

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Big Picture

## WEEK 3

WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE, DO THE NEXT RIGHT THING.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

ROMANS 12:21 NIV

### DAY 1

Sometimes life is hard. We find ourselves in difficult circumstances where things just feel wrong, and we don't know what to do next. The big picture couldn't be more unclear. In those moments, we often want to give up or give in. But this verse reminds us that we have another option: We can fight back with good. When we aren't sure what the next right thing to do is, we can always know that when we choose to do what's good, we'll be choosing the next right step. Are you facing a difficult circumstance right now? Make a list of what you believe are the good things you can do to help you get through it.

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

JOHN 14:23 NIV

### DAY 2

When we find ourselves in confusing or difficult circumstances, we often wonder what to do next. Here, Jesus is giving the answer: Obey His teaching. He didn't leave us to figure out our difficult circumstances or confusing times alone. He left us with His Word to guide us, encourage us, and help us know what to do. So, as you find yourself wondering what to do in confusing or hard moments, go back to Jesus' teaching. Dive into His Word and look for help. Talk to your Small Group Leader or a trusted adult in your life about how you can start reading the Bible and studying Jesus' teaching to help you understand more of the bigger picture that is God's plan for your life.

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“And as for you, brothers and sisters,  
never tire of doing what is good.”

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13 NIV

### DAY 3

Doing the right thing isn't always easy. It isn't always clear. It isn't always fun. And it definitely isn't something we always want to do. Sometimes doing the right thing feels like more work than staying the course we're already on. But remember that just because the right thing may feel like the harder choice at times, that doesn't mean it is. There is always a bigger picture—a future outcome we can't see. So, even when doing the right thing is difficult in the moment, when we choose what is good, again, and again, and again, we can rest assured that we're walking the path that is best for our lives. To help remind you of that, try to memorize this verse this week.

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“You know what has happened  
throughout the province of Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached— how God  
anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the  
Holy Spirit and power, and how he  
went around doing good and healing  
all who were under the power of the  
devil, because God was with him.”

ACTS 10:37-38 NIV

### DAY 4

Think about what you know about Jesus. Whether you think you know a lot about Jesus or not much at all, you probably know this: His life was about doing what was good. Jesus always chose to do what was good. Why? Because, as this verse tells us, God was with Him. And the same is true for us! God is with us, encouraging us toward what is good every step of the way. When we can't see the bigger picture around us, we can still take steps toward doing what is good, just like Jesus did! Pray this week that God will help you focus on doing what is good, step by step and day by day.

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“To do what is right and just is more  
acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”

PROVERBS 21:3

### DAY 5

Want to know what do in any circumstance you might face? Times where you know what's coming and times where you don't. Times when you can see how things will turn out and times when you can't. Times when things are going great and times when they aren't. In any and all circumstances, this Proverb gives us the answer: Do what is right. When we focus on doing the next right thing, we can trust that we're doing what is good in God's eyes. What circumstances are you facing right now? Whatever it is, pray that God would help you know the next right thing to do.

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