

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The YOU Effect

WEEK 1

YOU HAVE MORE OF AN EFFECT THAN YOU THINK.

Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

PROVERBS 9:9, NIV

DAY 1

Want to know the first step to wisdom? Realizing that you don't actually know everything! But that's actually good news, because none of us do. And once we realize our need for wisdom, we can be more intentional about seeking it out. So, where do we go to find it?

To start, we can look to Scripture. We can also find wisdom through prayer or even music. But God also makes wisdom available in the wise people around us to point us in the right direction when it comes to decision-making in our lives. **This week, do what you can to seek out God's wisdom. Talk to a Small Group Leader or trusted adult about some of the ways you can pursue God's wisdom for your life.**

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but **set an example** for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

DAY 2

These days, it doesn't seem like age can stop you from doing big things. There are teenage superstars, entrepreneurs, inventors, and more! And with all this opportunity for teenagers, it's hard to imagine being looked down on because you are young. But sometimes the worst enemy to our own influence can be ourselves. Sometimes the reason we feel looked down upon, counted out, or simply not good enough to do big things is because we don't believe we are good enough. And if we don't believe it, we sell ourselves short.

Don't limit your potential. Instead, believe that who you are, just as you are—the person God created you to be—is everything you need to be in order to do big things! **This week, pray that God would help you see yourself the way He sees you, and open your eyes to the potential you have to influence the world around you.**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility **value others above yourself.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3, NIV

DAY 3

It's so easy to put ourselves first, isn't it? We all tend to think about our needs, our wants, our hopes, our lives before we think of anyone else's. It's natural. But in this letter to the Philippians, Paul reminds us that one of the best ways we can love others and demonstrate what following Jesus looks like is with an others-first mentality.

When we embrace humility and value others before ourselves—when we consider the thoughts, feelings, and needs of others ahead of our own—we're setting ourselves apart as followers of Jesus. And when we do, people will notice! **This week, look for an opportunity to practice humility by putting someone else first. Let it be an example to others of how the love of Jesus helps you value others ahead of yourself.**

For, "whoever would love life and see good days must **keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.**

1 PETER 3:10, NIV

DAY 4

Have you ever heard the saying: "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all"? It's a good rule for life when it comes to how we talk to others. Choosing to remain silent can save someone else from the pain our words might have caused. But learning to stay quiet when our words are full of unkindness does more than just keep someone else from getting hurt.

The reality is, choosing our words wisely helps us, the one speaking them just as much, if not more, than it does those who receive them. That's what this proverb is saying. If we want to see goodness and love in our lives, one of the things we can learn to do is avoid deceitful, evil, and harsh words. When we do that, we'll see the benefit not just in our relationships, but in our own hearts. **To help you remember to choose your words wisely, try to memorize this verse this week.**

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become **great among you must be your servant.**

MATTHEW 20:26, NIV

DAY 5

How do you define greatness? We usually don't equate being great with being a servant, but that's exactly what Jesus is doing here. According to Jesus, being great has nothing to do with being the smartest, most athletic, or most popular. Instead, He gives us all a pretty simple formula for greatness: serving others. If anyone wants to be a leader or someone of great influence, they have to learn how to not make themselves the point.

In other words, being great is learning to make others look great. **Today, make a list of some ways that you can serve others around you.** Take one step to pursue one of those opportunities and serve someone else this week. As you do, remind yourself of Jesus' words: Your greatness grows alongside your willingness to serve.