

DAY 6

For every house has a builder, but the one who built everything is God.

Hebrews 3:4 NLT

Everybody likes to be recognized for the good things they've done. It feels good to win an award, or be applauded in front of others, or even to just receive a compliment. In those moments, it's important to remember that all we have is from God. That means the brains that helped us win the awards, the abilities that helped us receive the praise, or the qualities that others complimented are all ours because God gave them to us. Out of God's great love for us, we've been given every good gift in this life!

What is one thing you're really good at? Something you receive praise or compliments for? Thank God for giving you that quality or skill, and pray that you'll remember it's all from God.

DAY 7

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.

Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

One of the ways we can know and love God more is by getting to know Jesus. The more we learn about Jesus' love, character, and heart, the more we'll understand the love, character, and heart of God, too! Where do we go to learn more about that? God's Word! Scripture gives us a real-life, personal look at who Jesus is and knowing that will show us more about who God is!

So today, memorize this verse to learn more about Jesus and God! Write each word on a sticky note or index card and place them on a table. Read the verse completely in order, then mix up the cards. Try to put the cards back in the correct order as you work to memorize the verse.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

FIRST PLACE / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Ah, sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17 NIV

Life constantly reminds us of where we might come up short. The failed math quiz, the missed free throw, and even that challenging level of a video game—all of it tells us that there are some things we just can't always do. But thankfully, we have access to a God who can do anything! All of creation—from the stars in the sky to the smallest fish in the sea—reminds us that God is all-powerful. The more we get to know the all-powerful God, the more confident we'll be to trust God with every part of our lives.

As you pray today, talk to God about a struggle or limitation you're dealing with in life. Remember that God's power is with you to help you through anything you're facing.

DAY 2

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7 NLT

We all struggle with fear from time to time, but the good news for us is that God gives us a way out. God wants us to live courageously and has given us everything we need to do just that. All we have to do is call on God for the power, love, and strength we need to face any of our fears. When we keep God in first place in our hearts no matter what we're facing, we can go forward with confidence that we don't have to be afraid of anything that's ahead. Because of Jesus, we can face anything!

What's one thing causing you to fear right now? Share it with a friend and ask them to help you work toward facing it with God's help.

DAY 3

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed.

1 Peter 2:24 NLT

Have you ever been blamed for someone else's mistake? When we have to take on the punishment of someone else's choice, it's just not fair! Well, in our faith, Jesus did just that for us. Jesus stepped in for all of us. He took the punishment for all of our mistakes with His death on the cross. And the best part? In doing so, He saved us all for eternity! That's how much He loves us!

This week, share with a friend or small group leader what it means to you to know that Jesus saved us all. Talk to them about how that reflects God's love for us all!

DAY 4

This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly all believers.

1 Timothy 4:10 NLT

Life is not always easy. Sometimes, the pressures of today can distract us from the possibilities of tomorrow. But when we place our hope in Jesus, we can be encouraged as we face both today and tomorrow, knowing that He has already overcome every possible challenge we might face. The more we look to and lean on Jesus, the more we'll be reminded of all He has done to help us, love us, and walk with us through anything we're facing.

This week, write down a few challenges you're facing. Share them with a friend or small group leader and pray together for Jesus' love to cover you as you walk through each one.

DAY 5

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 NLT

Written by Gracyn, age 16, from Orange City, Florida, USA

Have you ever thought about what getting to know someone really means? Whether it's about a friend, family member, or someone important to us, we wonder how we can really get to know that person more. For me, this question has come up in my relationship with God. I've wondered how I can REALLY get to know God.

The good news is the way we can get to know God is through Jesus! Because Jesus died on the cross, we are able to have a relationship with God. That's why getting to know Jesus is so important. So how do we do this? By spending time with Jesus! One way to spend time with Jesus is by reading more about His life on Earth in the Bible.

This week, decide when you'll learn more about Jesus by reading the Bible. A great place to start is in the Gospels, which were recorded by some of Jesus's closest followers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John! Pick one of those to start reading, and set a reminder or alarm on your phone or somewhere you'll see it! Then, actually spend time with Jesus by reading more about Him. By learning more about Jesus, you'll get to know God more too!