

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The YOU Effect

WEEK 2

HAVING A BIG EFFECT STARTS WITH A SMALL STEP.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

LUKE 16:10, NIV

DAY 1

Nobody wishes for an average or purposeless life. We want our lives to matter and make a difference, whatever that means for us. The good news is we all have the one thing we need to live a life that does just that: influence. Whether it's with your friends, your family, your team, or your Small Group, you have some ability to influence the people around you.

The best part is, you don't have to wait to start using it. Right here, right now, you have the ability to start using your influence for good. **This week, look for opportunities to use your influence for the benefit of others.** If you're not sure where to start, talk to someone influential in your own life like your Small Group Leader! Ask for their help in recognizing the influence you have and finding ways to use it for good.

“Those who know your name trust in you.”

PSALM 9:10A, NIV

DAY 2

Believing we have influence to change some part of the world around us for the better is nice. But if we're honest, we'd all probably say that it's a lot easier to say we have influence than to live like we do. Sometimes actually trying to exercise our influence can be discouraging, because it doesn't feel like we're making much of a difference at all. We don't see the change we want happen or the impact we hoped for, and as a result, we wonder if we really have what it takes to influence anyone, for better or for worse. That's when it's important to remember that our only responsibility is to use what we have when we can.

We aren't in charge of the outcome, God is. And any work we're doing for His name and His good won't be wasted. **Memorize this short verse from the Psalms today. Repeat it to yourself the next time you wonder if God can use your life and your influence.** Let it be a reminder to trust Him.

“His master replied,
‘Well done, good and
faithful servant! **You
have been faithful
with a few things; I
will put you in charge
of many things.**
Come and share your
master’s happiness!’”

MATTHEW 25:21, NIV

DAY 3

Small things can make a big difference. One small spark can start a bonfire. One tiny paper cut can leave us in agony. One jump shot at the end of a game can change the outcome. And one small act for the good of others can cause a big impact. Often, we believe we can’t make a difference because we think we have to do it in a big way.

But making a difference isn’t about doing something big. Making a difference is about being consistent in the small things. Don’t waste opportunities for influence by discounting them as not big enough. Instead, **look for ways to be a difference-maker any way you can.** Whether that’s in one friendship, or using that one gift, or speaking that one truth. What might seem small in your hands has the potential to be big in God’s hands.

**Be very careful, then,
how you live—not as
unwise but as wise,
making the most of
every opportunity,
because the days are
evil.**

EPHESIANS 5:15-16, NIV

DAY 4

As followers of Jesus, we carry a responsibility. People are watching the way we live our lives and making assumptions about who Jesus is based on the way we carry ourselves. In our words, actions, behaviors, choices—we represent Jesus in everything we do and say. That’s a lot of influence—and a lot of pressure!

That’s why the message from Paul in this verse matters so much. Our influence is too valuable to allow it to be destroyed or damaged by unwise decisions made carelessly. Of course, we’re all going to make mistakes along the way, but when we’re paying more careful attention to our words and actions as we go, the chances of damaging our influence shrink. **Who can you invite in to help you pay attention and make wise choices? Talk to a friend or trusted adult and ask for their accountability to help you live as a follower of Jesus.**

**For the entire law is
fulfilled in keeping
this one command:
“Love your neighbor
as yourself.”**

GALATIANS 5:14, NIV

DAY 5

Overcomplicating life is easy to do. In fact, some of us have a Starbucks order more complex than the assembly of an iPhone! Faith is another one of those things we tend to overcomplicate. We think following Jesus is about doing a million things right, or following a ton of rules, or praying the exact right prayer. But the reality is, it’s much simpler than all of that. The easiest way to live out our faith and leverage our influence is to love others. It’s that simple.

Want to be influential? Then ask yourself: What does love look like? Love might look like using Instagram to encourage someone, including someone in your friend group that is usually excluded, or serving your parents by helping out at home. **Pray that God would show you ways to love others this week. As you do, ask Him to remind you that this simple act—love—is what your faith is all about.**