

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

**everyday faith.**

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DIRECT MESSAGE / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## DAY 1

**“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.”**

**1 John 5:14 NLT**

One of the best things we can do is pray for the things that God wants for our lives. Then, instead of only praying for the things that we want, we can focus our prayers on the things God wants for us. Things like having patience, being kind toward others, and focusing our mind on God’s Word. Those are the things God really and truly wants to help grow in our lives. And when we pray for those things, it shows that we care about the things God wants to give us and the way God wants us to live.

**Today, make a list of qualities you know God wants for your life. Then, ask God to help you develop more of those things in your life.**

## DAY 2

**“The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”**

**Psalms 145:18 NLT**

God loves when we pray. Why? Because God loves us and wants to be connected to us. Even the smallest prayers bring us closer to God. Try thinking of prayer like talking to your best friend. The more you talk, the more you get to know each other. The more you get to know each other, the closer you become. Prayer can be similar. When you pray, think about talking to God like you would talk to a friend—someone you want to stay close and connected to.

**To help, try memorizing this verse this week. Let it remind you of how much God wants to be close to you. When you connect with God in prayer, you can be sure God is near!**

# DAY 3

**“Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.”**

**1 Chronicles 16:11 NLT**

Have you ever played a game of hide and seek? The thrill of looking for and finding your friends is what makes the game fun, right? In the same way, you can find excitement in seeking God in prayer. But, of course, God isn't hiding from you! Seeking God doesn't mean actively looking like you would for something that's hidden or out of sight. No, seeking God means continually looking for God at work in your life. And prayer is just one way we can do that. When we pray, we are seeking God. We are asking God to open our eyes to see and experience God in new ways.

**Today, ask a trusted friend, small group leader, or parent how they seek God.**

# DAY 4

**“I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.”**

**Psalms 17:6 NLT**

Sometimes we think God is too busy or too big to hear us when we pray. With so many people and so many prayers, how could God possibly hear us over everyone else? Well, the good news is, God hears us every single time we pray. Why? Because God is so big! God's attention is not limited like ours can be at times, and that means God is always willing and ready to lean in and listen to you! God's greatness makes that possible.

**This week, make a point to get outside and take a walk. Notice the things around you that show you how great and big God is. As you do, remember that this same great God is close enough to hear your every prayer.**

# DAY 5

**“The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.”**

**Psalm 91:14-15 NLT**

*Written by Reagan, age 16, from The Colony, Texas, USA*

God promises to rescue, protect, and be with everyone who loves God. I remember when I first realized this truth. I was in middle school, and I was starting to become closer to God. It was around that same time that I started reading my Bible more, praying, and really beginning to trust God for the first time in my life. And I realized that everything starts with loving God! Loving God is a decision we get to make every single day. It's not only a feeling, but it's a decision. And we can choose to love and know God more by simply spending time with God, just like we would with a friend! Think about it. You probably wouldn't know your friends very well if you didn't talk to them. You probably

wouldn't feel close to them or feel like your friendship was getting stronger. It's the same way with God! Spending time with God will help us know God better.

And here's the good news: God promises us to love us, protect us, rescue us, and be with us, no matter what we will face.

**So today, start by getting to know God more by talking to God. Reach out with whatever it is you're going through and tell God how you feel. Then, remember the promises God has made to always love you, protect you, rescue you, and be with you.**

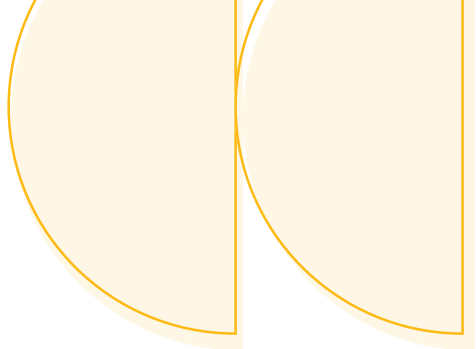
# DAY 6

**“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”**

**Jeremiah 29:12-13 NLT**

What does it mean to look for God “wholeheartedly?” Well, it means to be 100% determined in seeking God for your life. Remember, prayer isn’t about the words you say but the way you pray. God wants us to pray with our whole hearts. That means we commit to going to God with everything we have. To showing up and sticking with it until we begin to see a change in our hearts as we pray. When we do that, God promises to be there each and every time.

**Today, pray for courage in seeking God wholeheartedly, with everything you have.**



# 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**

Scripture helps us know and remember what is true about God. For example, when we’re not sure God is there or listening to our prayers, we can turn to verses like this to remind us of the truth: God is there, God loves us, and God is listening to our prayers.

**Write this verse down in a place you see it often. Maybe it’s a place you even spend time in prayer! When you see it, stop and say it aloud, working on saying more of it from memory each time until you can eventually recite the entire verse. Then, you’ll have it in your mind when you need to remember what’s true about God.**

