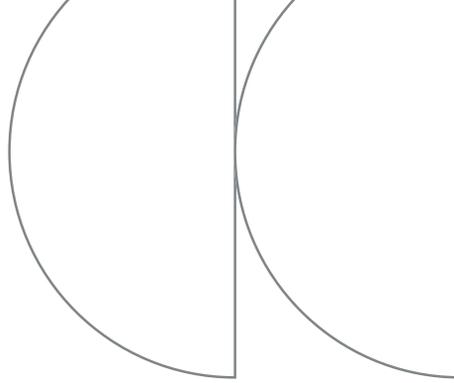


# DAY 7

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28:18 NLT

If we want to follow God more in our everyday lives, we have to first know what He said—that's why memorizing Scripture is important. Write this verse on a sticky note. Then put the sticky note somewhere you'll be able to see it every day: your bathroom mirror, your bedroom door, your laptop.



Twelve horizontal lines for writing.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN everyday faith.

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM/WEEK 2

HIGH SCHOOL

## DAY 1

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

Psalms 17:6 NIV

David is the writer of almost half of the book of Psalms; the longest book of the Bible. The verse he writes here seems pretty straightforward, but the backstory is fascinating. David prayed this while running for his life from an evil king named Saul who wanted to kill him. While on the run, God didn't rescue David immediately. Instead, he was with David and helped him find a way out of that situation over time. God answered him, not with immediate deliverance, but with protection the entire time he was on the run. No matter what's going on in your situation, God hears your prayers, and even if God doesn't respond the way you expected or in the timing you want, know that silence isn't absence.

Today, make a list of areas where you need God's help or advice and put that list somewhere you will see it every day. When you see it, take time to pray and remember God is with you and listening.

## DAY 2

Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

Luke 6:31 NLT

It's not hard to love on our people. We plan fun adventures with our friends, get food for our younger and poorer siblings, and have conversations with that lady working in the cafeteria that calls us "sweetie" and gives us extra tater tots. But what about those who aren't exactly good to us? People we don't like or want to be around, or people who are just mean? Loving those who don't exactly love you is difficult. Jesus' command to His listeners can seem simple here; but He starts this with saying "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27). How on Earth do we do that? A good start may be praying for them. That helps us realize we can't love our enemies on our own power.

Today, pray and ask God to teach you how to live out this verse, especially when it comes to your "haters." Have conversations with your small group or trusted friends about how you can help each other be kind to those who aren't always kind to you.

## DAY 3

**And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 NLT**

You have a ton of followers! Ok, maybe your Insta or your TikTok doesn't exactly say that, but there are people who know you, pay attention to you, and follow you (whether or not they do so officially online.) This verse tells us that our words and actions should represent Jesus, which is...a little intimidating. But representing Jesus may not be as difficult as it sounds. After all, when you spend time with someone you take on their mannerisms, right? When you hang out with someone often, you start to like the same things or use the same phrases. The same is true of Jesus. When you spend time with Him and thinking about Him, you're more likely to rep Him well.

**Sometime today, listen to one song that talks about what Jesus is like. Try to memorize the words. As you do, pray for His help in becoming more like Him.**

## DAY 4

**Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9 NLT**

Do you ever win arguments that happen in your head? We all do! When someone does something that hurts us, we all want to get them back or pay them back. And honestly? Payback feels great. So why does Peter say to do the opposite in this letter? Well, Peter had a life-changing experience that made Him see everything differently. Not only did Peter know Jesus personally, but Peter hurt Jesus, personally. Peter sold Jesus out—totally betrayed Him. And in return, Jesus didn't get payback. Instead, He made Peter breakfast and forgave him. Jesus showed Peter a way to live that seemed totally upside down.

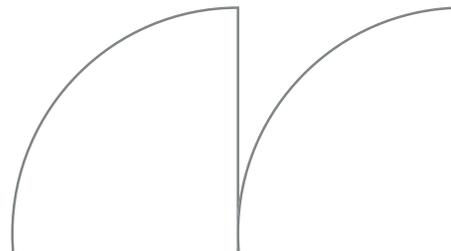
**Write down the things people in your family or friend group do that hurt you. What would it look like for you to show them extra kindness?**

## DAY 5

**But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5 NIV**

Have you ever wondered, "will this last forever?" Maybe it was waiting on the bell for lunch or the varsity team to be named. When you're waiting on something important, it's really hard to trust that everything will be ok. In this short chapter of Psalms, David begins by asking, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1). David is still on the run because he's being hunted by King Saul. David's circumstances leave him wondering if the worst will happen, if he'll be in danger forever. But, instead of staying stuck on his worry, David reminds himself of something he knows is true. He can trust God's unfailing love, regardless of his circumstances. There's nothing wrong with having questions about life or wondering when God will answer our prayers, but even in our times of question, we can trust God knowing He loves us.

**Today, take some time to write down what you know to be true about God—like His unfailing love.**



## DAY 6

**Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT**

*Written by Lexy B., age 21 from Burleson, Texas, USA*

Have you ever had someone in authority over you who didn't always make the best decisions in your eyes? I have, and I'm sure if you thought about it, you probably have too. Maybe you and I don't think the person leading us is making the best decisions, and that could be true, especially if they are hurting someone. In that case the honorable thing to do is to speak up. But sometimes, there are leaders we don't like just because we don't agree or their decisions don't go the way we think they should. This verse, shows us that when the leader is working for God, to share His Gospel, or Good News, and spread His grace, love and mercy, we need to respect them. That leader is not supposed to be making decisions and working just to please us and the people around them; they are working to honor God.

**Think about that person who frustrates you, think about their actions and choices. Are they honoring God? Should you work to show them more respect? Pray for them to please God and for God to help you respect them even when you disagree.**