

# DAY 6

**There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

**John 15:13 NLT**

Sometimes it's hard to really understand what Jesus did for us and the sacrifice He made. Because when you think about it, it's a pretty crazy story! Jesus died on a cross for us—His friends. What would you do to show your friends how much you cared about them? The truth is, no matter how much we care about our friends, that level of selflessness just doesn't come naturally to us. It's something that requires the help of Jesus. Thankfully, with His help, we can "lay down" things like pride, judgment, and selfishness and treat others with humility, kindness, and a servant's attitude. With Jesus, we can all be better friends.

**Today, think of one simple, practical way you can be a selfless friend. Then, ask Jesus to help you be that kind of friend to everyone you run into today.**

# DAY 7

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16 NIV**

John 3:16 is one of the most recognized verses in the Bible, but that doesn't mean it's the most understood. This verse is important because it sums up the hard-to-fathom thing that God did for us—God gave us Jesus and Jesus gave up his life for us. Memorize this verse. As you do, really think about what each section means. What does it mean that God loved the world? What does it mean that God gave his son? To help you memorize this verse, say it out loud several times. Then make it a part of your morning routine.

**You might want to record yourself saying it then, set that voice memo as the audio for your morning alarm. Or maybe you write different pieces of it in all the places you spend time before you leave for school - on your bathroom mirror, on your closet door, on the wall near your door, or where you keep your backpack, etc. Memorizing scripture is a way to recall who God is, even when we are far from a physical bible.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

BEFORE I GO / WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOL

## DAY 1

**I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.**

**Psalms 77:11 ESV**

When something is really important, when we really want to remember it and not forget it we go to great lengths to set reminders. We'll write a quick note to remind us of that important detail about the homework. We'll set an alarm on our phones to remind us to do something at a specific time. We'll save a piece of content we want to come back to later. In the same way, we use reminders in everyday life, we can use reminders to help us grow in our relationship with God. Recalling something God did helps us to remember that God loves us and is for us.

**Today, take 30 seconds to write down something God did for you in the past that can help you remember God's faithfulness in the future.**

## DAY 2

**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**

On the day of Jesus' death, He went through excruciating pain. He was humiliated, abused, insulted, and put through agony. Why? To take care of our sins once and for all and to prove to us that He's willing to endure anything for us. Jesus knew the mistakes we'd make, and He chose to take on the weight of them on our behalf. Jesus also knew the tough seasons we'd face in life, and He chose to prove to us that He's not afraid to face those situations with us. If you're going through a difficult season right now, remember what Jesus has already proven to you.

**Today, try to find comfort in the truth of what He did for you and the fact that you don't have to go through anything alone.**

## DAY 3

**But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 15:57 NLT**

Sin and death are pretty heavy words, right? They can seem to us like dramatic choices for Paul to use here. But thankfully, because of Jesus, we don't have to be scared or intimidated when we read words like "sin" and "death." The truth is, left on our own, sin and death are things we can't overcome in this life. But through the sacrifice Jesus made for us, we've been saved from death and can overcome the moments we feel weighed down by sin. And that's a reason to be thankful! Is the weight of sin or an unwise decision you've made bogging you down today?

**Today, ask God to free you up of that weight and give you the strength to overcome sin in that area going forward.**

## DAY 4

**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Romans 6:23 NLT**

Have you ever received something for free? Isn't it such a great feeling? Everyone loves free stuff! And when you get something for free (especially for no reason), it can make you feel super grateful, lucky, or even undeserving. In the same way, God gives each of us a free gift, one we're all completely undeserving of: the gift of grace, which leads to eternal life. When you choose to put your faith in Jesus, you receive His gift of grace and eternal life. And THAT is the greatest gift of all time! But, when we get something for free from someone, we sometimes feel like we now "owe" that person. Are you sometimes tempted to try to earn God's free gift?

**Today, remind yourself that God's gift is just that: a gift. Today, instead of trying to earn God's grace, just thank God for it.**

## DAY 5

**But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.**

**Romans 5:8 NLT**

*Written by Noah, Age 18,  
from Saginaw, MI, USA*

When was the last time that you did something you were not supposed to? Maybe you cheated on a test or lied to your parents about where you were. I know that I have done both of those things. When we make mistakes like that, it is easy to wonder how someone could love us for all of the times that we wronged them. Sometimes we may even wonder how God could love us through it all.

Paul, the writer of Romans, tells us that God sent Jesus to die for our sins WHILE we were sinning. Not after we asked for forgiveness, apologized, or did something nice to make up for it. Isn't it hard to forgive someone who did something wrong to you? And yet, God forgives us every day! This is what we celebrate every Easter,

because of the death and resurrection of Jesus! The resurrection is when Jesus fully died, and then fully came back to life. Jesus knew that we would continue to sin against God, but God still sent Jesus for us and still offers his forgiveness to us today!

**As you move on with your day, reflect on what Jesus did for you on the cross. Reflect on this love that God has given us, and I challenge you to share it with a friend!**