

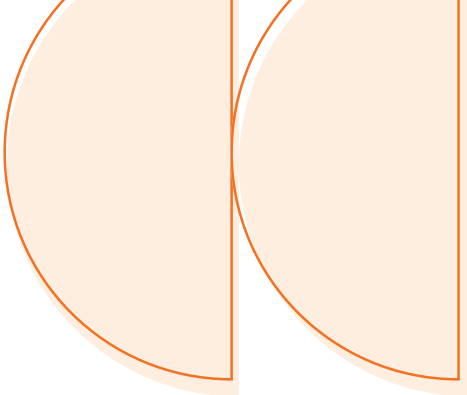
DAY 7

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28:18 NLT

So often we can find ourselves with questions about what good authority figures are like. Instead of being left to wonder, we can remember verses like this one! It reminds us that Jesus is the ultimate authority—the one who shows us how to do it right! To help you keep that in mind, memorize this verse this week.

Ask an authority figure in your life who you trust to help you do it. Maybe a small group leader, a parent, an older sibling, or a teacher at your school. Work with them to try to memorize this verse and talk about what it can teach you about good authority as you do.



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DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN everyday faith.

In Charge / Week 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11 NLT

You, your parents, your teachers, your administrators, police, judges—the list of people who have some sort of authority could go on and on. Jesus, however, is the name above all names. No matter who's at the top of the authority list, Jesus' name goes above it. In other words, Jesus is the ultimate authority. He is the model of what a good leader should be, and He's the leader over all the leaders in this world. Remember that as you follow authority in your life, the most important person to follow is and will always be Jesus.

Write a reminder on your mirror at home or stick a reminder in your phone case to help you remember Jesus is the model for good authority!

DAY 2

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

Colossians 1:15 NLT

In this letter to some of the earliest Jesus followers, Paul, the writer, reminds them of something really important. Jesus is the best reflection we have of God. And Jesus, while human, was in charge of everything. In fact, Jesus said so Himself in the verse you will memorize this week. He wasn't just the lead guy of His friends or the pastor at His church. Jesus had and still has all authority. So, what did He do with that kind of power? He paid attention to hurting people and outcasts. He healed people and served them. Eventually, He gave His life for the people He was leading. In other words, Jesus used His power and authority to show us a whole new way to live—one where the most power is found in serving others, not being served. This week, pay attention to areas where you have the freedom or the power to do what you want. Maybe you're in charge of your siblings, your room, or your free time. When you notice you have power, ask yourself, "How can I use this power to serve others the way that Jesus did?"

DAY 3

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:6 NLT

Jesus is historically one of the most famous leaders in the world. He was a popular leader 2,000 years ago, and He remains the best leader we can follow still today. Why? Well, when we study His leadership now, we see that Jesus used His authority in a loving way. Whenever He encountered people He had authority over, Jesus always treated them with love, kindness, and grace. His leadership teaches us that true authority isn't about being the most powerful person in the room or bossing people around. It's about love, and Jesus is the perfect example of that.

Today, ask God what areas of your life you can use your authority to show love. Where can you follow Jesus' example this week?

DAY 4

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17 NLT

You have a ton of followers! Okay, maybe your Instagram or TikTok doesn't exactly say that, but there are people who know you, pay attention to you, and follow you (whether or not they do so officially online). This verse tells us that our words and actions should represent Jesus, which can be a little intimidating. But representing Jesus may not be as difficult as it sounds. When you spend time with someone often, you start to like the same things or use the same phrases they do. The same is true with Jesus. When you spend time with Him and think about Him, you're more likely to represent Him well.

Sometime today, listen to one song that talks about what Jesus is like. Try to memorize the words. As you do, pray for His help in becoming more like Him.

DAY 5

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

Ephesians 5:1 NLT

Have you ever copied someone else's clothing style? Or maybe you've been influenced by the way someone talks? Or wanted to try the type of hobbies they have? If you have, then it's probably for a reason. So often we imitate things about other people because we want to be like them in some way. As God's children, we have an opportunity to imitate God. God gave us a living, breathing example to follow when God gave us Jesus! When we love and lead like Jesus, we're imitating an authority figure who is worth it.

Today, make a list of things you know about Jesus and the way He lived. Then, pick just one of those things to try and imitate in your own life this week.

DAY 6

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Hebrews 13:7 NLT

Written by Kendra, age 17 from Hartford, South Dakota, USA

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you were in charge but didn't know how to be a good leader? I remember the day that I got my first ever leadership position. I was selected to be the drum major of the marching band! I was so happy, but I quickly realized I didn't know how to positively lead my classmates. Around this time, I was reading my Bible and realized that one example of a leader we can follow is Jesus. In fact, Jesus really is the best leader we'll ever follow! He shows us how to be kind, patient, and honest. He shows us how to serve the people we lead. He even built a team of followers, who were called the disciples, to help Him accomplish His mission. When we lead others like Jesus did, we will better be able to love and serve the people around us. Once I realized this, I made it my goal to love the people I was leading the way Jesus did. I also made it a goal to look for other leaders in my life who led the way Jesus did so I could follow their example, too! Once I started doing this, other members of the marching band noticed. They were much more willing to listen to me and ask questions!

Today, think of one thing you're in charge of. What's one way you can follow Jesus' example when you're in charge this week?