

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

It's Personal / Week 3

Rather, you must **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

All glory to him,
both now and forever! Amen.

2 PETER 3:18 NLT

DAY 1

Have you ever planted seeds in a garden, watered them, and watched them grow? First, the little green stem pops out of the ground, then some leaves develop, and finally, the plant starts to flower and develop fruit.

Sometimes it can be a long process of delayed gratification, especially if you're waiting to eat the delicious "fruit of your labor"! But the growth we see in nature is a reflection of personal and spiritual growth, which we can't necessarily see with our eyes. **Think about someone whose faith you respect. Set up a time to talk to them and ask them how they've grown in their faith over the years.**

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. **We have received all of this by coming to know him**, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

2 PETER 1:3 NLT

DAY 2

How would you describe a godly life? Think of characteristics or qualities that someone would have who acts, thinks, and lives like God would. Now, how does your life match up to this? No judgement, but it's helpful to evaluate ourselves every once in a while, just to see how we're doing!

The Bible says that God has given us everything we need to live a godly life. If you believe that, what's one thing on your list that you'd like to work on? **What's a first step that you can do today? Spend time talking to God and ask Him to help you be more like Him in that area.**

"I love all who love me. **Those who search will surely find me.**"

PROVERBS 8:17 NLT

DAY 3

Have you ever lost something that's important to you? Maybe you misplaced your phone or an important piece of information or a favorite token. You probably searched high and low and got very creative until you found it! You may have even recruited other people to help you search.

Throughout Scripture, God promises to be found by those who search for Him. What if we took that same zeal and focus that we had when looking for our lost item, and applied that to searching for God? How would our faith look if we searched for God in new and creative ways, and recruited others to help us? **This week, choose one new way that you can focus on seeking God and recruit a friend to try it with you!**

<p>Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.</p> <p>ROMANS 13:10 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>The word "love" is so overused in today's vernacular. We can love ice cream, love our phone, love our friends, and love God. Each of those statements may be true, but each of those versions of love are slightly different. Now, try to define the word "love". It's challenging when we use the word so broadly, and apply it to such a variety of affections.</p> <p>Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Think about how love is defined here. If you apply this to the way you love people (not ice cream or your phone), does this passage describe you? What's one characteristic of love that you can grow in that would help you love others better?</p>
<p>But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.</p> <p>JOHN 1:12 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>When you make the choice to believe and follow God, He welcomes you into His family, and you become one of God's children. If you grew up with both parents, being part of a family is something easily taken for granted, but if you grew up in a split home or without parents, being a part of a family unit is a coveted experience.</p> <p>Pause and think about what family means to you. Is it the feeling of safety and security? Maybe comfort or familiarity? Maybe it's just community and knowing you're not alone. Now, think about what it means to be welcomed into God's family as His child. Before you continue, take a moment to pray and thank God for the opportunity to be a part of His family.</p>
<p>The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought life to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.</p> <p>JOHN 1:4-5 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Think about a dark room. Now, in your mind, imagine a light bulb turning on in the middle of the room...can you see it? When light shines, it always overcomes darkness! Jesus says that He is the light of the world (John 9:5) and actually calls us the light of the world too (Matthew 5:14). How is your life shining light in this dark world?</p> <p>This week, choose a day to wake up early and watch the sunrise. Notice how the sky lightens and the light trickles over the shadows as the sun rises in the sky. Fairly quickly, everything that was dark is suddenly light. Use that analogy to picture your own life as a beacon of hope and light to the world around you!</p>
<p>"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."</p> <p>LUKE 19:10 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Write this verse on your bathroom mirror so you see it every day while you get ready for the day and ready for bed. Say it out loud as you look at yourself in the mirror!</p>