

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

It's Personal / Week 2

*"By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen."*

Hebrews 11:3 NLT

## DAY 1

Everything around you was made by someone from something. From works of art (like "Starry Night" by Van Gogh), to technology (like smartphones), to inventions (like your family's car), everything was created by someone using materials that already existed. But the universe? Our world? God formed it just by speaking it into being. He made it from nothing. In other words, God is the source of everything in the universe. That makes Him pretty amazing and powerful! Knowing that this same God who created the universe created, loves, and cares for you? Well that's pretty cool! Reach out to a trusted friend (like your Small Group Leader!) to talk about how you can put your faith in the God who created and wants to know you.

*"Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe."*

Hebrews 12:28 NLT

## DAY 2

Have you ever felt out of control? Anxious? Afraid? Worried about what might happen next? Life can feel a lot like being in the middle of a crazy storm sometimes. But the good news is, God's Kingdom and character are the exact opposite. He is steady and unchanging no matter what. And He's in control of your life, even when it doesn't feel like it! That is something you can be thankful for—something you can hold onto when life feels like a storm. Is there something in your life causing you to worry? Something that's bringing out anxiety? Today, share it with God, thanking Him for loving you enough to care about what you're feeling and being steady enough to count on in the midst of it.

*"So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."*

2 Corinthians 4:18 NLT

## DAY 3

How do we "fix our gaze" (keep our eyes) on something we can't see? It's much easier to see the difficult things in our lives because they're right in front of us. We notice when someone is mistreated. We feel the pain when we're left out. We hear when our parents argue. But God wants us to know that though they're real, all of these difficulties are temporary. They won't last forever. What does last forever? His love. When we struggle with what we're going through, we can fix our eyes on the faith we have in the God who knows and loves us in a real, personal way. Take time to journal about God's love for you. Brainstorm how you can practice fixing your eyes on Him.

<p><i>“Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.”</i></p> <p>Ephesians 1:4 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 4</b></p> <p>It feels amazing to be chosen, doesn't it? When your name gets called choosing teams in gym class. Or when you get invited to the biggest party of the year. Or when you've been included in a group text. Things like that make you feel noticed, valued, and accepted. As good as it feels to be chosen by others, it's even more amazing to read that God chose you long before you were born! Even before He created the world, He chose you. He wanted to know you and have a relationship with you. That's incredible, right? Find time today to get alone and quiet. As you do, talk to God simply because you can. Thank Him for choosing you, loving you, and wanting to know you personally.</p>
<p><i>“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”</i></p> <p>Romans 8:28 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 5</b></p> <p>If what the author of this verse is telling us is true, then good things can come out of the difficult things we experience in our lives as well. Things like disagreements with family members or friends, sicknesses and injuries, or surprising bad news may be difficult to face. But we can face them knowing the truth in this verse. God has the power to work those things for our good because He has a purpose and a plan for us that we can't always see. Is there a difficult circumstance you're facing right now? Something you're struggling with? Memorize this verse this week to help remind you that God is always working for your good. That is something you can focus on no matter what you're facing.</p>
<p><i>“But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.”</i></p> <p>1 John 4:4 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 6</b></p> <p>Do you have a favorite outfit? You know, the one that makes you feel like everything is going to work out perfectly when you put it on? That outfit is a major boost of confidence! For those of us who follow Jesus, we have something inside of us that can give us even more confidence than our favorite shirt-jeans-shoes combo. It's the Holy Spirit. He's bigger and stronger than anything we could possibly face in our lives. And God gave it to us so that He could be with us always. The next time you face a challenge, remember you have everything you need inside of you to overcome it! Take time today to talk to God and thank Him for filling you with His Spirit to help you.</p>
<p><i>“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”</i></p> <p>Luke 19:10 NLT</p>	<p><b>DAY 7</b></p> <p>Memorizing truths about God and His character can help us fight against the lies we tell ourselves about both Him and ourselves. When we find ourselves tempted to believe something that isn't true, we have Scripture in our minds to remind us of what's true. Today, work to memorize this verse. Try texting it to a friend and ask them to help you! Text them each day, trying to write more of the verse by memory each time you do.</p>