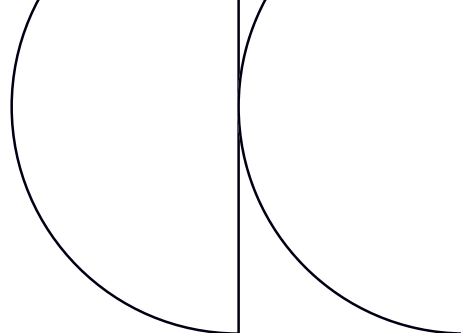


# DAY 6

**And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. Psalm 39:7 NLT**

People pile up loads of money and possessions thinking those things will make them feel safe and secure. But what happens when all of those things are lost, stolen, or spent? Where do we put our hope then? If we put all our hope in the things we can see like money, and houses and clothes, or even other people, then we'll eventually be let down. That means the only person or place left to hope in is the place or person we can't see: God. Through all of time, God has been steady and consistent. That means God's always got us.

**How have you seen God be consistent in your life? How does that help you to live with a stronger sense of hope?**



## DAY 7

**For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NLT**

How often do you actually memorize things? Maybe some vocab words for a test? We don't even have to memorize a phone number or someone's Instagram handle... it's all programmed into our devices. But we memorize scripture because the words on those pages are more than just information for us to know. When we memorize scripture, we interact with something God said in a way we don't typically interact with things, and those words transform us. Transformation brings hope into our lives. When we memorize scripture, we're storing God's words inside of us so that our mind can be constantly reminded of God's comforting words.

**Set an alarm on your phone with "Isaiah 9:6" as the label. Take a few minutes to read over and memorize it.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS / WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOL

## DAY 1

**Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 NLT**

One morning I walked into class to discover "Pop Quiz" written across the board. I wanted to run, and beg the bus driver to take me home. Life is full of pop quizzes and challenges we cannot predict. The good news is that following Jesus is like having a cheat sheet. Jesus gives us hope that we don't have to walk in darkness, or the unknown, alone. We can look at his example of how to live. Jesus gives us hope that when we don't know what to do, we can trust Him to show us what is right and use difficult situations for good.

**Today, if you are facing a difficult decision, talk to Jesus and ask Him for guidance.**

## DAY 2

**But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently. Romans 8:25 NLT**

The wait for Christmas Day is the worst, isn't it? All that anticipation that builds up can make it feel like Christmas morning will never come. But there's also something really fun about waiting for it. It's not as hard to wait for something when we know it's definitely going to happen. And the great thing about Christmas is it happens every year. It's always coming again. Living life with God is a constant journey of learning to wait patiently, while being confident that something good is going to happen.

**What are you looking forward to right now? God promises to work for our good. How can that promise help you to be patient and confident today?**

## DAY 3

**But I will keep on hoping for your help; I will praise you more and more.**

**Psalm 71:14 NLT**

We all need help. Whether it's doing our homework, finishing a chore, or talking to the person we like.

Sometimes we just need someone else to come beside us and give us the assist. It's lonely to need help when it feels like no one has the time or power to lend a hand. We've all felt that way, and it's right in the middle of that place that Jesus offers us hope. At our low points, Jesus steps in and helps. And when we remember how He has helped us before, we begin to have hope that He will do it again.

**Today, think about a time where Jesus has been your help. Spend some time today thanking Him and praising Him for the help He brings.**

## DAY 4

**Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.**

**Hebrews 11:1 NIV**

Faith can be hard for us to understand sometimes. But really, faith is simply confidence. Faith is like a trust fall with God. When you do a trust fall, you do it because you have confidence that someone will catch you. You're not looking at the person who's going to catch you—you typically can't see them at all! But you know they're going to catch you. It's the same with God. Our hope for our life is that we will be loved, valued, and taken care of. Having faith just means that, even if I can't see God, I know that God loves and values me.

**What about Jesus makes you confident in your hopes for your life? How can that truth grow your faith today?**

## DAY 5

**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

**Hebrews 10:23 NLT**

*Written by Keira, age 14*

*From Anderson, Indiana*

Life is a journey—a journey full of ups and downs, mountains and valleys, and everything in between. Often our path is not a straight, easy path, but a long, curving journey. And let's be honest, sometimes it's hard to have hope. However, it's not all going to waste. God is faithful. Even the hard times can be used to cause, and create good. We know hope is possible because when things were the absolute worst for Jesus—being arrested, put on the cross, and then dying, God knew the story wasn't over. God raised Jesus back to life so that we could have hope that when things feel impossible, God is still working. If you're going through a hard time right now, it's not over yet. This isn't where it ends. Don't you want to see the results? Hold on. Wait. Be patient. I know it's hard. I've been there with friendships, family, school, drama, rumors. We've all been in situations

that looked impossible to overcome. I know you hear it'll get better, and it doesn't feel true. I've been there, but God helped me overcome some of that. Things may not turn out how you want them to, but God promises to be with us in difficult times.

**Today, if you are in the middle of a difficult situation ask God to help you have hope.**