

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

everyday faith.

WHO IS JESUS? / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.

Isaiah 1:17 NLT

When there is hardship, struggle, or even just a bad day, it can be easy to wonder what God is doing in the middle of it. Well, look back at the things listed here: Do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend orphans. Fight for widows. Making the wrong things in the world right? That's God's plan! And part of making that happen is on us. God wants to use us to show the world who God is. To bring hope, healing, and help to those who are in need.

So, this Easter season, make an effort to do just that. Think of a specific need you see in your community or in the world right now. Then, consider how you can be part of helping to right that wrong and showing others God's love in the process.

DAY 2

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9 NIV

Have you ever been caught in the middle of an argument? Maybe it was between two friends, or your parents, or your teammates. If you have, you know just how difficult it can be to try and bring peace to the situation. Being a peacemaker is no easy task! But here, Jesus reminds us that it's our calling to bring peace to the world. With Jesus' death and resurrection, real peace was made possible. And now, as children of God, it's our job to be people who represent that peace in this world. Whether that means trying to resolve a conflict, asking for forgiveness, or speaking up for those being hurt, we can be peacemakers.

Talk with your small group this week about what it means for you to be peacemakers in this world.

DAY 3

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

Proverbs 3:27 NLT

Jesus modeled the wisdom of this proverb with His life and His death. He came to the world to bring good to us. And though He could've chosen not to take on the weight of our sins and mistakes on the cross, Jesus chose to help us. It was in His power to save us. And now, it's our job to do the same for others. So while we can't ultimately save and help people the way Jesus did for us on the cross, we can do what's in our power to bring good to others around us and to help those in need.

Brainstorm some ways you can help someone you know right now. Then, pray that God would give you the opportunity to bring good to the world this week.

DAY 4

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:4 NLT

It can be really easy to become focused only on our own needs and things going on in our own lives. But here, Paul, the author of this letter to the Philippians, reminds us of an important calling: to take an interest in others. He's encouraging us to make time to care about other people. Not only will it help us be better friends with others, but it will also show them a reflection of who Jesus really is. When we put others ahead of ourselves, we're showing the world a glimpse of the way Jesus lived, and that's pretty cool!

So, who is one person in your life you can look out for? Today, reach out to that person, encourage them, and show them that you care.

DAY 5

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”

Galatians 6:9 NLT

Written by Daniel, age 20, from Hicksville, New York, USA

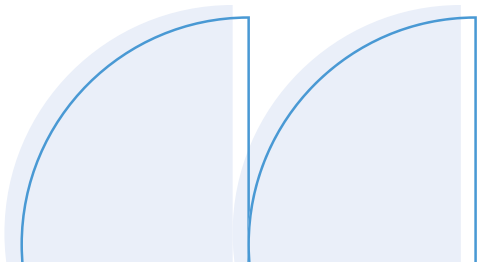
Have you ever felt tired of doing the right thing? Or that you would miss out on something by choosing to do what’s right? I know I have before. Because doing the right thing is not always easy. I remember one time I really wanted to cheat on a test because everyone else in the class was cheating, too. We’ve all been there before, right? Maybe you didn’t want to do your chores, or you didn’t want to help your younger sibling, or you really wanted to watch that television show you weren’t supposed to. Choosing to do what’s right in those moments isn’t always easy.

But like this verse says, let’s not grow tired of doing what’s good! Let’s not get tired of doing what’s good, even when we might not always want to.

Because one day, we will be reward-

ed for doing what is good. The wise choices we make, the ways we help others, the way we show others who Jesus is through our actions. And until then, when you get tired of doing what’s good, look back to Jesus’s example for encouragement to keep going. Jesus always loved others, always showed kindness, and even prayed for those who treated Him unfairly.

Today, think of one way you can do what is good. It might be encouraging a friend, or being kind to your sibling, or serving someone else. Whatever it is, find a way to do that thing. As you do, remember to keep choosing to do what is good!



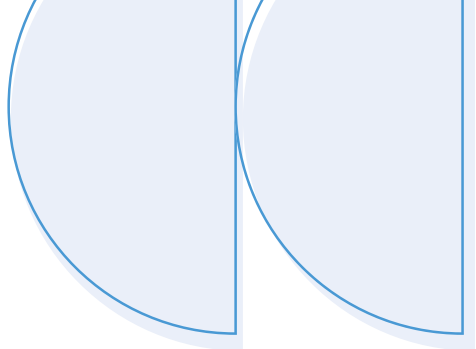
DAY 6

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

Psalm 33:5 NIV

God loves when things are made right. When bad becomes good, when wrong becomes right, when hurt becomes healing—that's something God loves in this world! In fact, God loves it so much, God sent Jesus to the world to help right all our wrongs. To provide us with a love that will always fight for what's good and right in this world.

Have you seen or experienced something that feels wrong? Something that you wish God would make right? Today, pray this verse as you think about that specific thing, asking God to remind you of the truth here: That God's love is unfailing, and it will make the wrongs in this world right one day.



DAY 7

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 NLT

One of the best ways to memorize Scripture is to make it personal. After all, the Bible is God's Word given directly to us. In other words, it's for us, and that makes it personal!

This week, make this verse personal for you! First, make a list of some difficult moments you've experienced in your life. Then, next to each thing on that list, write this verse. Put your name in every time the word "you" appears in the verse. Let it remind you that God can and will take care of every one of your sorrows!

