

DAY 6

Above all, keep loving one another deeply, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8 NIV

Scripture tells us to “keep loving one another deeply”. Why would Peter write that? Because Peter knew that when it came to the ways we hurt each other, and the ways we have sinned against each other, love is the only thing that can help us choose to forgive, that can move us past revenge, and that can change our hearts towards the person or people who have hurt us. Love is the only thing powerful enough to do what needs to be done in the relationships where forgiveness is necessary.

Who are some types of people that you find it difficult to love? Now, take this challenge! Ask God to help you love those people and look for opportunities to share love with them this week.

DAY 7

Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13 NLT

The Bible is God’s word. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:35, “Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear”. The word of God isn’t like those social media trends that are popular for a while but then slowly start to disappear. God’s word has been around for thousands of years and it’s still a relevant source of life for us today. This is why it’s important to memorize God’s word.

Turn the scripture into a song, check out some of the cool instrumentals on YouTube to go with your lyrics (scripture)

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

BITTERSWEET / WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive. Luke 17:4 NLT

If someone hurt your feelings once then immediately apologized, what would you do? You’d probably shake it off and let things go, right? But what if that same person continued to hurt your feelings over and over again? If they kept apologizing, but their actions never change, forgiveness would be harder to practice. Yet Jesus commands us to forgive every time someone asks for forgiveness. The thing is, it would be impossible to do if it weren’t for God modeling the way for us. We can practice Jesus’s command by allowing God’s love to flow through us as we forgive others.

Pray that God will give you a heart that stays ready to forgive.

DAY 2

They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. 1 Peter 3:11 NIV

Peace is not something that just happens. In fact, according to Peter in this verse, it’s something we have to pursue. We have to work for it. It doesn’t happen by accident. And there may be no other area where pursuing peace is more difficult than when it comes to forgiveness. Seeking revenge seems like the most natural thing in the world, but Peter encourages us to turn from evil and do good instead, which includes pursuing forgiveness and peace. When you feel yourself traveling in the direction of evil, you must pivot to what is good so that you stay on the journey that leads you to peace.

What are some signs you might be heading in a direction that isn’t leading you to peace?

DAY 3

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God.**

Matthew 5:9 NIV

In the most famous message Jesus gave, He told His listeners that peacemakers would be called children of God. We were all made in God's image, but according to Jesus, it's when we make peace and pursue peace that we are called God's children. Maybe when we practice making peace with ourselves and in the world, we are more like our God than any other time.

Is there a relationship in your life that needs more peace? Make a decision in your heart today to do what you can to be a peacemaker, and child of God in that relationship.

DAY 4

**For everyone has sinned; we
all fall short of God's glorious
standard.**

Romans 3:23 NLT

No matter who we are, we all know what it's like to fall short, or not measure up to a standard we are supposed to meet. In fact, that is exactly what Paul is saying in this letter to the Romans. All of us have sinned. All of us fall short. But Paul doesn't tell us this so we can beat ourselves up. He tells us this to let us know that all of us are starting from the same place. No one is better than anyone else. And the best news about this is that God equally loves each of us. Everyone has sinned, but everyone has received God's love. All have fallen short, and all are offered forgiveness.

When you find yourself falling short, remind yourself that while no one is perfect, God's love is greater than any imperfection.

DAY 5

**The faithful love of the Lord
never ends! His mercies never
cease. Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each
morning.**

Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT

Written by Ella, age 16

From Georgetown, Texas

Fights are never fun. They strain and harm relationships, make everyone involved feel terrible, and cause people to sometimes say things that they never would normally say. The problem is, in the moment, it can just feel so good to shout the words you know will make the person you're angry with feel as bad as you do. But once those words are said, we can never take them back, and the damage is done. It can feel like we will never be forgiven, and that the relationship is damaged beyond repair. And yes, for a time, things may not be the same because of our harsh words. But that's what makes God so good. God is always willing to forgive. God never holds a grudge.

God is overflowing with grace and mercy, and is always willing to give us a fresh start no matter what we have said or done.

Today, spend some time thanking God for mercy, grace, and second chances.