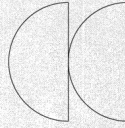




Daily Devotionals



FOR AN
everyday faith.



WHAT I REALLY WANT / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 JOHN 1:9 NLT

DAY 1

How would you describe the feeling that comes from doing something wrong? It's not a good feeling, is it? Well, the good news is that no matter how much guilt, or regret, or shame we feel from our mistakes, God promises that He is willing to forgive us. His forgiveness is so powerful that it can even change the way we feel after we mess up! And all we have to do to receive that forgiveness is to confess. When we admit our mistakes and mess ups to God, the only thing He'll offer us in return is His love and forgiveness.

So, give it a try! **Take time to tell God about your mistakes. Ask for His forgiveness and receive His love today.**

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

MATTHEW 26:41 NLT

DAY 2

When you're playing a game, it's important to keep your eyes on what your opponent is doing. If you're paying attention to how the other team is playing, you're ready for what they're going to try to do to defeat you. The same is true with temptation. When we keep our eyes open for things that might tempt us away from God's best, we're less likely to be surprised by them when they show up. Instead, we can be prepared and ready to resist temptation when it comes our way.

Ask a close friend or small group leader about how to look out for temptation in your life. Ask them to help you see it and encourage you to choose God's best for your life when you face it.

<p>The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.</p> <p>PSALM 28:7 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 3</p> <p>If you've ever seen the old school armor of a soldier, you know that a shield was a very important piece of the outfit. It helped guard the soldier from oncoming attacks and could even serve as a weapon in battle. This verse tells us that this is the kind of defense that God is for us when we battle temptation. God gives us the strength we need to turn away from temptation and toward His best for our lives. He uses things like His word, His love, and even other people in our lives to protect us from temptation.</p> <p>Draw a picture of a shield. Put it somewhere you can see it often to remind you of the strength and protection God gives us when we're faced with temptation.</p>
<p>You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.</p> <p>ISAIAH 26:3-4 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Have you ever thought about what it really means to have peace? In Hebrew, the word for peace is "shalom." It basically means to be complete or whole. Nothing is missing, and nothing is broken. If we want to truly have peace, then we have to believe that nothing is missing from our lives. God has given us all we need, and because of that, we don't have to be tempted to believe anything else. Instead, we can have peace.</p> <p>What's the most peaceful place you can think of? Maybe it's a spot in your home or somewhere outside. If you can, go there to spend time with God. Think about the peace He promises to give us when we trust that He is all we need.</p>
<p>Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.</p> <p>PSALM 25:4 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>It can be difficult to know which direction to go in life sometimes. Maybe we're totally lost as to what we should do or maybe we're even tempted to go in a direction we know is wrong! One of the ways God helps us find the right path is by placing wise people in our lives.</p> <p>Think about an adult you trust. Maybe it's a parent, teacher, leader from church, or even an older sibling. Ask that person if you can take a few minutes to talk through some of the decisions you have on your plate right now. Talk to them about how you can make the best choices and determine the right path for your life in those areas.</p>

<p>Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.</p> <p>JAMES 1:2 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p><i>Written by Taylor, age 11 from Rochester, New York, USA</i></p> <p>What is a trial really? A trial is a difficult obstacle in your life that you have to overcome. For example, you may have been bullied some time in your life. If you've been bullied, you probably felt lonely or sad. And when that happened, you might've even thought, "How is there anything joyful here?" In moments like that, you can remember that God is always with you. This verse is talking about the pure joy in your trials. Maybe your trial is feeling lonely. Pure joy can be remembering that God is right there next to you. Or if you're getting bullied, pure joy can be realizing that you have more strength than you thought. Finding the pure joy in things can be very difficult.</p> <p>Next time you go through a trial of some sort, remember you can always talk to God, family, friends, a small group leader, or someone you trust for help.</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>DAY 7</p> <p>One of the best tools we have for overcoming temptation is Scripture. The Bible gives us what we need to see temptation and resist it in our lives. But we can't do that easily if we don't know what the Bible says! So this week, work on memorizing this verse to help you know some of God's Word. Start by talking to your small group leader about what this verse means. Sometimes understanding the point of the verse and what it means for you can help you with remembering what the verse actually says!</p>
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