

# Daily Devotionals

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN

**everyday faith.**

WHAT I REALLY WANT / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart.

PSALM 40:8 NLT

### DAY 1

One of the best tools we have to beat temptation is the Bible. Even Jesus turned to Scripture when He was tempted on Earth to help Him stand strong against it. When we read and even work to memorize verses in the Bible, we're writing God's Word—His instructions for how we choose His best for our lives—on our hearts. And then, when we're struggling or dealing with temptation, it's there ready to help us when we need it.

**Today, spend just five minutes reading your Bible. Maybe even start to memorize this verse. It's a great way to start a habit of learning and memorizing Scripture that will help you know God's best for your life.**

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NLT

### DAY 2

Sometimes doing the right thing is hard. While we all may *want* to do what's right, sometimes we feel like we can't do it on our own. Choosing what's right can feel like a constant struggle, but God hasn't left us to struggle alone. When we're fighting to stay on the right path and make the right choices, we can turn to God to help us. He's at work in you to help you know what's right and find the courage to choose it!

**Is there an area of your life where you're struggling to choose what's right? Write down a prayer about it, asking God to help you know what's right and choose it for yourself.**

<p>He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.</p> <p>PSALM 23:3 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <p>Sometimes doing the right thing is lonely. When everyone else is doing the thing we know isn't right or wise, it isn't easy to be the person who makes a different choice. It's hard to feel like the only one missing out, and when we feel that way, it sometimes makes it seem like doing what's right may not be worth it after all. Remember that God promises to give us strength in those moments. He promises to stay with us when we choose His best. Because of Him, we'll never be alone.</p> <p><b>Talk with your small group leader this week about how you can find God's strength and encouragement to resist temptation—even when it feels like you're the only one.</b></p>
<p>Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.</p> <p>HEBREWS 2:18 NIV</p>	<p><b>DAY 4</b></p> <p>Life can feel pretty messy when we give into temptation. Maybe that's because it comes with feelings of guilt, shame, or regret. Sometimes it leaves us feeling stuck—like there's no way out or no chance to start over. If you've found yourself feeling that way, don't be discouraged. God's forgiveness is available to all of us, and His help and strength is there to give us a chance to start again.</p> <p>One of the best ways we can access that help and strength is through the encouragement of other people. <b>This week, share with your small group about a temptation you're struggling to overcome. Ask for their help and support as you turn to God and choose to start over on the right path.</b></p>
<p>Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.</p> <p>PROVERBS 4:25-26 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 5</b></p> <p>Have you seen those videos of people so into their phones that they don't see what's right in front of them? They usually end up flat on their faces because they weren't looking where they were going! It's what happens when we take our eyes off of where we're headed; we trip or fall. That's why God says to fix our eyes on Him and the path He's given us. When we do, we can know we're moving in the right direction. And even if we trip or fall, He's there to pick us up.</p> <p><b>Take time to go for a walk today. Think about the fact that God knows the best path for you to walk in life. When you choose His path, you're choosing what's best.</b></p>

<p>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.</p> <p>PSALM 119:11 NIV</p>	<p><b>DAY 6</b></p> <p><i>Written by Beatriz, age 16 from Alpharetta, Georgia, USA</i></p> <p>Don't we all secretly want instructions to life? A "how to" when it comes to big decisions, tricky situations, and everyday dilemmas? I think that would make everything a lot easier. Well, lucky for us, God has something pretty similar to instructions for life. It's His Word! The things written in the Bible can help us make the right choice, even when we're tempted to make the wrong ones. And the coolest part is we're able to compile all the advice, encouragement, and guidance God gives us in one safe place: our hearts! Yeah, I know it can be a little weird to think about, but our hearts are what matter most. Our hearts are the most personal and treasured place. So, when we keep God's Word there, it's easy for us to remember and always ready to help us face temptation and make good choices.</p> <p><b>Going forward, remember that if you know what God says in the Bible, it can help you to do the right thing no matter what you might be tempted by!</b></p>
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<p>Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.</p> <p>PSALM 51:10 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 7</b></p> <p>There's nothing better to think about than God's Word! When we're struggling with negative thoughts or our minds are tempted to think about things we know won't lead to God's best, having Scripture memorized can help us focus on what's true, what's right, and what really is God's best for us. So, try to put this verse to memory this week by setting it to music. It may seem silly at first, but sing it to yourself a few times and see if it helps you memorize it in a fun, new way!</p>
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