

Daily Scripture Images & Devotions



WEEK 3

DAY 1:



At first glance, this list can feel a pretty daunting. Very few of us would claim to have all of this fruit visible in our lives, let alone two or three . . . or one! But let's try to look at these virtues from a slightly different perspective. Which of this fruit is most present in your spouse? Which is most present in your kids? Your boss? Your closest friend? Instead of trying to figure out how we can do a better job living out these abstract virtues, just try to think about people who already are practically living out this fruit. What is it about that person that makes them so full of that fruit of the Spirit? If you look for the fruit of the Spirit, there's a good chance you will find them in the people around you. Today, try to find fruit in everyone you encounter. As you notice these virtues in others, you might just find yourself exemplifying this fruit in return.

DAY 2:



This week, we've been talking about what loving God can do in our marriages. This verse is one answer to that question. For those of us who have gone through tough times in our marriages, the problems and conflicts can be exhausting and burdensome. And they can be particularly draining if we try to deal with them all on our own. Thankfully, God invites us to come to Him with our problems and burdens—including those we may be experiencing in our marriages. And the best part is that God is always willing to jump in and help us face difficult moments in our lives and in our marriages, every moment of every day. How would it impact your mindset and your marriage if you brought your marital problems and burdens to God? How might it change the tone of the situation? The next time you're faced with a problem or burden in your marriage, pause and invite God into it.

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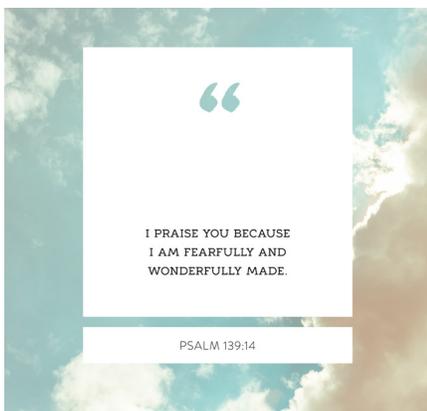
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DAY 3:



When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus responded by quoting this verse. He also added that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Together, these two commandments—love God and love others—define the Christian life. And what’s interesting about these commandments is just how intertwined they are. The more we love God, the more we’ll see His love for the people around us, and the more we’ll feel compelled to love them, too. The more we love others, the more we love God by being vessels of His love to those around us. If you thought following God was about a bunch of rules and guidelines, this verse debunks that. Following God isn’t about rules, it’s about love: loving God and loving others. We may not often think about it in these terms, but when we show love to our spouse, we’re showing love to God, too. What’s one thing you can do to show your spouse love today?

DAY 4:



If you’ve read this verse before, we often think about the way it applies to ourselves, and that’s a good thing. But this verse also applies to the people around us. God carefully created every single person. Another verse in Psalms says He knit us together while we were still in our mother’s wombs. Verses like these hopefully help us see and appreciate ourselves more, despite the blemishes and flaws we think we see in the mirror. By the same token, verses like these should help us appreciate others more, too. Each person we interact with was made uniquely by God. As you interact with people today, keep this verse in the back of your mind. Keep it in mind as you look in the mirror, too. We are all fearfully and wonderfully made.

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DAY 5:



The Old Testament is full of laws and commandments that followers of God were instructed to follow. Reading through them can feel overwhelming and extremely daunting. In fact, it would have been impossible to keep all of the laws. But this verse explains why God created laws and sacrifices: He desired obedient hearts. God didn't ask His people to sacrifice animals because He liked animal fat. Rather, God simply wanted His followers to listen and obey. Why? Because He loved them and wanted what was best for them. The same is true for you and me. While Christians no longer have to live according to the hundreds of laws found in the Old Testament, as we've been talking about all week, Jesus did give us two

commandments: Love God and love others. God gave us these commands because He loves us and wants what's best for us. God wants us to have better friendships, better marriages, and a better relationship with Him. And all of that stems from and starts with one thing: love.