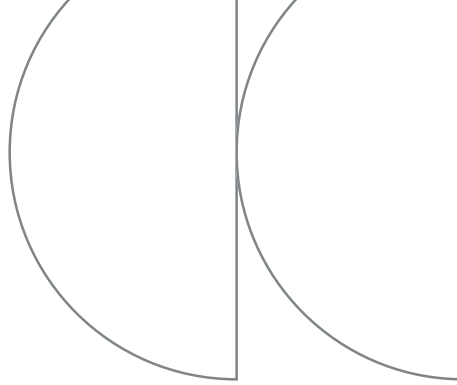


DAY 7

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. Read the verse out loud as many times as you can in 30 seconds. Then see if you can say it without reading it.



Twelve horizontal lines for writing notes.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN **everyday faith.**

THE UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM/WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 NIV

Wow. So do we not actually love our friends if we wouldn't lay down our lives for them? While Jesus died for His friends, literally, He isn't necessarily asking you and I to do the same. Instead, He's asking us to give up some of our perks in life, some of our power or privilege or gifts to help our friends. When we decide to lay down our popularity to hang out with someone unpopular or lay down our good reputation to speak up for someone who is being hurt, we're living like Jesus did. "Greater love" is an inconvenient type of love; one that requires us to lay down our comfort for someone else. This type of love takes practice.

Spend some time today to thank God for showing us what greater love looks like and talk with a friend about how your friend group can practice this kind of love.

DAY 2

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 ESV

Have you ever been to a wedding? Aside from having some great cake and just-okay dancing, there's a good chance you heard someone quote this verse. While the idea of love is great for weddings, that isn't exactly what these words are about. This passage is part of a letter written by Paul to a group of new Jesus-followers living in Corinth. In it, Paul was trying to explain the kind of upside down way of life Jesus talked about, the kind of life where you put others before yourself and love your neighbor as yourself. Paul knew these Jesus-followers might need some specific examples of what this kind of love is and what it is not.

Take a few minutes and think about your family and your friend group. Jot down a few ways you could show the kind of love Paul talks about in this verse.

DAY 3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

1 Peter 1:3 NIV

There is nothing more annoying than getting to class and realizing you don't have your notebook or getting to practice and forgetting your practice clothes or getting to band and realizing your instrument is at home. You can't do anything well if you don't have what you need! The good news for us is when it comes to following Jesus, living like He did and the "godly life" He wants for us—we already have everything we need. Peter, who wrote this passage, knew Jesus personally and saw amazing things happen. He saw miracles and Peter knew the same power that made miracles happen and even made Jesus rise from the dead is living in those of us who follow Jesus. His power gives us everything we need to live in a way that seems impossible.

Think of a few areas of life where it feels impossible to do what God wants you to do. Spend a few minutes praying about that area and ask God to help you remember "His divine power" can help you be more like Him.

DAY 4

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8 ESV

Have you ever felt too good to do something? Ok, you wouldn't say it that way, but maybe you felt too old to play with your little sister or too talented to show up for jv practice or too busy to tutor someone in your math class. We all have moments where we feel like we shouldn't have to do something. That's why Jesus' life was so fascinating. He was constantly doing things He didn't have to do. He washed feet, served people food, and hung out with little kids even though he was the most powerful (and sometimes the most popular) person in town. When Paul writes Jesus "humbled himself" it just means He chose to do something He didn't have to for another person. What would it look like for you to humble yourself and do something you don't have to at home? At practice? In class?

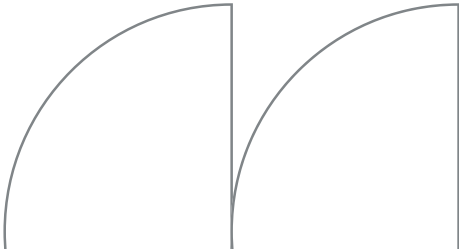
This week, set a goal to do at least 2 or 3 things you don't have to do for someone else. Then, pay attention to how you feel.

DAY 5

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10 NIV

If you have siblings, the idea of "brotherly affection" could seem unappealing. What this verse implies is a love and affection that is not chosen, but guaranteed. Whether we're a fan of them or not, we can't choose our siblings—and in the same way, we shouldn't choose who receives our love. Love can't be dependent on how close we are to someone, what they've done for us, or when we're feeling like it. It's a type of humility that "honors" others, or treats them with high respect. Love honors the other person like family, as if we have no choice but to share in burdens and blessings.

Write down this verse and put it where you can see it regularly. Each time you do, imagine how you might "outdo" yourself at showing honor to the last person you saw.



DAY 6

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. **John 13:35 NLT**

Written by Chloe H., age 18 from Taylorsville, Georgia, USA

In your life, there is often going to be another person who has authority over you. However, when you are given the opportunity to be in charge of a person or a group of people, you want to lead them well and not abuse your authority. You want to show love to those people like Jesus did for His disciples. Jesus' disciples did the same thing when they served and encouraged other people even when they weren't with Jesus. As followers of Jesus, we should act in the same way when we have authority over other people. When you show love to everyone, you will show your love for Jesus just like this verse says. I have been put in multiple leadership positions over the past four years of high school and it has been hard to find the line between leading with love and still being authoritative at the same time. It took me a while to realize that some people aren't going to listen to people in authority no matter how hard you try, so I changed my approach from a strict mindset to a more loving and kinder mindset to better lead my peers.

This helped me show love to others the same way Jesus does, while also leading people in the right direction to help them be more successful.