

# DAY 6

**“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” Romans 12:10 NIV**

Being able to love those around you the way God calls you to won't just happen by itself. It's going to require some effort on your part and of course, the help of God working in you. But when you put those two things together, you'll find that loving others with the love of Jesus can happen more easily than you think!

**So, choose to be a friend to someone who sits near you today—in the cafeteria, on the bus, at home, or on the sidelines at your game. Look for one small way to show them you love and care about them!**

# DAY 7

**“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” Luke 6:31 NLT**

Friendships can be difficult to navigate sometimes. When we're struggling in friendships, we can remember God's wisdom in Scripture to help us. To start, memorize this passage this week. And do it with a friend! Text the verse to a close friend (or two!) and ask them to quiz you on it daily this week. See how quickly you can memorize it by sending the entire thing to your friends in a text or by writing it down without looking it up.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

REAL FRIENDS / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

# DAY 1

**“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” Luke 6:31 NLT**

It can be easy to be kind to the people who care for you, love you, and probably do nice things for you. But other people? The ones who aren't always so nice? Well, sometimes being kind or showing love to them is pretty difficult. Being a friend to those who aren't always a friend to us just isn't easy! Jesus calls us to show love to all people, regardless of how they may treat us. Why? Because this kind of love—this kind of friendship—is different. And when you love the people around you with His kind of love, they'll notice.

**Today, ask God to help you love the people in your circle the way that Jesus called you to love them—no matter what!**

# DAY 2

**“There are ‘friends’ who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 NLT**

When life is good, it seems easy to tell who your real friends are. You laugh together, you have fun together, and you spend all your time together. But are those same friends with you when things get hard? Remember that real friends are the kind who will stick by you in good times and in bad. They can be a source of encouragement and support to help you when you're down. This week, think about the kinds of friends you have in your circle. Are they only there for the good times? Or are they with you through all the ups and downs?

**Text or reach out to one of your friends who has stuck with you and thank them for being that kind of friend in your life.**

## DAY 3

**“Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.”**

**Proverbs 13:20 NLT**

It's been said that if you want to get a glimpse of who you'll be in the future, you should simply look at the people around you right now. What kinds of choices are they making? What's important to them? What are their hopes for the future? The reality is that the people you keep close to you now have the ability to influence and shape the person you become in the future! In other words, your friends matter!

**So, take time to reflect on this verse. Maybe even try to memorize it! Use it to help you think about the friends you have in your life. How are they helping you become the person you want to be, both now and in the future?**

## DAY 4

**“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” Proverbs 17:17 NIV**

Some friends in your life are so close, they almost become like family. These are the friends who know the most about you. They're the people who will be there to offer support during hard times in your life and celebrate alongside you in good times, too. They are the friends who will love you at all times. Isn't that the kind of friend we all want to have? The kind of friend we all want to be?

**Take a few minutes to thank God for the friends who love you at all times. Then, ask God to help you be that same kind of friend to others.**

## DAY 5

**“Do everything in love.”**  
**1 Corinthians 16:14 NIV**

*Written by Danielle, age 13, from Burke, Virginia, USA*

Have you ever gotten into an argument or disagreement with a friend? We've probably all had to deal with something like that before, and it isn't easy. The disagreement may be something small, like which game to play, where to hang out, what you choose to do together, or it might be something bigger. Maybe you or your friend did something unkind to the other and are having trouble getting over it, or maybe it just doesn't feel like you're really there for each other anymore. No matter the situation, we all usually have a similar reaction: we want to prove ourselves right. But God doesn't call us to win the argument. God calls us to treat each other with love. This means sacrificing something for our friends. It might mean letting them pick the movie you'll watch or where you'll hang out! Not because their opinion is any more valuable than our own, but because we care for them. God wants us to show that feeling of love to our friends by choosing

to be kind when we disagree or argue, even when we'd rather be "right."

**Today, memorize this verse. Write it down in a note on your phone or somewhere you'll see it often today. The next time you find yourself in an argument with a friend, remember this verse, and choose to put their feelings first as a way to show them love.**