

DAY 3

Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 1 Peter 3:8-9 NLT

Do you ever win arguments that happen in your head? We all do! When someone does something that hurts us, we all want to get them back or pay them back, even if we don't say it out loud. And honestly? Payback feels great. So why does Peter say to do the opposite in this letter? Well, Peter had a life-changing experience that made him see everything differently. Not only did Peter know Jesus personally, but Peter hurt Jesus, personally. Peter sold Jesus out; he totally betrayed Him. But in return, Jesus didn't get payback. Instead, He made Peter breakfast and forgave him. Jesus showed Peter a way to live that was totally opposite from what he expected.

Today, take a moment to write down the things people in your family or friend group do that hurt you or get on your nerves. What would it look like for you to show extra kindness when that happens? What would it look like to tell them it hurt you in a way that doesn't hurt them in return?

DAY 4

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5 NIV

Have you ever wondered, "Will this last forever?" Maybe it was waiting on the bell for lunch, or the lead role in the school play to be named, or that person you like to finally ask you out. When you're waiting on something important, it's really hard to trust that everything will be okay. The writer of this verse, David, begins by asking, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1). David is still on the run because he's being hunted by King Saul. His circumstances probably left him wondering if the worst would happen. Would he be in danger forever? But, instead of staying stuck in his worry, David reminds himself of something he knows is true: He can trust God's unfailing love, regardless of his circumstances. There's nothing wrong with having questions about life or wondering when God will answer our prayers. But even in our times of question, we can trust God, knowing that God loves us.

Today, take some time to write down what you know to be true about God—like how much God loves us.

DAY 5

Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers. Proverbs 11:14 NLT

This proverb presents a simple truth: There's value in listening to other people. The wise people in your life who want what's best for you? The authority figures you can trust? Those are the people's voices we want to turn the volume up on in our lives. Why? Because their authority and guidance make our lives better. It helps us. Without the wisdom of others, we can talk ourselves into some not-so-great choices. But with their help, we can walk toward good things for our lives.

Unfortunately, no matter the reason, some of our authority figures are not-so-great. That's why having several good authority figures in your life that you can go to for guidance and wisdom is so important!

So today, think about the wise people or good authority figures you have in your life. How can you turn up the volume on their voices this week?

DAY 6

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT

Written by Sydney, age 18 from Quakertown, Pennsylvania, USA

We all have people in our life who lead us or are in charge of us in some way. Those leaders might be teachers, coaches, parents, aunts, uncles, a youth pastor, or other authority figures. The good news is that these people can help guide you to grow in your relationship with Jesus. One of these people for me was my sixth-grade leader at church. I looked up to her a lot. That was the year that I really started to make my faith my own. It was obvious that my leader loved God and showed God's love to us in so many ways. During sixth grade, she challenged me to start reading my Bible every day. I took her challenge on, and, through reading the Bible every day, my faith and relationship with Jesus changed forever. I am now forever encouraged to spend time with Jesus each day!

Think of one leader in your life who you really look up to. What's one thing about them that you really admire? Spend one minute thanking God for putting them in your life and for their good example of authority.