

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

everyday faith.

REAL TALK / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

## DAY 1

**And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."**

**Mark 12:30-31 NLT**

Love can be a word we use a lot. Sometimes we use it to share how we feel toward people, games, a team, pets, and even food! And while we can certainly love those things, the best thing we can do with our love is give it to God. To love God with every part of who we are. When we choose to love God that way, we'll see a change not just in our relationship with God but in our relationships with others, too. By loving God, we learn to love others well. We begin to treat people the way God called us to, and that's a reflection of our love for God!

**Ask God to help you show your love more, both for God and for others as a result!**

## DAY 2

**This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.**

**John 15:12 NLT**

It's important to know what's true about how we should treat others and expect others to treat us. And we can find that truth in this simple verse from John. Jesus is clear with His words here: We are to love others the way He loves us. In all areas of our life, we are to love with the love of Jesus. That means we think about, talk to, and treat others in a way that shows them the love of Jesus.

**Today, take time to read more about Jesus. Maybe even start with the book of John! As you do, write down ways you see Him showing love to others. Then, work on practicing one of those things in your own life this week.**

# DAY 3

**We love each other because he loved us first.**

**1 John 4:19 NLT**

Have you ever been treated poorly? Maybe someone made fun of you, or embarrassed you, or rejected you. The truth is, we all know what this feels like! And that makes the command in this verse all the more important. Because we know what it feels like to be hurt or wronged, we should go out of our way to treat others well. This is especially important in dating and relationships! We want to treat people well not because we have to but because it's what God has called us to do. It's what God has done for us.

**Who in your life could you work on treating better? Make an effort to show them love and kindness with your words and actions this week.**

# DAY 4

**Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NLT**

Paul, the writer of this passage, wanted to help Christians recognize their value. He was calling them to see themselves as people who belong to God. And the same is true of us! We were all made in the image of God. We all belong to God. And because of that, every part of who we are—specifically our bodies and what we do with them—is something we can honor God with every single day. When it comes to our bodies, we can take care of them, make good choices, and speak up when others hurt or mistreat us.

**This week, reach out to a trusted adult, parent, or small group leader in your life. Talk to them about what it means to honor God with every part of who you are.**

# DAY 5

**“For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

**Galatians 5:14 NLT**

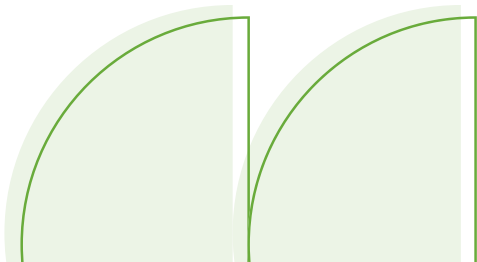
*Written by Chapman, age 21, from Marietta, Georgia, USA*

What are three things you’re really good at? In other words, what are three of your greatest strengths? A few weeks ago, my small group participated in an activity where we talked about what we thought our greatest strength was. As everyone was talking, I realized that most of the things people shared were things that they loved about themselves. This wasn’t a bad thing at all! Because part of loving God is loving ourselves. And part of loving yourself is knowing the strengths that God has given you!

The cool part is that you can use the strengths or gifts that God has given you to not only love God and yourself, but to love others, too. One of your gifts might be having patience when you’re frustrated with a friend or your sibling. Or you might be really good at bringing joy and fun into any situa-

tion you’re in. Or maybe one of your strengths is listening to others and showing them you care about them. No matter what it is, you can use the gifts and strengths God has given you to love others around you.

**Right now, think about three of your greatest strengths. Then, write down one way you will use one of your strengths to love someone around you this week.**

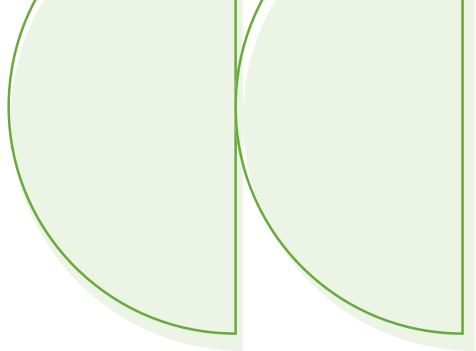


# DAY 6

**Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39 NIV**

The words of Jesus here can be summed up like this: Love God, love yourself, and love your neighbor. As followers of Jesus, these three things are the things we can remember as key to living the kind of life God wants us to live.

**Who is someone you know that does each of these things well: loves God, loves themselves, and loves others? Consider spending time with that person over the next week to get an up-close example of how they live this out in their own lives. Then, think about which one you want to work on more in your own life. How can you focus on loving God, loving yourself, or loving others this week?**



# DAY 7

**The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10 NLT**

There will be hard days in your life. There is no avoiding difficult times for any of us. On those hard days, having Scripture in your mind can help you get through. That’s why memorizing it can help you! So, work on memorizing this verse this week.

**First, write each word of this verse on a sticky note or note card. Then, mix them up and see if you can put all the cards in the correct order to help you memorize the verse.**

