling right for the night but  
In the morning when he's gone  
I'm alone with all my thoughts  
So I gotta drink em up till I'm numb

(V2)  
Is it okay I'm not okay?  
I don't sleep too much these days  
And I hate being awake when the sun's out  
Lock my door and shut the blinds  
They can't see my bloodshot eyes  
I got habits I can't hide in the light

(Chorus)  
It's never enough,  
pass me the cup  
Got nowhere to run,  
so pour me another one  
I'm taking it all  
I'm getting lost  
I'm making a fool of myself  
With all these

Vices  
I really don't know why I'm like this  
And I just don't care what the price is  
'Cause I need these vices (oh)  
If it's not drugs it's drinks  
If it's not drinks it's things  
If it's not things it's people  
Places I don't want to be  
These vices

In a recent interview with Buzzfeed, Mothica shared, "I've heard from hundreds of people that said they relate to the song because of their experience with addiction or for other personal reasons. I feel so close to everyone who is finding solace in this song." The name Mothica is derived from the nature of a moth, "nocturnal yet drawn to the light."

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**SOURCE:** Mothica “VICES.” Mothica Music Records, 2020. Spotify, <https://open.spotify.com/track/2cYynEijt5LiNLJkWK1njz?si=qsnhYriiSHC92TaNY-Mydw>



### KEY PHRASE

“And I hate being awake  
when the sun's out.  
Lock my door and  
shut the blinds.  
They can't see my  
bloodshot eyes.  
I got habits I can't hide  
in the light.”

### THEMES

*addictions*  
*sin*  
*temptation*

### PASSAGES

*The seed which fell among the  
thorns, these are the ones who  
have heard, and as they go on  
their way they are choked with  
worries and riches and pleasures of  
this life, and bring no fruit to  
maturity.*  
*Luke 8:14*

*In the end it bites like a serpent  
and stings like an adder.*  
*Proverbs 23:32*

*But each person is tempted when  
he is lured and enticed by his own  
desire.*  
*James 1:14*

**Other Texts:** Ps 38:9; Pr 6:28;  
7:25–26; Mt 4:7; 6:13; 13:22;  
22:18; 26:41; Mk 7:20–23; 8:11; Lk  
4:2; 4:13; 11:4; 22:40; Jn 8:6; 1Co  
7:2; 10:13; Ga 4:14; 6:1; Ep 6:13;  
1Th 3:5; 1Ti 5:8; 6:9; Hb 4:15; Jm  
1:3; 1:12–18; 4:1–4; 1Pt 4:12; 2Pt  
2:9

## All Your Twisty Parts

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The film *Words on Bathroom Walls* tells the story of Adam, a witty, introspective teen diagnosed with a mental illness during his senior year of high school. After experiencing a psychotic break at his school, his parents relocate him for a fresh start to St Agatha's, a private Catholic school. In their first meeting, when the headmaster inquires if he is ready to join St. Agatha's, Adam answers, "The only person that can't reject you is Jesus, right?"

As he struggles to keep his illness a secret, Adam connects with Father Patrick in a confessional and asks about the reason for confession. While he initially dodges Adam's question, later Father Patrick responds;

Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed. . . Everyone is flawed. But admitting our flaws, that gives us the opportunity and the strength to face them. And that's why we confess.

At the end of the film, after discovering his need to depend on others, Adam shares:

As for honesty. . . you have to let people discover all your dark and twisty places inside because those are the people that can show you what's real, when you can't see that yourself. It can be the beginning of everything, if you let it.



### KEY PHRASE

"Actually telling someone our sins gives us the opportunity to admit we are flawed."

### THEMES

authenticity  
confession  
community  
faults  
forgiveness  
vulnerability

### PASSAGES

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*  
James 5:16

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*  
1 John 1:9

*But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me. . .*  
Leviticus 26:40

**Other Texts:** Le 5:5; 16:21; 26:40; Nm 5:7; Ez 10:1; Ne 9:2–3; Ps 32:3–6; 38:18; Pr 28:13; Daniel 9:3–12, 20; Mt 3:6; Mk 1:5; Ac 19:18; Jm 5:16; 1Jn 1:9

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**SOURCE:** Walton, Julia. *Words on Bathroom Walls* (New York: Ember, 2018).

## Bear the Onus of Forgiveness?

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In Delia Owens best-selling book, "Where the Crawdads Sing," readers are introduced to a young girl named Kya living in Barkley Cove, NC in 1969. Known to locals as "Marsh Girl," she had lived a hard, lonely life, abandoned and forgotten by virtually everybody. As her story unfolds, one of those characters returns to the marshes of North Carolina. Tate was her first love, had taught her to read, and had become the only family she knew. He had left the swamp for success elsewhere, promising to return for her. But Tate never returned, and he never wrote to explain why.

One night Tate comes trolling up to her front door on an old fishing rig. Kya is enraged as he attempts to apologize:

Kya, leaving you was not only wrong, it was the worst thing I have done or ever will do in my life. I have regretted it for years and will always regret it. I think of you every day. For the rest of my life, I'll be sorry I left you. I truly thought that you wouldn't be able to leave the marsh and live in the other world, so I didn't see how we could stay together. But that was wrong.

He continues, "I knew how many times you'd been left before. I didn't want to know how badly I hurt you. I was not man enough. Just like you said." Finishing his plea, Tate watched her until she asked, "What do you want now, Tate?"

He responded, "If only you could, some way, forgive me."

As Kya looks at her toes, she thinks to herself "Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?"

It's a good question. One we should ponder every time we think about the work of Christ on the cross.



### KEY PHRASE

"Why should the injured, the still bleeding, bear the onus of forgiveness?"

### THEMES

*betrayal*  
*easter*  
*forgiveness*  
*the cross*  
*reconciliation*

### PASSAGES

*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.*  
*Luke 23:34*

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*  
*2 Corinthians 5:21*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*  
*Isaiah 53:5*

**Other Texts:** Nm 14:18; Ps 86:5; Is 53:5-8; Mt 6:12, 14-15; Mk 11:25; Lk 6:37; 17:4; 23:34; Ac 20:28; Rm 4:7-8; Ep 1:7; 4:32; Co 3:13; 2Co 2:5-8, 10; Hb 9:22; 1Jn 1:9

## An Inexplicable Desire

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Actress Lori Loughlin was sentenced to two months in federal prison for her role in the college admissions scandal. She will serve two years of supervised release during which she must perform 100 hours of community service and pay a fine of \$150,000. Her husband, and co-defendant, Mossimo Giannulli, received five months in prison, a \$250,000 fine, two years of supervised release and 250 hours of community service.

During the hearings, US District Judge Nathaniel Gorton addressed both defendants:

“Here you are an admired, successful, professional actor with a long-lasting marriage, two apparently healthy, resilient children, more money than you could possibly need, a beautiful home in sunny Southern California – a fairy tale life. Yet you stand before me a convicted felon. And for what? For the inexplicable desire to grasp even more.”

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**SOURCE:** Wildmoon, K.C. "‘Full House’ star Lori Loughlin sentenced to 2 months in prison in college admissions scam." *CrimeOnline*. Retrieved from <https://www.crimeonline.com/2020/08/21/full-house-star-lori-loughlin-sentenced-to-2-months-in-prison-in-college-admissions-scam/>



### KEY PHRASE

“Yet you stand before me a convicted felon. And for what? For the inexplicable desire to grasp even more.”

### THEMES

*ambition*  
*contentment*  
*greed*  
*more*  
*stewardship*

### PASSAGES

*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*  
*1 Timothy 6:10*

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*  
*Philippians 4:11–13*

*He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.*  
*Ecclesiastes 5:10*

**Other Texts:** *Ps 34:10; Pr 13:11; 21:26; Ec 5:10; Mt 6:19–20; Mk 8:36; Lk 12:15; Pp 4:11–13; 1Ti 6:6–12*

# Unrealistic Expectations About Love

In a recent *Cosmopolitan* article, Pauline Jayne Isaac lists the 36 greatest on-screen love stories of all time. She begins:

"You're sitting on the couch, soaking in a new movie. Next thing you know, butterflies are fluttering in your stomach, your eyes are tingling, and you begin to feel something deep in your belly—wait a sec, is that...hope? These symptoms are often associated with watching a legit love story. The most famous movie couples have the ability to turn cynics into believers, critics into fans, and can even warm the iciest of hearts. Whether it's a romantic comedy or a drama—the outcome is the same. Love stories make you believe in love."

But the title of her article reveals a problem; "Sorry, But I Just Have to Say It: These Iconic Movie Couples Gave Me Unrealistic Expectations About Love." Unrealistic expectations are a key issue in marriages.

Over the years, of course, countless love stories have been told at the box office. Isaac limited her list by selecting stories that met three criteria: "the couples have to be aspirational, the chemistry palpable, and most importantly, the love has to be intense."

Perhaps Hollywood love stories create unrealistic expectations because they are not love stories at all. Real love is forged from something deeper, and long-lasting. An authentic love story is not built on the glamour of aspiration, the feel of chemistry, or the thrill of intensity. These experiences come and go over a lifetime. But real love remains.

God's work of grace in Jesus Christ is a "legit love story." It has "the ability to turn cynics into believers, critics into fans, and can even warm the iciest of hearts."

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**SOURCE:** Isaac, Paulina Jayne. "Sorry, But I Just Have to Say It: These Iconic Movie Couples Gave Me Unrealistic Expectations About Love." *Cosmopolitan*, August, 2020. Retrieved from <https://sports.yahoo.com/sorry-just-iconic-movie-couples-223900361/photo-p-class-body-dropcap-youre-223900020.html>



## KEY PHRASE

"The most famous movie couples have the ability to turn cynics into believers, critics into fans, and can even warm the iciest of hearts."

## THEMES

divorce  
love  
marriage

## PASSAGES

*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*  
John 15:13

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.*  
Ephesians 5:25

*A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*  
Proverbs 17:17

**Other Texts:** Dt 7:9; Ps 63:3; 86:15; 10:12; 17:17; Mt 5:43–48; 22:36–40; Mk 12:28–32; Jn 3:16; 4:9–12; 13:34–35; 15:9–17; Ro 5:8; 12:9; 13:8; 1Co 13:4–8, 13; 16:14; Ga 5:22; Ep 2:4–5; 4:1–4; 5:25; Co 3:14; 1Pt 4:8; 1Jn 3:1, 18; 4:7–19



## Did You Tell Them?

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**Genesis 21:22-34**  
Conflict Resolution

Abraham and Abimelech had formally sworn to be fair in their dealings with one another (the equivalent of a peace treaty). So Abraham became enraged when some Abimelech's workers laid claim to a well dug by the patriarch. Scripture tells us that when this took place, Abraham "reproved" Abimelech over the incident. Now we don't know exactly what is meant by reprove, but we know that it must have been very direct and harsh. This is how we respond in times of conflict. We feel slighted, wronged, and misused. We are sure that we know exactly why the other person/group has acted the way they did. Sometimes we wait for days before addressing the problem, all the while the anger grows. When we finally do address the problem, all of that penned up anger comes rushing out as reproof. But maybe a kind word would have turned away anger and resolved the problem.

*Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today."*  
**Genesis 21:26**

Abimelech told Abraham that he had no idea about the offence, nobody had told him. Often people have no idea that they even offended us. And frequently, they will be reasonable. Sure, sometimes they are not, but we will never know until we go to them and tell them the problem.



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