

DAY 6

“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT

Where in your life do you feel the least amount of freedom? Maybe at home under the rules of your parents? Or on the team with your coach yelling from the sidelines? Or at school with the pressure of your teachers? There can be so many parts of life where it feels like you don't have the freedom you want. But remember that no matter your circumstances, when you're walking with God, there is always freedom. In fact, freedom is the whole point! And the freedom God provides is more powerful and lasting than any freedom we might find on this Earth.

Try to memorize this verse this week. The next time you struggle to feel freedom in your life, think about this verse to remind you of the freedom you have in your faith because of God!

DAY 7

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13 NLT

Sometimes it's easy to forget what faith in God is really about. We tend to think it's about rules or doing everything right, but in reality, the whole point is the freedom we have because of God's love for us! Memorizing verses like this one can help us remember that.

This week, start working to memorize this verse. Read it every morning and every night before you go to bed. After a week, try saying it out loud morning and night before looking at the verse.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE WHOLE POINT / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.” Ephesians 2:8 NLT

Did you ever get a toy as a kid that you were so excited to play with? But as soon as you opened it, you were disappointed because it didn't come with the batteries needed to make it work? So frustrating! The good news is that God's gifts aren't like that. The gifts God gives us can be fully experienced right away. The calm of water when we're stressed, the warmth of sunshine to brighten our mood, the comfort of a hug when we're sad or scared—God's gifts are all around us and available to us whenever we need them. They're gifts that can strengthen our faith, too!

Today, step outside and notice the sights and sounds around you. Reflect on where you see or hear the gifts of God around you.

DAY 2

“Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.” Colossians 3:10 NLT

It's easy to complain about the things that aren't going right in our lives. Big or small, sometimes complaints creep their way into our conversations or thoughts without us even realizing it. As Paul says here, God calls us to put on our “new nature.” That means that with God's help, we get to choose a new way. We get to decide to think positively, speak kindly, and live in a way that respects God, others, and ourselves. In doing that, we get to grow in faith in new ways.

Set a goal for yourself today to commit to choosing a new way for yourself. When you find yourself dealing with negativity, challenge yourself to stop and make the decision to use kind words instead, right then and there.

DAY 3

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” *Philippians 1:6 NLT*

Whether you believe it or not, God is doing a good work in you! But there may be days when you need to remember that you are a good-work-in-progress. None of us is perfect! We’re going to make mistakes and get it wrong along the way. In those moments, remember that when you invite God into your life, God is always working to make things good. That’s part of the point of faith—letting God work in your life!

Which part of your life feels like a work still in progress? Maybe the way you treat your siblings, or the way you talk about others when they aren’t around, or behaviors you know aren’t wise. Ask God to continue the good work in that specific area of your life.

DAY 4

“Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.” *Ephesians 3:12 NLT*

We all face challenges in our lives. And when we do, we don’t always know how to handle them. The good news is that God does! Part of growing in faith is knowing and believing in God’s promises. And here, God promises to give us the courage we need to tackle whatever challenge is in front of us. All we have to do is boldly and confidently invite God into the situation.

Take time to ask God to give you the confidence to face the challenges in front of you this week. Tell God all your fears and doubts about those things and ask God to replace that with courage and faith.

DAY 5

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” *John 8:31-32 NLT*

Written by Gracyn, age 15, from Orange City, Florida, USA

Cage. What do you think of when you hear that word? When I think about it, I think of something being stuck in a small space. Something being limited. Sometimes it might be easy to think of faith like a cage, too. We think that, sometimes, faith is something that holds us back. We might think that we have to do, or say, or be a certain thing in order to do this whole faith thing the right way!

But here’s the thing: faith does not put us in a cage. It actually sets us free! Because it’s through faith, through trusting in Jesus and believing that He died on the cross for us, that we can be free from all our sin, shame, and guilt. We can experience the freedom and the life that God has for us! When we begin to understand this

and choose to believe this, we can live knowing we have freedom to know God loves us and will never leave us, no matter what.

So today, spend a few minutes thanking God for loving you no matter what and asking God to help you see that faith is something that can set you free.