

DAY 6

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1 NIV

Take a few moments and think back to the last time you experienced peace... It may be hard to find in a crazy world. Maybe it was when you were playing games with your friends, or when you laid down to sleep and your brain finally quieted down. Maybe it was when you were reading a book and your worries melted away. While peace in this world may seem hard to come by, Jesus made a way for us to have peace with God. The beautiful thing about peace with God is that nothing can take it away from you. No person, circumstance, or hardship can pull you away from Him.

Today, find a quiet place. Ask God to help you experience peace, and then sit in silence for one minute.

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

Put your hand on your chest and feel your heartbeat. While we are pretty used to it being there, feeling the rhythm of something that keeps us alive and moving can be meaningful. If it wasn't for your heartbeat, you wouldn't be you! As you read this verse about Jesus, remember that Jesus is everything God wants us to know about Him! He helps us know what God is like and through Jesus, we can draw closer to Him. This verse is a beautiful reminder of how far God is willing to go to be in a relationship with us.

Spend some time reading John 3:16. After reading it a few times, repeat it out loud from memory.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

BEFORE I GO / WEEK 4

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household.

Ephesians 2:18-19 NIV

Have you ever direct messaged an influencer? It's weird to think that someone famous might pick up their phone and read the message you typed out. While most of us can DM a celebrity, all of us have access to something better: Jesus. This is good news! It's Because of Jesus that we can be close to God like never before. Paul writes that we are not strangers to God but instead, members of His household. Think about how much you see the people that you live with or see every day. Paul is telling us that we can have that same level of closeness to God!

Today, sit outside for a few minutes and close your eyes. As you feel the weather, take a few deep breaths and remind yourself that God is near.

DAY 2

There is one God and one mediator who can reconcile God and humanity- the man Jesus Christ
1 Timothy 2:5 NIV

The most beautiful stories in the world are stories of people standing up for others. Maybe you've learned about Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Mother Teresa, or another historical figure you admire. It takes a lot of bravery to stand up for people when no one else will. When Jesus went to the cross, He was fighting for all of us, and when Jesus fights, it looks like love. Our actions separated us from God, but because of His sacrifice, we can now draw near.

Today, take a second and write down your answer to this question: If you could help solve any problem in the world, what would it be and why? After you answer, spend some time praying for the situation you thought of.

DAY 3

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:4 NIV

Have you ever been surprised to see how a fruit or vegetable grows? Asparagus grows out of the ground like tiny trees! Kiwis grow on a vine! Plants have specific conditions that help them become what they are supposed to be. You and I aren't much different. Jesus compares us to a vine. He says that if we pull close to Him, we can bear fruit. The cool thing about the fruit that we bear, is that it isn't just for us. When we are close to God the fruit we bear is love and it changes the world!

Today, think of one way you can show the love of God to people in your life. It could be caring for a friend or helping someone out.

DAY 4

Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children.

Ephesians 5:1 NIV

One of the best ways to learn something new is by watching someone who is already good at whatever it is! Whether it is a sport, video game, or math problem, seeking out people who do it well can help us learn things much faster than we would on our own. Paul encourages us to do this same thing with God. Look to Jesus, see what God is like, and do our best to become that from the inside out. While we won't do it perfectly, God still sees us as His children, and as His children, we become more like Him every day.

Today, talk to a friend and share with them one thing about Jesus that you want to imitate.

DAY 5

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

Isaiah 53:5 NLT

*Written by Samantha, age 15,
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Back in Elementary school, my teacher would always give out "Homework Free" coupons as a reward. With one of these, we could be exempt from any homework assignment of our choice. It was the best feeling when you spent that coupon and everyone else had to do the homework except for you. Now, imagine if someone just gave you theirs. No questions asked, and you did nothing to deserve it. This feeling gives us a small glimpse into what it feels like to accept what Jesus did for us.

Everyone has had a time where they messed up, made a selfish decision, hurt another person, or fell short— this is called sin. Sin is what separates humans from God. But guess what?

We don't have to live with the weight of that sin anymore. We can live in freedom. We can live without shame. And most of all, we get to have a relationship with God. This is because of one thing. Jesus. Even though we deserved to die separated from God, Jesus sacrificing his perfect life for our flawed lives gives us the opportunity to be with God. Jesus paid the high cost and died for us where He went through extraordinary amounts of physical, emotional, and spiritual pain for us. He was selfless and endured it all for us so that we could be close to God. There is no greater love than what Jesus did on the cross. Jesus wants us to live a whole and complete life.

So today, take a moment to reflect on all that Jesus has done for you and what that means for your life.