

# Daily Devotionals

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

**everyday faith.**

WHAT I REALLY WANT / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go.  
Guard them, for they are the key to life.

PROVERBS 4:13 NLT

### DAY 1

Instructions are given as a guide—a way to show us how to use something or what next steps to take. In the Bible, God left us His message—a set of instructions—on how we're supposed to live. Instead of trying to figure out life on our own, we can turn to God's Word to help guide us toward the next step. When we're struggling through temptation, we can choose to look for God's best for us instead, and we can find that in His Word.

**This week, ask your small group leader to share a few Bible verses with you that help guide them toward choosing God's best for their lives.**

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39 NLT

### DAY 2

Have you ever gotten lost? Whether it was in a store as a kid or trying to find your way in a new school, feeling lost and alone can be a scary feeling. The good news is that when we have a relationship with Jesus, we're promised that because of Him, we'll never be lost or left alone. When we're not sure what to do in the face of temptation or we're even tempted to make a decision we know isn't God's best for us, we can remember that we're not facing it alone. We have access to a God who loves us and will never leave us.

**Take time to pray today, thanking God that because of Jesus, you'll never be lost or alone.**

<p>Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.</p> <p>PSALM 105:4 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <p>Wouldn't it be great if we only had to ask for help with the things we struggle with once in our lives? If we just could magically have it all figured out after that? Unfortunately, we all know that's not usually the way it works. Often when faced with a struggle or temptation, we have to ask for help or find guidance to deal with it again, and again, and again. The good news is that as this Psalm reminds us, when we continually seek God's help and strength to face it, He will give it to us.</p> <p><b>Is there a temptation you've been struggling to beat? Go to God continually with it this week, asking for His help to get you through it each day.</b></p>
<p>Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.</p> <p>GALATIANS 6:1 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 4</b></p> <p>Have you ever seen a roadblock on the highway? It's usually a sign that something unsafe is ahead. If you keep going on that same road, you're eventually going to run into danger. God often does something similar for us. He helps us see when we're headed down a path that may not lead to His best. He uses people like our friends, our small group leaders, our siblings, and even our parents to encourage us away from giving into temptation and toward His best for our lives.</p> <p><b>Who is the person like that in your life? Thank them this week for their support that keeps you on the right path. Then, think about how God might be calling you to be that person for someone else!</b></p>
<p>Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.</p> <p>MARK 14:38 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 5</b></p> <p>Temptation is difficult to say no to when we're on our own. No matter how hard we try, the truth is we've all given into temptation in the past. And we all probably will again! But here's the good news: We weren't meant to face it on our own. In fact, God has given us exactly what we need to not only resist temptation, but to start again even when we've given in. He's given us His strength, love, and forgiveness, and those things can help us keep going in the face of temptation.</p> <p><b>Commit this verse to memory this week. And when you find yourself facing temptation, say it out loud as a reminder of God's strength to help you deal with it.</b></p>

<p>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.</p> <p>1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 NIV</p>	<p><b>DAY 6</b></p> <p><i>Written by Katie, age 17 from Kennesaw, Georgia, USA</i></p> <p>We all know what it feels like to be tempted by something, right? Maybe it's being tempted to lie or disobey your parents or mentors. Or maybe it's being tempted to eat too much ice cream or stay up too late playing video games when you know you should go to bed. When we face temptation (and even when we give into temptation), we can always turn to God. He'll be there to help us and to forgive us when we mess up. And this will lead to our victory through Jesus! By not giving into temptation, we can experience more of the good things that God has planned for us. We can give thanks to God for helping us when we face temptation and for the good things that He has planned for us!</p> <p><b>Right now, simply pray this one sentence prayer: Thank you God, for helping me when I face temptation.</b></p>
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<p>Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.</p> <p>PSALM 51:10 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 7</b></p> <p>Fun fact: Jesus Himself memorized God's Word! He knew it and used it to help Him remember what God said was important. And when we memorize it for ourselves, we're following Jesus' example! This week, try writing this verse down every day. Each time you write it, try to do just a little more from memory until you're able to write the whole verse without help because you've got it in your mind!</p>
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