

DAY 6

The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.

Psalm 29:11 NLT

We like to think of strength as muscles and toughness, but when God gives us strength, God is saying that He brings us power and boldness to face life right now. When you think about Jesus' life on earth, He was the perfect example of power and boldness in relationships. He paved the way of living alongside other people with love and kindness, without fear or worry. When we begin to practice Jesus' strength—living with boldness and power, honesty and kindness—we receive the blessing of God's peace.

Spend some time right now asking God to fill you with strength, and ask God to show you where you can practice the way of Jesus in your relationships today.

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

Memorizing scripture is a practice that helps us to get God's words into our minds and hearts. When we think about something long enough or often enough, it begins to impact how we live and move through the world. Memorizing this passage helps us remember who Jesus came to be. When we remember that Jesus was given, we can remember that He came as a peace offering between us and God. Jesus came to eliminate the awkwardness, and make sure that we knew how to approach God with confidence, boldness, and security. All of those things help us to know that we can live a life filled with peace!

Start a group message with a few of your friends to talk about how your memorization journey is going. Hold each other accountable for remembering sections of the verse each day.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS / WEEK 2

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 NLT

I am a senior in high school going through the college admissions process after all the rules changed because of COVID. All of my peers are also stressed any time they are left alone with their thoughts. However, while I definitely worry sometimes, I understand that no matter what the admission office says, God's plan will be good. I may still stress some over my future, but God gives me peace only God can provide. Whatever mountain you are climbing, God has a plan, and is FOR you and with you, no matter what happens.

Today, write down all of the ways you have seen God provide for you, then use it as a reminder of God's goodness when you need peace.

DAY 2

Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Romans 5:1 NLT

Have you ever felt awkward in a relationship with somebody? Like you were cool, and then something weird happened that made every interaction feel a little uncomfortable? Have you ever felt that way with God? God gives us verses like this to remind us that we don't have to feel awkward approaching Him. Jesus coming to earth was God's promise that we don't need to feel weird or awkward when it comes to connecting with God. When we remember God's presence, we can be comfortable trusting God because Jesus' arrival on earth was the ultimate sign that God really wants to be close to us.

Today, think about the fact that God wants to be close to you. How does that bring you peace?

DAY 3

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.
Colossians 3:15 NLT

Our world is full of distracted and anxious thinking. From one moment to the next, we can experience many different emotions. It's really easy to be controlled by our circumstances, and how they make us feel, but God gives us another way to live. God says that, instead of anxiousness, we can live with peace! We can live at peace because we can trust Jesus no matter what changes, fears, or circumstances we face. If we allow Jesus to speak to all of the thoughts and moments of our lives, then we are letting Him rule in our hearts and bring us peace because we are focused on Him, and not our circumstances.

What are some ways you can trust Jesus and find peace in Him today? How can being thankful empower Jesus' peace to rule over your day?

DAY 4

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.
1 Peter 5:7 NLT

How often do you worry? Worry about your last performance? Worry about whether you'll get into your dream school? Worry what people think about you? When we worry like this, we are trying to control our future or past for ourselves. When we do that, we start to lose our grip on God's peace. But God tells us that we don't have to try to make all the things happen on our own because God cares about what we want and need. Remember, Jesus is God's promise that we're never alone. God says that we can hand over all of our worries and cares because God wants to help us carry the load.

What are some worries and cares that you can give to God today?

DAY 5

Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.
Luke 2:14 NLT

*Written by Ashland, age 17
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Christmas can be a time of many emotions: happiness, nostalgia, love, or maybe even a desire to be with your loved ones. No matter what you may feel during the Christmas season, or any other season in your life, there's someone who can bring you eternal and lasting peace. This "someone" is named Jesus. He is the entire purpose behind the great celebration on Christmas day.

Personally, I never appreciated Christmas for its original purpose until I sensed God speak into my heart to look for peace in God, and the gifts that God has given to me. After that moment with God, I began writing down every gift God had given me, whether I had asked for it or not. I wrote down things like my family, friends, and hope for the future. I found that the list was long and extensive, and that's when I realized that I could

have peace in God alone because I can trust God to provide for all of my needs. God sent Jesus to bring us peace on earth. Peace that we could never provide to one another. Peace, or stability, so magnificent, that it lasts forever.

Spend some time this week making a list of the gifts God has given you, and thanking God for those things, as well as the peace we can have in Jesus.