

Daily Devotionals

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

everyday faith.

MOVEMENT / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people to grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 NLT

DAY 1

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. So, the question we have to ask ourselves is this: Who is our neighbor? We not only have the physical neighbors who live in our homes and communities, but we also have our global neighbors who live all around the world. Just as much as God has called us to love those people we know and interact with every day, He's also called us to love the neighbors in the world that we may never meet. He's calling us to serve everyone with His overflowing love.

This week, start by praying that God would show you ways to serve both the neighbors you know and the ones living across the world.

A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JOHN 13:34 NLT

DAY 2

Have you ever considered what it means to love someone well? Love can be a very personal thing. What makes one person feel loved and appreciated, another person may not care that much about. So how do you make sure that you're showing love to your parents, your siblings, or your friends? Ask them!

Take the time to talk to those who are closest to you. Ask them one small thing that you can do to show them that you love and care for them. Then, make a point to try to do at least one of the things they shared with you to serve and love them this week.

<p>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.</p> <p>1 JOHN 5:1 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Do you have brothers and sisters? What about friends that are so close they feel like family? If you do, then you know how great it can be to have someone that close to you. Well, if you're a follower of Jesus, then you're a child of God—part of a family of people who love and believe in God just the way you do. It's a pretty cool thing to be a part of. It means that you have a group of people to support and encourage you as you follow God's leading together.</p> <p>Today, reach out to the people in your small group—the members of your family at church! Thank them for how they encourage you to love and serve others just like Jesus did.</p>
<p>And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.</p> <p>MARK 12:31 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Have you ever wanted to do something to serve someone else but were afraid to do it? Maybe you thought you didn't have what it would take, or you weren't sure where to start, or you didn't feel ready to go for it. When we feel afraid, or unqualified, or unprepared to do big things that might impact the world for good, we can remember this call from Jesus. When we love God with everything we have, we can do big things with big confidence that we not only have what it takes, but that we're following God's greatest call on our lives.</p> <p>What's one big thing you want to do to serve others? Pray that God would give you courage to use everything you have to serve others out of His love.</p>
<p>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.</p> <p>JOHN 15:13 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Part of loving and serving other people is sacrifice. That simply means giving up something we want for the good of the other person. Jesus modeled this for us when He gave up His life for us. That's how great His love for us is! That act of service—that sacrifice—changed everything. It showed us not only how great God's love for us is, but it gave us an example of how we can give up something to show love to someone else.</p> <p>Take some time this week think about how you can sacrifice your time, your resources, or your talent to serve someone else. How can you show someone the kind of love Jesus has shown us all?</p>

<p>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.</p> <p>JAMES 1:27 ESV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p><i>Written by Cherish, age 17 from Charlotte, North Carolina, USA</i></p> <p>Let's be completely honest. Serving isn't always fun. It can be hard and thankless. If you are serving at church, most times you wake up early, are required to be on your feet for long periods, and some days you have to act happy, even if you feel anything but happy. Although serving is not always enjoyable, there's usually a good reason to do it. Think about who it was that told you about Jesus. Maybe it was a small group leader or a coach. Sometimes even friends can lead us to follow Jesus. Whoever it might have been, they used whatever they had to serve God and that connected you to Him. Now, God wants to use you to reach others. When we serve others—when it's fun or when it's hard, when it's early or in the afternoon, when it's convenient or when the sacrifice is big—we are showing God's kindness to others. Serving gives people a real-life example of God's love for them.</p> <p>So next time you are tempted to skip out on serving, remember you are doing it to show others God's care and love.</p>
<p>And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'</p> <p>MATTHEW 25:40 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Doing big things to serve others can feel scary at times. It's something we definitely don't want to do alone! Well, memorizing Scripture helps remind us that we're not alone. It's like having a note from a friend tucked away to encourage us when we need it! To help yourself memorize this verse this week, look it up online in different translations.</p>