

[illegible]

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Take five minutes today to go outside and pray, thanking God for caring so much about you.**

## DAY 3

**But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.**

**2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV**

When we’re bragging about ourselves, we don’t tend to focus on our weaknesses. Of course not! When we’re talking about ourselves, we bring attention to our strengths—the things we do well! But have you ever thought about how we could actually get excited about our weaknesses? Our struggles can actually be opportunities to show God’s power. When you follow God, you don’t have to be ashamed of your weaknesses. It’s in those places that God’s strength comes through and shines brightest.

**Reach out to your small group leader today and ask them for encouragement to see God’s power in your weaknesses.**

## DAY 4

**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV**

We’ve all faced moments when we’ve wondered if we’ve got what it takes. Can we pass that test? Can we beat that team? Can we get that part? Can we stand up to that bully? Can we tell the truth about what we’ve done wrong? When we’re in those moments, it’s important to remember that God promises to give us everything we need to face whatever it is that’s in front of us. As followers of God, all we have to do is ask for God’s help when we need it. Then, we can remember the power, love, self-discipline, and more that God has already given us.

**So today, when you think about what’s intimidating you, remember that you have all you need to face it!**

## DAY 5

**“God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them, male and female God created them.” Genesis 1:27 CEB**

Every single person you see today was created by God. Your teachers, your parents, your siblings, your friends—they were all made in God’s image. And yes, that includes you! When you look in the mirror, sometimes it’s easy to forget this truth. It’s easier to focus on all the things we don’t like about ourselves than to see the good of God’s creation starting back at us. But the truth is, you were created in God’s image, and that means you’re valuable. You’re important. You’re exactly the way that God wants you to be! Are there things that keep you from seeing yourself the way God sees you?

**Talk to a friend, family member, or small group leader for encouragement to help you see yourself the way that God sees you.**

## DAY 6

**For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

**Ephesians 2:10 NLT**

*Written by Kaylee, age 18 from Rochelle, Illinois, USA*

When I was ten years old, I struggled big time with something that a lot of middle schoolers deal with: acne. It was everywhere; I thought it would never go away! I felt like the blemishes on my face meant that I was not beautiful enough. I think many of us can feel that way about something, whether that’s not feeling smart enough in school or wanting to be the best player on the team! Even though we might see those things as reasons we aren’t enough, God doesn’t view them negatively! They add to the great masterpieces that God made us to be. Think of it like a piece of artwork. Artwork is rarely perfect, and that’s what makes each piece unique, just like us! Take the Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci for example. If you look at the painting, the Mona Lisa doesn’t have eyebrows. When it was first painted, some people didn’t like that detail. But it was the fact there was no eyebrows that actually turned the painting into the famous piece of artwork it is today. God sees us just like we see the Mona Lisa today: a masterpiece! As I look back at that time when I had lots of acne, the truth is that people still thought I was beautiful even with it. I realized it’s because others really don’t see things like that as negative, but as something that adds to the masterpiece God made you to be. I know God feels the exact same way!

**Today, write down three things that make you a masterpiece. Then, put that list somewhere you’ll see it often this week as a reminder that you are created as God’s masterpiece!**