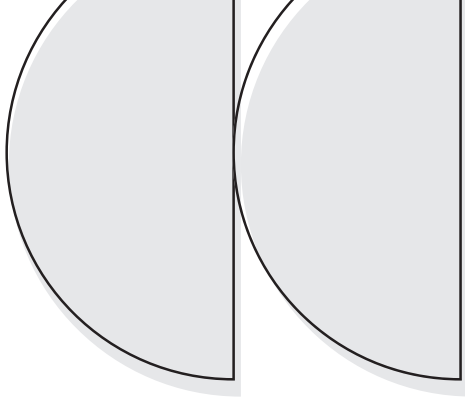


DAY 7

**For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10 NLT**

When we’re not sure what we’re doing or where we’re going in life, we can look to Scripture to remember what’s true. God has a plan for the world. God has a purpose for us. And when we follow God, we can trust that we’re following that plan and purpose, too.

As you work to remember that truth, memorize this verse to help. And to make it fun, get creative! Turn this verse into a song, write it as a poem, journal about it, set motions to it—whatever gets your creativity going to help you commit it to memory this week.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE BIG QUESTIONS / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

**Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.
Colossians 3:23 NLT**

In this verse, Paul, the author of this letter to the Colossians, is encouraging people who follow Jesus to work hard at everything they do. Why? Not so they can get praise and recognition, but so God can! Part of following God means living every part of our lives for God. Work hard as you clean your bathroom, because you’re doing it to honor God. Work hard to study for that test, because you’re doing it for God. Work hard to be kind to your family, because you’re doing it for God. When you do, you’re giving others a small glimpse into what it really looks like to live your life for God.

What is something that you can put some extra effort into today to honor God?

DAY 2

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.
Hebrews 12:1 NLT**

Life can sometimes feel heavy. Like we’re running a race with the heaviest backpack in the world on our shoulders! We’re trying to move forward and keep going, but the weight of the world feels like it’s holding us back. Well, when we follow God, the things that slow us down or keep us from moving ahead don’t have to be carried alone. We can take everything that’s holding us back and hand it to God so that we can keep moving. God gives us the help and endurance we need to keep going, keep running, and keep following.

So, ask yourself: What do you need to take off your shoulders in order to keep running toward God?

DAY 3

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Acts 20:24 NLT

Why am I here? What's my purpose? What am I supposed to be doing with my life? Maybe you've heard people around you ask questions like these. Or maybe you've asked these kinds of questions yourself! They're big questions about the big purpose we all want to discover in this life. Well, the good news is, God gives us the big answers we're looking for. Our main job here on Earth? To love God and tell other people about that love. When we're following God and sharing the things God's done for us, we can be sure we're playing a part in God's purpose for our lives right now.

This week, think about who you want to talk to about God!

DAY 4

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Psalms 37:5 NLT

Have you ever had a friend or family member break your trust? Maybe they shared something you asked them not to, or they weren't honest with you, or they did something that really hurt you. When that happens, it can be hard to ever want to trust again! But the good news is, in God, we find the only One who will never break our trust. When we feel like we're not sure what else to do or who we can trust, we can look to God, knowing that we can trust God with everything in our lives.

To remind yourself of this, memorize this short verse. Let it be the first step you take in trusting God this week.

DAY 5

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 NLT

It's easy to trust God's purpose for our lives when things are going great. But when trouble and struggle come? Well, that's when the big questions about God's purpose come, too. Suddenly, it's difficult to see how God can have a purpose for any of the things we're going through! Rather than give into discouragement in those moments, remember this verse. In it is a truth that will always carry us through hard times: God is working for our good... always! When bad things happen or hard times come, we can know that not only is God still working (though it might really be a mystery to us), but God is with us in it and through it all, too.

To help remind yourself of this, write this verse somewhere you'll see it often this week.

DAY 6

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12 NLT

Written by Matthew, age 15 from Sanford, Florida, USA

When I was in middle school, I believed that God couldn't use me because I was too young or incapable of doing anything important in God's plan. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has felt this way! As I've gotten older, I've realized that a lot of other middle schoolers felt that way, too. When we're young, we might hear that we are too young to make an impact in the world from people like our teachers, parents, or friends. But the good news is that no matter how old we are, or how much experience we have, or even what other people think of us, we are never too young to be part of what God is doing in the world. We can be an example to EVERYONE, no matter how old they are! Each of us has a unique role in God's plan to make the world a better place.

So today, think about this: What's one way you can be part of what God is doing to make the world better right now, with whatever you have?