

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Popular

WEEK 3

JESUS DOESN'T ALLOW OUR MISTAKES TO BE THE END OF OUR STORY.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16 NIV

DAY 1

One of the best ways we can use our influence for the good of others is to lead by example. What a leader does, people tend to follow. And believe it or not, you are a leader! Maybe your influence reaches just one person, like a younger sibling or a best friend. Or maybe your reach is bigger, like to your whole Small Group or your entire team. No matter who you're leading, you have the opportunity to influence them toward good things simply by living out those good things in your life. That's how you set an example and let your light shine. Think about the example you want to set for others, and take one step toward being that good influence this week.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

DAY 2

We all sin. We all make mistakes. We all mess up. And when we do, we often worry that we'll never come back from it. We'll never get it right again. We'll never have the influence we once had. The good news is, because of Jesus, we have the potential to be so much more than just our sins and mistakes. When we confess our sins to God, He forgives us. And not only that, He purifies us. In other words, He'll make us new, wiping out what caused us to mess up and giving us a chance to start fresh again. Is there a sin in your life that's holding you back? Confess it to God, believing that when you do, all is forgiven and made new.

“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

JAMES 5:16 NIV

DAY 3

We all make choices that threaten our potential to influence others for good. Sometimes those choices are things everyone sees and knows about. And other times, those choices are done in secret. Either way, one of the best things we can do to move forward from our mistakes and regain some of our influence is to confess to others. Sharing our mistakes with people we trust—people who will encourage us, pray for us, and point us back toward what is good—is not only a step that will grow our faith, but it will grow our influence as well. Is there a sin or struggle you need to talk to someone about? This week, share that with a trusted friend or Small Group Leader.

“For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”

1 JOHN 3:11 NIV

DAY 4

Love one another. This seems like a pretty simple command, doesn't it? In theory, loving others is certainly an easy thing to do. But in real life? Well, it's not always so easy! When people hurt or wrong us? Well, then loving one another becomes a lot more difficult. The good news is that we aren't asked to figure this out on our own. God can work in us to help us love others. And when we make the simple effort to show love to everyone—even those who are the hardest to love—we're showing a little bit of who God is to the world around us. Write this verse down somewhere you can see it this week as a reminder to use your influence to love those around you.

“As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.”

PROVERBS 27:19 NIV

DAY 5

Look in the mirror. Think about the reflection you see looking back at you. Some of us probably love some of the things we see reflected, while others of us struggle to see ourselves the way God sees us. This Proverb reminds us that what God really sees in us is what's in our hearts. And what's in our hearts is what we're reflecting back to the world. When we have things like love, and goodness, and kindness in our hearts, that's what we reflect back to the world. That's what others see about who we are, and it's what God wants us to see about ourselves, too! Today, ask a trusted friend or Small Group Leader to tell you some of the things they see reflected in your heart.
