

DAY 6

Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5 NLT

Think about the last time you played a sport or studied hard for a test. Over time, you got better and better at it with practice. But if you suddenly stopped practicing? For a time, you might still be good at it, but eventually, you'd be able to tell you haven't put much effort into it. The same is true when it comes to our relationship with Jesus. In order to grow in faith, we have to stay close to Jesus daily. Not to earn His love or become the best Christians around! No, Jesus wants our time and attention because He wants our faith to grow. And that's something that can't happen without Jesus!

Pray today that Jesus would help you become more like Him as you grow in your faith.

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

One of the best habits we can develop to help grow our faith is memorizing God's Word. The more we read the Bible and know what God says, the more we'll find ourselves growing in knowledge and relationship with God. One way to do this is by using different translations of the Bible. The Bible has been translated into specific words that helps the reader to understand the meaning better. So, start by looking up today's verse in another translation. (You can ask your parents or small group leader for help!)

Read a few different translations of Colossians 2:6-7 to help you get a different understanding of what the verse might mean. Then, write down the one that you connect with most and try to memorize that this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

CONNECT THE DOTS / WEEK 5

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Let me hear of your unfailing love each morning, for I am trusting you. Show me where to walk, for I give myself to you.
Psalms 143:8 NLT

Do you have a morning routine? Or do you simply rush through with just enough time to brush your teeth and head to school? For most of us, it's hard to find any extra time each morning to do anything besides our routine! Yet, in today's verse, we are reminded that spending time with God each day is a habit that will make our lives better. Not only will it allow God to show us how to live that day, but it will help us focus right away on what's important and true: God's love for us!

Take some time each morning this week to make a habit out of reading a devotional (like this one!). When you do, thank God for starting the day with you!

DAY 2

And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.
John 17:3 NLT

One of the best ways we can grow in our faith is to develop daily habits that help us get to know God more. When we do things every single day like read the Bible, pray, worship, or talk to others about our faith, we're making steps to not just grow in faith, but to grow in our relationship with God, too. It's something that can impact our lives not just today, but forever and all of eternity as well.

So, what's one habit you want to work on to connect with God this week? Share it with your small group leader or a friend and ask for their help in encouraging you to stick with it each day.

DAY 3

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.

Psalms 46:10 NLT

Are you always on the go? From school to sports to activities to family commitments, your schedule is probably packed! Yet, when we are so busy living our lives, we often forget to give time to the One who makes our lives worth living: God.

This week, slow down and spend some time being still. Slow down and make a habit of connecting with God, even for five minutes each day. As you do, know that God will make the most of your time together to grow your faith and help you grow every single day.

DAY 4

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:19 NLT

God loves us with an unconditional love. What does that mean? That there is nothing we can do to change the way God feels about us. This can be difficult to understand because no one else in life loves us this way. With other people, it can feel like we have to do something, or achieve something, or try to be like someone else in order to be loved. But God's love is different. And more than that, Paul reminds us in today's verse that it's always available. In fact, the more we experience God's love for us through Jesus, the more we'll feel complete.

So, make a daily habit of looking for God's unconditional love in your life. Create a list of ways you see God's love in your life and add to it each day this week.

DAY 5

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 4:16 NLT

Written by Emma, age 21 from West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

I don't know about you, but life can get busy! When that happens, sometimes I forget to spend time with God and I forget how much God loves me. Sometimes I forget who God is! But when I slow down and connect with God, I am reminded. I am reminded of who God says I am and who God is. I am reminded that God loves me so much! And we can do things every single day to help remind ourselves of this by connecting with God.

We can pray to God.

We can read God's Word.

We can listen to songs about God.

We can experience the things that God has created.

We can sit in the quiet.

We can talk to someone else about God.

There are so many different ways we can connect with God and be reminded of how much God loves us! Because it's so easy to forget, that's why it's important to do these things daily. And focusing on God's love makes every day better.

Today, find one way to connect with God. And as you do that, take a few moments to write down the things you learn about God in the process.