DAY 6

God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8 NIV

Show me the receipts! Prove it! Those are words most of us have shouted at friends at some point, usually when we hear a crazy story that seems hard to believe. So we ask for some sort of proof. As we begin to follow Jesus and hear how loving and forgiving he is, it may feel unbelievable. Could God be so loving that he shows grace no matter what? Luckily, he showed receipts. Paul tells us that God proved his love for us through the actions of Jesus. We were still sinners, but Jesus died for us anyway in the single greatest act of love the world has ever seen.

Today, write one person in your life a note and remind them how much you love them.



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

Sometimes when we read the Bible it might feel a little out of date. We don't always speak the same way that the Bible is written and if it was written today, it might seem a bit different! While we can't rewrite the Bible to better understand it, we can try to grasp the idea of a verse by putting it in our own words.

Take John 3:16 and write the original verse on a sticky note in the top half. Draw a line down the middle and below it rewrite the verse how you would have written it today. Make sure you express all the ideas in the verse! After you are done, put it somewhere you will see it and read it every morning.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



BEFORE I GO / WEEK 5

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

2 Timothy 1:9 NIV

Have you ever had friends sing you "Happy Birthday"? It's one of the more uncomfortable things you can experience, partly because there is nothing you can do other than receive it. If you sang along, it would be weird, because they are singing to YOU. There is something about simply receiving something without doing anything for it that makes us uncomfortable. Consider the grace that God gives us. There is nothing we can do to earn it. We simply have to receive it. Not only can we not earn it, but we certainly do not deserve it, yet, He gives it again and again.

Today, sit down and pray with your hands open, facing out in front of you. View this as a physical posture of receiving God's grace.

DAY 2

This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

1 Corinthians 1:25 NIV

The Bible can be confusing sometimes. Especially when we read statements that seem like opposites. God's foolish plan is actually wise? His weakness is strong? Paul is trying to help us understand that God operates differently than we ever would.

Consider this: God not only forgives us, but He also loves us. From the world's point of view, that is unfair and even unwise, but God sees differently than we do. His plan doesn't always make sense from where we are standing. Luckily, it doesn't have to. All we have to do is learn to trust. Trust that His grace and love will stand, even when it feels like it shouldn't.

Take a few moments and read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Highlight each time you see Paul write something that seems like opposites.

DAY 3

The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.

Psalm 145:9 NIV

Have you ever seen a video of someone being helped in a time of need? Sometimes they can move us to tears! Compassion and goodness are powerful things because we know we need them! Seeing them often makes us want to do the same. This Psalm is all about recognizing how good and compassionate God is. If we are moved by a short video on TikTok, how much more can the grace of God encourage us to act? If His grace is unending and we have undeservingly received it, then we can be free to share that grace with others.

This week, find one practical way to show compassion to someone in your life.

DAY 4

And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20b NIV

Did you know Jesus told a story about us? He describes a son with a wealthy father. This son was selfish and instead of waiting for his inheritance, he demanded it early. He then left his family and wasted all he had. Much later, he returns and while the father had every right to be angry, something beautiful happens. The father sees him, and while he is far away, the father is filled with love and compassion and runs out to greet him. Our heavenly father treats us this same way. He sees us, even when we are far from Him, and instead of waiting for us to come, He showers us with love and compassion right where we are.

Today, share with a friend what you are most grateful for and why.

DAY 5

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:38 NLT

Written by Samantha, age 15, from Blaine Minnesota, USA

We've all had a time in our life when we feel discouraged or disconnected from someone. Maybe it's from friends, family, or even from God. A Lot of the time we feel disconnected from God because we do something that goes against what God wants for us— also known as sin. Feeling far from God makes us feel unwanted and unworthy to experience God's love. Maybe you're like me and have even felt like because you can't hear or see God, God doesn't love you anymore.

Sin separates us from God, and it leaves us broken, but here's the thing,

God didn't want us to live separated. God wanted us to have a relationship with him and be freed from this fear and shame. This is why Jesus gave his life for us When Jesus died, he opened the door for us to have a relationship with God.

What we often forget is that because of Jesus, our sins have been forgiven. We can be restored and healed. God loves us so much that he created the way for us to know and have a relationship with God. We have been given the Holy Spirit to be with us lead us and guide us in our every decision. NOTHING can separate us from God's love, even the scariest things.

Today, take a moment to reflect on your relationship with God. Is there anything you feel is separating you from God? What can you remove or add to your life so that you can connect with God?

