

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

It's Personal / Week 5

"For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17 NLT

DAY 1

Have you ever had a friend who made you feel completely and totally free to be yourself? Someone you know loves you just the way you are? There's something special about friendships that allow you to be completely and totally you, right? Well, the good news is that the Bible promises that God is one of those friendships. In relationship with Him, you are free to be who you are just exactly as you are. That's a freedom worth celebrating! Who is the person in your life who makes you feel free to be you? Reach out and thank them for that this week. And then, thank God that He does the same.

"And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:18 NLT

DAY 2

There's nothing worse than being in an argument with somebody you care about. The tension, the frustration, the hurt—it can be overwhelming! And it can leave us wondering if things will ever change. Here, James provides us encouragement that there is potential for more in moments like that. We can be peacemakers. Can we do it on our own? Of course not! But when we're walking personally with Jesus, He works in and through us to make peace personal and possible to us. This week, pray for the person you may be fighting with now. As you pray, ask God to teach you how to make peace in that difficult relationship or situation.

"Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love makes up for all offenses."

Proverbs 10:12 NLT

DAY 3

It's so easy to stay focused on things that frustrate us—the fights, the hate, the disappointments, the anger. Here, the writer of this Proverb reminds us that love has the power to change things. That person you're frustrated with? Love can change them. The anger you feel? Love can change that. The difficult stuff you're walking through? Love can help with that. When we're following Jesus in a close, personal relationship with Him, we have access to the kind of love that has the power and potential to change anything and anyone. Write the word "LOVE" where you can see it often this week. Let it remind you of the way Jesus' love has the power to change things in your life.

<p><i>“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”</i></p> <p>2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Do you ever feel like you just can't get it right? Like no matter what you do or how hard you try, you just keep making the same mistakes? Like there is just no way you can change? We've all been there! But the good news is, God knew we would struggle. And that's why He sent Jesus! Because of Jesus, we can be made right with God no matter what we do. Because of Jesus, there is always potential for a fresh start. What area of your life do you feel like is keeping you from getting it "right" with God? Pray today that He would show you that because of Jesus, you are never separated from Him. He can lead you toward change!</p>
<p><i>“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”</i></p> <p>Philippians 2:13 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Sometimes, doing the right thing is hard. Taking responsibility for a mistake, admitting we're wrong, or even telling the truth can be difficult. When you find yourself faced with trying to right a wrong or fix a mistake, remember you aren't doing it alone. When we're walking in relationship with God, He helps give us the courage to do what's right. And not just that, He changes our hearts so that we <i>want</i> to choose what's right. Where do you need to take a step toward righting a wrong? Talk to a parent, friend, or trusted adult in your life about it. Ask them to encourage you to the right thing and remind you that God is there to help you do it.</p>
<p><i>“For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.”</i></p> <p>Colossians 1:13 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>What does it feel like to be rescued? Maybe you've never found yourself in a situation where you've needed to be saved or rescued, but you can probably imagine it. When you're struggling, afraid, worried, or overwhelmed, you wish somebody would help you. You want help to get through it, to survive, to make it to the other side. You want to be rescued. As this verse in Colossians reminds us, God is our rescuer. When we were lost in the darkness, God sent Jesus to save us and bring us back to light and life. That means that no matter what you're dealing with or facing, Jesus is your helper, your Savior, your rescuer. Write down what it means for you to be rescued by God.</p>
<p><i>“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”</i></p> <p>Luke 19:10 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>As followers of Jesus, memorizing God's Word is an important part of our lives. It is a chance to stay close to Him—to keep His words, His guidance, and His leading up close and personal to us. So finish up this week by memorizing this verse. Handwrite it as many times as you can! Each time you write it, try to write more and more by memory. Your goal? To write the entire verse from memory alone by the end of the exercise.</p>