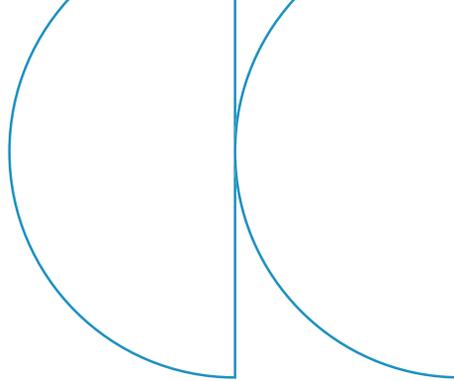


DAY 7

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed them.

Matthew 4:19-20 NLT

When we memorize Scripture, God the Holy Spirit is able to bring the verse to our minds during times of need to encourage or challenge us. Set an alarm on your phone for a unique time every day (like 4:19 for Matthew 4:19) to spend a few minutes memorizing the verse.



Horizontal lines for writing notes.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN **everyday faith.**

THE BIG QUESTIONS/WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:3 NLT

We all crave acceptance. The desire to belong is a desire that is deep within us. We want to feel included and welcomed. It's the reason why sports teams and marching bands wear uniforms – they identify that you belong. When we begin a relationship with Jesus, we are become a part of God's family. Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who watches over his sheep (that's us!). Sheep can wander away or drift from the group of other sheep, and need a shepherd to protect them and keep them together. We don't follow Jesus by ourselves, we follow him together with our church, youth group, small group, friends, and believers all over the world. Jesus is the shepherd who we belong to and he keeps us safe and united.

What are a few reasons you are thankful for your small group and/or youth group?

DAY 2

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

What's your most prized possession? Maybe it's something sentimental, collectible, or just something you love to use like a phone or game system. We usually put our prized possessions out on display instead of burying them in a random drawer or bag. We love talking about or showing these things to others. This verse says that we are "God's very own possession" which means we are loved, valued, and special to God. As God's prized possession, we show off his goodness to the world when we live in the light of a life following God.

How can you show God's goodness to others today?

DAY 3

God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalm 18:30 NLT

Who doesn't love an incredible trick shot video? Even if it takes 100 tries, it's so satisfying to see someone hit a mind-bending, perfect shot. Perfection is something we may experience occasionally, but rarely all the time. Even the smartest kid at school doesn't get 100% on every single test. God, however, IS perfect. Completely all-the-time perfect. Because of this, God always comes through on his promises. God never fails, gives up, or quits on us. We can uniquely trust God more than anyone or anything else. Not only is God perfect, but God is on our side. His way is perfect and when we follow his way (like living according to the truth of Scripture) we experience a life of incredible joy and purpose.

What is one way that you can walk in God's perfect way today?

DAY 4

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 NLT

There are lots of labels that can divide us: athletic or awkward, Senior or Freshman, Varsity or JV, Xbox or PlayStation. Although we naturally gravitate to people who are like us or enjoy the same things as us, this can create an "us vs. them" mindset. Jesus is a label breaker. Jesus died and came back to life so that anyone could believe in and follow him. Christianity is not a club or a clique, it's an extremely diverse group of people who Jesus has made into one family.

When we follow Jesus, all our labels dissolve except for one: "You are all one in Christ Jesus."

DAY 5

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 NLT

What was the last thing that you got super excited about and couldn't stop talking about? Maybe it was a band you discovered, new food place you tried, a joke you can't stop telling, a post you DM'ed to several people, or a movie line you keep repeating. Faith is meant to be repeated as well. When we follow Jesus, we do what He did. Jesus spoke with anyone who would listen about the incredible life found in having a personal relationship with God. The disciples then took the message Jesus was sharing and continued telling others the Good News. As followers of Jesus, we continue to share the message of Jesus to our world today.

What is the best part of following Jesus? Share it with someone this week.

DAY 6

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
1 John 3:1 NIV

Written by Allie G., age 18 from Frisco, Texas, USA

Everyone wants to fit in and have a place to belong. In our culture of social media, it can be like living under a microscope. Everyone knows who you are with and what you are doing. There is also the frustration of knowing about the awesome party last night that we were not invited to. It can be confusing, and it can make us feel like we don't measure up. This verse has helped change my focus from an external acceptance from others to an eternal belonging. It is overwhelming and mind-blowing to think that the Creator of the universe has lavished and generously given His love to me and calls me His child. That's the good news! We do not have to change ourselves or have a large social media following to belong in God's family. Jesus wants a relationship with us. Because of Jesus, this is who you are!

As you reflect on Jesus' desire to be in relationship with us, I encourage you to write down the ways you feel known and loved. He is always near and desires to hear from your heart.