

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

It's Personal / Week 1

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and **called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said.** "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

LUKE 19:5 NLT

DAY 1

What's so special about a name? Names distinguish us from other people and quickly become part of our identity. Even infants and pets recognize their names and will turn towards the voice that calls them. Think about how you feel when someone forgets your name or says it incorrectly. That might make you cringe inside a little, but when someone remembers your name or works hard to pronounce it correctly, that makes us feel great!

How can you be intentional about using people's names this week? Maybe instead of a quick, "Love you," try saying, "Mom, I love you." If you go to Starbucks or a fast food joint, look for a name tag and say hello to the teller at the register or drive-through, and say thank you using their name.

Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. **So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.**

LUKE 5:27-28 NLT

DAY 2

When Jesus asked a tax collector named Levi to follow Him, He knew He was inviting someone with a bad reputation to be a part of His crew. At that time, tax collectors were considered to be traitors for working for the Roman government, and cheaters for charging extra money and keeping it for themselves. Jesus knew his reputation and background, but He asked him to join Him anyway.

Levi's response was to leave everything, including his old way of life, to follow Jesus. **What's one thing in your life that you need to leave behind to follow Jesus better?** Because telling someone makes us more accountable, tell a trusted friend or leader your one thing today.

"I am the good shepherd; **I know my own sheep,** and they know me,

JOHN 10:14 NLT

DAY 3

Have you ever wondered if God really knows YOU among the seven billion people on earth? What about the billions of people who have lived on earth before us? It's easy to feel lost in the sea of people, but Jesus says He knows each person like a shepherd knows each one of his sheep.

Look up and read The Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:1-7. Whether you feel like part of the 99 or you feel like the 1, God knows you and wants you to be with Him. How does it make you feel to know that God knows you specifically? Is there something that's stopping you from believing that fully?

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such **perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.**

JOHN 17: 22-23 NLT

DAY 4

Have you thought about what you would do if you knew you only had 24 hours left to live? It's kind of a weird thing to think about, but it definitely gives some perspective on what's important to you! Right before Jesus was arrested and crucified (which He knew was coming), He spent time praying for Himself, for His disciples, and for all future believers, which includes you today.

Even in His last hours, Jesus prioritized and prayed for perfect unity for all the believers so that the world will believe in God! **Spend some time praying right now for the perfect unity of believers.** You can echo Jesus' prayer or pray for specific things in your youth group, church, or the world.

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So **we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

1 JOHN 3:16 NLT

DAY 5

Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life for us, and in turn, we are supposed to give up our lives for others. What does that even mean? Are we literally supposed to die for someone? Jesus doesn't mean physically die, but he does talk about denying yourself, which means to put others first.

That's easier said than done, so where do we even begin? **Think about the most selfless person you know.** Is it your grandma or someone who serves behind the scenes at church? Is it your small group leader or a selfless single parent? **Ask what it means for them to be selfless, and what's one thing you can do to work towards that?**

And the very **hairs of your head are all numbered.**

MATTHEW 10:30 NIV

DAY 6

When you were a kid, did anyone ever try to trick you into counting all the hairs on your head? It's basically impossible, and we shed so many hairs each day, so what's the point of even trying? But even though the number of hairs on your head changes at any given moment, the Bible says that God knows even that detail about your life.

If He knows how many hairs are on your head, what else do you think God knows about you? Take a minute today to look in the mirror and just look at yourself. It might feel awkward, but **shake out your hair and thank God for caring about the details of your life.**

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

LUKE 19:10 NLT

DAY 7

Here are three ways to memorize this verse:

1. Screenshot the verse and use it as your phone lock screen so you can see it every time you look at your phone. Be intentional about reading the verse out loud before you unlock your phone.
2. Write the verse down 10 times with a pen and paper or type it on your phone. For the 10th time, flip the paper over or open a new note, and see if you can write it from memory.
3. Use hand motions to describe or act out words and phrases in the verse. Using physical movements utilizes a different part of the brain, which can help us to remember things faster.