

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

everyday faith.

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DIRECT MESSAGE / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## DAY 1

**“I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.”**

**Mark 11:24 NLT**

Prayer isn’t so much about asking for things we want; it’s more about connecting to the God who promises to give us what we need! All that’s required of us in prayer is belief. When He was on Earth, Jesus spent a lot of time talking to His followers about belief. He wanted to make sure His people really believed God would hear their prayers. And the same is true for us today! When we pray, it’s important to do so with faith that God hears us, loves us, and wants to give us good things.

**This week, spend time in prayer. Specifically, ask God to help you believe that God hears your prayers and knows what you need.**

## DAY 2

**“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”**

**Luke 11:9 NLT**

In most areas of your life, the more you do something, the easier it will become. Think about it! How well would you be doing in school if you only went once in a while? How bad would your next visit to the dentist be if you only brushed your teeth once a month? There are some things we have to do over and over again to see the benefit from it. And one of those things is prayer. The more you make prayer a habit in your life by doing it over and over again, the easier you’ll find it to connect with God. And the more often you connect with God, the more you’ll begin to see the good of it in your life.

**Decide on a specific time in your day to pray and connect with God. Then, set an alarm or a reminder for yourself, so you remember to keep doing it!**

## DAY 3

**“The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.”**

**Psalm 34:17 NLT**

God hears you each time you pray. And that's great news! It means you don't have to use big words or close your eyes for God to hear you. God only wants us to show up and trust that God is there. Not just to hear our prayers, but also to help us with the troubles we're praying about.

**Is there something difficult you're going through right now? Trouble you are experiencing or something you're worried about? Tell God about that thing this week. Then, ask a trusted friend, small group leader, or a parent to pray with you, asking God to help you through it.**

## DAY 4

**“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”**

**Colossians 4:2 NLT**

Sometimes the best prayer we can pray is one of gratitude. Simply saying, “Thank You, God,” can speak volumes. Remember, prayer isn't just about asking God for things; it's also about thanking God for what we've already been given. It's hard to be grateful when we're only focusing on what we don't have, isn't it? But when we focus on what we do have, we start to see our hearts change, becoming more thankful with each prayer of gratitude we pray.

**Try practicing gratitude this week by looking for things in your life to be thankful for. Write them down as you think of them and keep that list as a reminder of all God has given you. Then, spend time thanking God for each one in prayer.**

# DAY 5

**“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT**

*Written by Sam, age 14, from Burke, Virginia, USA*

Have you ever had a really bad day? I know everybody’s answer to that is yes. We all have bad days from time to time! Maybe you failed a test or said something you later regretted. I recently had a bad day. I could NOT figure out the answer to a question on a math test. I almost cried in class! And not only that, but after the test, I went for a run and felt horrible while I ran. It was just a really bad day! It can be easy to think that we are in this by ourselves. Sometimes we may even think that the world is out to get us. But the amazing thing is, none of that is true. God watches out for us and listens to us. We might think, “How do we even reach God? God is the Creator of the universe. How could we possibly talk to God?” The answer is prayer. We can talk to God at anytime, anywhere, about anything. Here, God even tells

us to never stop praying. God is so good and amazing and always has time for us. God may not answer our prayers in the way we want, but God does answer our prayers. And God wants us to find the joy in our lives, even when we go through things that are really difficult.

**Take one minute to think about one way God has answered a prayer for you, or one way that God has shown up in your life. Spend time thanking God for answering that prayer or showing up in a way that was better than you could have thought of!**

# DAY 6

**“Rejoice in our confident hope.  
Be patient in trouble, and keep  
on praying.”**

**Romans 12:12 NLT**

Prayer can require a lot of patience. That’s because sometimes, it takes a long time to see results. Maybe we’re praying for a good grade, or to make the team, or for a friend who is hurting, or a parent who is sick. Some of those prayers are answered quickly, but others, not so much! The good news is that when we keep on praying and practice patience when it comes to prayer, we can be confident God is working, even while we’re waiting. All it takes is a little hope to keep praying and continue trusting God.

**Today, share with a friend a prayer you are waiting on God to answer. Ask them to encourage you to keep praying. You could even ask them to be praying for you, too!**



# DAY 7

**“Don’t worry about anything;  
instead, pray about everything.  
Tell God what you need, and  
thank him for all he has done.”**

**Philippians 4:6 NLT**

Sometimes prayer can feel complicated. Maybe we’re not sure what to say or how to say it. Is there a right way to pray? The good news is that when we pray with an open and honest heart, we can be sure God’s there to listen and respond. And one of the ways we can do that is through Scripture. We can use verses (like this one!) to help guide our prayers.

**To do that this week, work on memorizing this verse by writing it out as a prayer.**

