

DAY 6

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 NLT

Have you ever been the new kid? Maybe at school, or church, or on your team? If you have, you know that while it can be scary, there is also something really cool about being new. You get the chance to start fresh with the people you meet. They get to know you without knowing your past mistakes or mess-ups. What's awesome is that with God, the same is possible. When we follow God, all of our past mistakes are forgiven and forgotten. It's like we get to be made brand new, and that's pretty cool!

Take a walk outside this week, noticing every new thing you see along the way. Let that remind you of how God can make you new when you trust, believe, and follow.

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

Memorizing Scripture doesn't just help us; it helps other people, too! When we have passages or verses in mind, we can share them with others who need them. We can encourage people with God's Word!

So, start to memorize this verse by sharing it with someone this week. Text it, say it, or write it down for a new person in your life each day. That way, you're not only working on memorizing it for yourself, but you're encouraging someone else with God's Word, too!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

WHO IS JESUS? / WEEK 5

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 John 4:4 NLT

Life can sometimes feel like one big test. There are so many different challenges and choices we face along the way. And often, we're tempted to think if we don't get it all right, we've messed the whole thing up! Right now, take a deep breath and know you've already passed the test. Because of God, you already have victory; you've already won! All you have to do to get it "right" is choose to follow and trust God with your life.

Are there areas of your life where you struggle to get it right? Places where you want to make the best choices? Parts of your life where you feel like you're trying and failing? Pray that you would be reminded that you already have the victory when you follow God!

DAY 2

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 NLT

Most of us are afraid of something in life. Maybe for you, it's speaking in front of your whole class, or spiders, or heights, or sitting alone at lunch. Whatever it is that scares us, this verse reminds us that we aren't facing it alone. In everything, God goes with us. And because of that, we can be strong and courageous in whatever we face!

Write down some of the things that scare or discourage you in life. Big or small, put them on paper! Then, on top of that list, write this verse. Let it serve to remind you that God is bigger than what you're afraid of. You can face those fears because God goes with you and gives you the strength you need to take them on.

DAY 3

I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

Psalm 16:8 NLT

Have you ever felt lonely? Maybe you were the new kid at school, or you didn't have a friend in any of your classes, or you felt misunderstood by your family, or you struggled to connect with your small group. That kind of stuff can leave us all feeling alone! But in those moments, the words of the Psalmist in this verse are so powerful. Because God is with us, we may feel lonely, but we are never alone.

Write this verse down on an index card, a bracelet, a piece of paper, or something else you can carry with you. You can even make it a lock screen on your phone! When you feel lonely, pull it out and look at it to remind you of this truth: With God, you are never alone!

DAY 4

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1 NIV

Have you ever seen someone face their fears? If you have, then you know just how powerful it is! It's an incredible thing to see when a person finds the courage they need to do something that scares them. As Christians, we have the opportunity to do this every single day. How? With God! When we trust and believe in God, we may still be afraid, but we can face our fears with confidence that it won't take us down.

Today, reach out to a close friend, small group leader, or member of your small group! Ask them to remind you that God is with you even when you're afraid. Because of God, you can have the confidence to face whatever it is you're afraid of.

DAY 5

“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20 NLT

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

When I was in 10th grade, a student at my school passed away suddenly. When this happened, a club I was a part of had planned a rally at the flagpole of our school in her memory. There were about 75 students standing there with us. They were from all different backgrounds and friend groups. But together we spent time singing worship songs and praying for comfort together. I also had the opportunity to share about Jesus with them and tell them that even in this difficult time, Jesus was with us. It was at this time that 12 students who had not known Jesus chose to believe in Jesus for the very first time.

After we left the gathering for our friend who had passed away, I realized what God had done: God used me to help teach others about who Jesus is

and that Jesus is always with us. In a moment that was full of sadness, and confusion, and fear, God used me. And God's presence was so real to me in that moment.

Today, think about one way you can encourage someone else that Jesus is with them. It might be someone from school, or in your neighborhood, or even someone you follow on social media. Then, ask God for the courage to share about Jesus with them this week.