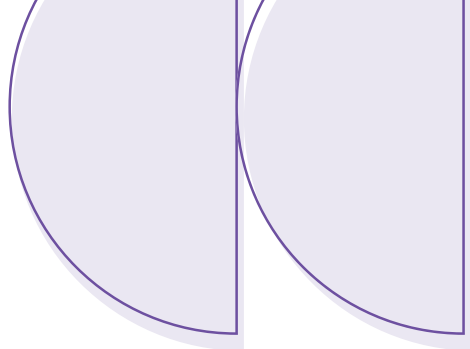


DAY 6

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power.
Psalm 145:4 NLT

Have you ever thought about the power of your words? Whether you've used them to encourage a friend who was hurting or to present a project in front of your class, your words can be really powerful, in both positive and negative ways. In the same way, when we share our faith with others, our words have power. This verse says that our faith has been passed down and shared for generations. It's been talked about and passed on through the power of other people's words. And that's something we can continue today! When we use our words to tell others about the good things that God has done, not only will it help the faith of someone else grow, but it can help our faith grow, too. And that's pretty cool!

So, what's one good thing that God has done that you want to tell someone about?



DAY 7

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:6-7 NLT

God can use other people to grow our faith. And that's great news because it means we don't have to figure out any of this faith stuff all on our own. We can lean on and learn from others as we grow.

This week, involve your small group or a group of close friends in helping you memorize this verse. Work on it together and watch how your relationships grow, not just with each other, but with God, too.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

CONNECT THE DOTS / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing.
2 Thessalonians 1:3 NLT

Who in your life can be hard to love? Maybe it's a brother or a sister, a step-parent, that difficult teammate, or that kid who sits next to you in math. Believe it or not, God can actually use that person to help grow your faith! Learning to love those people who feel difficult to love or even get along with can help us be more like Jesus. And when we make the effort to love even when it's hard, we're taking a step toward growing in faith and loving others—two things Jesus shows us how to do really well!

Today, talk with your small group about some of the ways Jesus showed love to those around Him. Then, think about how you can do the same with others in your life, even those who don't make it easy!

DAY 2

Let the whole earth sing to the Lord! Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.
1 Chronicles 16:23 NLT

Do you find it easy to talk about your faith? If you don't, you aren't alone! For many of us, telling others about Jesus and our relationship with Him can feel difficult. But remember, God can use us to grow the faith of others when we find the courage to speak up and talk about what God is doing in our life. And helping someone else connect the dots and grow closer to God? Well, that's pretty cool!

Think about who you can share what God is doing in your life with this week. Maybe in a short conversation, a note to encourage them, or even a simple text. Then, ask your small group leader to help you think through the best way to start that conversation and encourage you to take the step to do it.

DAY 3

**Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of
wisdom.**

Psalm 90:12 NIV

Who is someone wise in your life? Whoever it is for you, that wise person probably has a good point of view about life, and this verse gives us an idea of what that point of view might be. It encourages us to be wise with the way we live because we aren't going to live forever. We have to make the most of the time we have on this Earth, and that's exactly what wise people do! They understand that each and every day is an opportunity to grow in faith and connect with God, and they use their time to help others do that, too!

So today, thank the wise person in your life for the way they inspire and challenge you to grow in your faith.

DAY 4

Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Colossians 1:10 NLT

Who is someone you know who really puts their faith into action? The reason you know what they believe is that they do more than just talk about it. You see them live their life in a way that shows their faith is real. Surrounding ourselves with people like that can help us develop a stronger faith of our own. They can encourage us to grow deeper in relationship with God. And when that happens, people will notice! Our faith will make an impact on others just like someone else's faith made an impact on us.

Think about someone in your life whose faith you look up to. Write down a list of things about the way they live that lets you know their faith is real. Then, try to practice just one of those characteristics in your own life this week.

DAY 5

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Proverbs 27:17

Written by Audri, age 13 from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, USA

I remember when I was at a kids camp a couple of years ago and the message was about friends who can influence your life. During the talk, the guy stood up on a chair and their friend was on the ground. This represented the relationship between two friends. The friend standing on the chair was trying to pull his friend on the ground up onto the chair, too. This represented him trying to encourage his friend to become a Christian. Then, the friend who was on the ground tried to pull the guy standing on the chair down. It was much easier for him to pull the guy on the chair down, which represented pulling him away from his faith. This example really changed my perspective on friendship. I learned that your friends will influence your life and your faith in a lot of ways! It made me think about how your friends should help build you up and grow in your faith, instead of pulling you away from your faith.

Today, think about each of your friends. Are they helping you grow in your faith or are they pulling you away from your faith?

Then, talk to a leader or your parent for help if you need to make a change in any of your friendships.