

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

everyday faith.

REAL TALK / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17 NIV

We constantly have to make choices in life. Whether we're deciding what to wear for school, what kind of relationships we want to have, or even if we want a relationship at all, the choices can seem endless! But even though choices can feel overwhelming at times, the reality is they're also a gift. God gives us the ability to decide how we live our lives. And this verse reminds us of the best thing we can do with anything we choose: Do it all for Jesus. That means we should always try to remember and honor Him with our choices, no matter what!

Take some time today to pray that God will remind you to honor Jesus with the decisions you make for your life.

DAY 2

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 NLT

In all areas of our lives, it can be easy to compare what we have or don't have with what the world tells us is important. When we measure our lives against what we see our friends doing or the things we see on social media, we can feel like we're coming up short. If we don't have what they have or do what they do, we must be missing out, right? Wrong! Here, Paul, the writer of this verse, gives us a new way to think about our lives. Instead of trying to live like others, we can instead live for God.

We can trust that God's plan for our lives is better than anything we'd compare it to. Think about this for a minute today and find peace in that truth!

DAY 3

Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NLT

There are many types of love we can have in life. Love from our parents or guardians, love from our friends, love from our family, and even love from our pets—it's all something we experience in different ways. But the most extraordinary type of love we'll ever experience is the love we receive from God. God's love gives us the strength we need to face anything life throws at us. So, when this verse tells us to "do everything in love," it's reminding us to let everything we say or do reflect the great love that we've received from God.

This week, talk to a friend, small group leader, or trusted adult about ways you'd like to know more about or show others more of God's love.

DAY 4

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.
Ephesians 3:20 NLT

Have you ever wondered what the real point of life is? Is it to be successful? Is it to be rich? Is it to fall in love, get married, and have children? While all of those things are awesome, they're not the only things God has in mind for us. They're not even the whole point of life! This verse reminds us that God has so many good things planned for us to experience. Things even more amazing than what the world tells us is good. When we trust and believe that what God has planned for us is best, we'll find peace in discovering God's plan for our lives as we go.

This week, spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you that the ultimate goal in life is to follow God's plans.

DAY 5

**“You are the light of the world—
like a city on a hilltop that cannot
be hidden.”**

Matthew 5:14 NLT

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

Have you ever felt like you were no good on your own? Like you really needed someone? I know I have! And I think the truth is, most people feel like this at some point in time, either at school, with friends, or when you're dating or wanting to date someone.

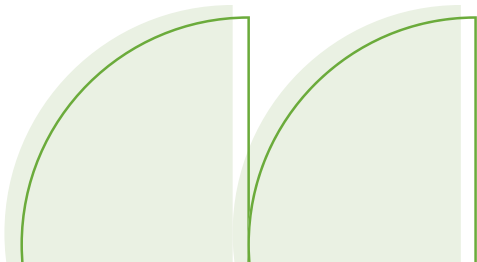
But we don't need anyone else in order to help us reflect God's image. We can do that on our own right now! We don't have to wait for anyone or anything else to come along. And that's great news!

Jesus says that we are “the light of the world.” And what good is it if that light is hidden? We should share our light with others. That's what God wants us to do: share God's love with others! And God's going to help us do it.

When you reflect the image of God

to the world, other people will notice. They will notice that there is something different about you. They'll see there is something different about how you respect others, and treat people kindly, and care about others. That's God at work in you. That's what it looks like to reflect the image of God to the world!

Today, remember that you don't need anyone else to reflect God's image to the world. You can shine your light to the world right now, right where you are. Think about one way you can do that and then do it!

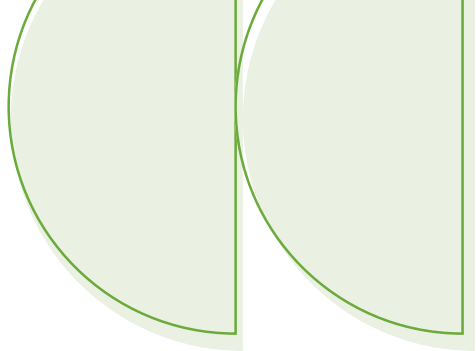


DAY 6

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NIV

One of the best ways we can be a good influence on others is to lead by example. What a leader does, people tend to follow. And whether you realize it or not, you are a leader! Maybe your influence reaches just one person, like a younger sibling or a best friend. Or maybe your influence reaches your small group, team, or social media followers. No matter who you're leading, you have the opportunity to influence them toward good things simply by living out those good things in your own life. That's how you set an example and let your light shine so that others can see more of who God is!

Think about the example you want to set for others. Then, try to take one step toward being that good influence 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

Memorizing Scripture can help you understand God's Word better. The more you know it, the easier it will be to apply to your life. So, make memorizing this verse a goal this week!

Grab a dry erase marker and write it on your mirror, or a whiteboard, or piece of paper in your room. Say the verse to yourself as you see it each day, erasing one word each time to try and memorize more of it as you go.

