

DAY 6

PSALM 27:1 NLT

Have you ever tried something new that totally freaked you out? Something that pushed you outside your comfort zone? Something you thought you might not be good at? Something that really and truly scared you? If you have, then you likely know how much better that is when you're not in it alone. When you have the support of a friend with you, the things that feel scary somehow have a way of becoming less so. We know this not just because we've experienced it with friends but because God does this for us, too. When we go into our scariest, darkest moments in life, we go with God's light to remind us we're not alone. And what's more, as Christians, we can offer that gift to those in need around us.

We can step into the spaces and places that desperately need the light of Jesus. We can help illuminate what feels scary, frightening, or lonely for someone else. How? By sharing the light of Jesus in us.

DAY 7

MATTHEW 5:16 NLT

God's light in us is not just for us. Sure, it benefits us. In fact, it changes everything about us! When the light of Jesus lives in us, we become new people in a totally new way. But with that, it's our call to shine that light into the lives of others. We do not keep the hope we find in Jesus to ourselves, but rather, live in a way that shares that hope with the people around us.

To do that this week, share this verse with someone else in your life. It can be as simple as posting it on Instagram, sending a Snap, writing it in a note, or putting it in an encouraging text. However you choose to share it, be sure to encourage the person on the other end to see the light of Jesus in their own life this week.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE HILLS / WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

MATTHEW 6:22-23 NLT

What's the worst cold you've ever had? Maybe it started small, like a little headache, a sore throat that comes and goes, a low-grade fever, or just the feeling of being run down and worn out. You might've even tried to ignore it. But eventually, it hit you like a ton of bricks. Well, Jesus' words remind us that our spiritual selves can experience a similar struggle. When we're looking through the lens of His light, our bodies are filled with that light. Then, we function at our best. But when we let darkness cloud our vision, eventually, it impacts our daily lives. We struggle to think clearly, make wise decisions, and see things for what they are. That's why clinging to the light is so incredibly important. Because of Jesus, it's what keeps us healthy and whole on the inside—at the core of who we are.

Where do you notice light or helpful rhythms and practices in your life? Can you identify anything that is not helpful? This week, pray that you'll let the light of Jesus flood your whole being.

DAY 2

GALATIANS 6:9-10 NLT

Think about the last time someone did something incredibly kind for you. Maybe a friend showed up when you really needed them, or your parent helped you study for that test you needed to pass, or someone in your Small Group encouraged you with a text. How did it impact you? Oftentimes, acts of kindness like these make you feel seen, cared for, and valued. Well, have you ever considered that you can make someone else feel the same way? When you choose to do good for someone else, you're not just impacting their lives in the short term (though that's awesome!). As Christians, the good things we do are more than just that. They're acts of love designed to shine the light of Christ into the life of someone else, not for our own sake but for the sake of Christ. When we let others see God at work through us, it helps them see Him at work in their own lives, too.

This week, think about kind things you've seen others do that you could do too. Then, make an effort to act on it. Shine a little light on someone else this week.

DAY 3

PSALM 119:105 NLT

Attempting to navigate a dark space without guidance isn't easy. Whether it's your messy bedroom before you turn the lights on, a windy road at night with little more than your headlights to show you the way, or running through dark woods like a scene out of a horror movie, you know the value of light. You may not have realized it while you had it, but once the light was gone, you recognized how much help it gave you to go forward with clarity and confidence. This is how God's light works in our lives. It shows us the best way forward for our lives. It guides our steps and gives us the wisdom to redirect when we get lost or go off course. It helps us see God's best for our lives in any season or circumstance.

Is there a situation you're in right now where you could use a little light to show you the way forward? Pray that you will see God's light at work in your life, illuminating the best direction for you to go.

DAY 4

JOHN 8:12 NLT

Before Jesus came to Earth, the people were living in a state of figurative darkness. In fact, they had been for a long time. For thousands of years, they waited for a savior. Hard times came, and they waited. Challenges came, and they waited. Loved ones passed, and they waited. Struggles persisted, and they waited. Until finally, the light came again. Not just any light but the light they were waiting for. The light of the world. The light was most definitely worth the wait. As followers of Jesus today, we live on the other side of this light. We don't have to know a life lived waiting on its arrival. Instead, we can embrace it now and let it lead us toward God's best for us, both today and in the future.

This week, take time to read a little more about Jesus' arrival to the world and His ministry on Earth, which is recorded in the book of John. As you do, consider the ways you see Jesus' light and life-changing things for the people who lived then and for you still today.

DAY 5

MATTHEW 5:16 NLT

*Written by Matthew, age 20,
from Sanford, Florida, USA*

It can be so hard to shine your light in high school. Your friends and peers may want you to listen to a certain type of music, watch something inappropriate, or use some type of substance, whether that be drugs or alcohol. It can be hard to shine your light while you're in the middle of that. You may think, Once I get to college or out of school, it will be easier. The truth is, it won't. I can share from experience that being a light to those around you doesn't get easier as time goes on.

So, what now? You continue to be a light because through that, others will come to know Jesus. One simple way to continue being a light to your friends is with your language. You might be around people who are constantly swearing and making inappropriate comments, but you

can be a light there. Rather than giving in to peer pressure, show them that you don't want to talk like they do. You can also share your light with your friends in the way you act. Scripture shares that as we let our light shine to others, they will see our good deeds and that can help them turn to Jesus.

Jesus has given you the strength to share His light and hope with those around you. This week, look for ways to point your friends to Jesus through the way you speak and act.