

# DAY 6

COLOSSIANS 3:12 NLT

God chose you. Read that again: God... Chose... You. It's crazy to think that the God of the universe knows you by name, isn't it? Well, not only does God know you better than you know yourself, but God also loves you. And it's out of that love that God chose you. Most of us think that if we let people in all the way—if we showed them our authentic selves—they wouldn't like us at all. But God shows us something different. Knowing that about ourselves changes everything. It allows us to step into who we are and to treat ourselves with kindness, mercy, gentleness, and more. With that, it empowers you to offer those same things to others when they lead with their authentic selves.

**Today, find some time to take a walk outside. As you look at the world around you that God created, remind yourself that the same God who created you knows you, loves you and chooses you just as you are.**

# DAY 7

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

Memorizing Scripture is a game changer. Instead of just trying to figure things out on our own, it gives us a baseline to live our lives from. It doesn't just guide us, encourage us, and help us (though it does all that, of course!). It shows us what it really means to live authentically as a follower of Jesus, and that's something worth remembering.

**Today, take a few moments to work on memorizing this verse. Ask a friend from your Small Group to help you out here. Encourage each other to not only commit it to memory but to talk about what it means for your lives, too.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

A.I.: ARTIFICIAL IDENTITY / WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOL

# DAY 1

LUKE 6:31 NLT

Treat others the way you want to be treated. You've heard this before, right? Some refer to it as the "Golden Rule." Well, it's rooted in one of the most well-known teachings of Jesus, which gives it a little more weight. We usually apply this concept to our behavior, but what if we thought bigger? What if we applied it to our level of honesty? Think about it! What if we were honest with others in the same way that we'd want them to be honest with us? Not in a way that is unkind or rude, but in a way that is careful and done with love. In a way that shows others the most authentic version of ourselves and encourages them to do the same with us? I don't know about you, but I think the quality of our relationships would change if we chose to lead with authenticity.

**Today, give authentic honesty a try. Tell one person something encouraging that you know is true about them. Go first in being honest with others the way you'd hope they would be honest with you.**

# DAY 2

JOHN 8:31 NLT

What makes someone authentic? Most of us think that all it takes is a little bit of bold honesty. But what if living authentically begins with more than that? What if it's about living like Jesus? If God designed us for a certain way of life, then looking at how Jesus teaches us to live is where authenticity begins. When we read Jesus' words in Scripture, we're reading a real-life example of an authentic life. Jesus told His disciples that following Him meant doing their best to live out of His example and follow His lead. The same is true for us today. Holding on to and following Jesus' teachings will lead us to our most authentic life. It will give us the path to living as the most authentic versions of ourselves.

**Right now, read a little bit more about Jesus' life on Earth in one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Take note of the way Jesus lives and the words He uses to encourage others in how they live. What does it teach you about what an authentic life really looks like?**

## DAY 3

JOHN 8:31-32 NLV

When was the last time you felt freedom? Was it when your friend got their license? When your family left you home alone? When you finally graduated high school? Freedom comes in a lot of different ways, and Jesus points to something here that always brings freedom: the truth. When we believe things that aren't true about ourselves or others, it will always leave us boxed in. Instead, as followers of Jesus, we get to bring the truth to every space that we are in—the truth about who God says we are and what God says about others. Authenticity takes honesty, so it isn't always easy. But authenticity brings freedom, so that makes it worth it. You won't have to be defined by an identity that isn't real; instead, you'll get to live out of the freedom that the truth brings.

**Today, spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what true freedom looks like and to give you the courage to live authentically in that freedom.**

## DAY 4

COLOSSIANS 3:9-10 NLT

Have you ever tried to stop a habit? Maybe it was constant doom scrolling on your phone, binge-watching before bed, or biting your nails when you're nervous. Regardless of what it was, stopping a habit can be hard, especially when you've been doing it for a long time. Paul encourages us in Scripture to do more than just stop doing something old; he encourages us to start doing something new. Too often, when we try to change, we focus on what we're trying to stop, not what we hope to start. But when we focus on what we hope for—the new things we want to see started in our lives—it can be a lot easier to let go of the old. So, as you pursue an authentic life, do it with the new things—the things of God—in mind. Let those things be your focus as you look to start something new, something more authentic.

**This week, find one new helpful practice to pick up. It might be finding time to connect with God during the day, working on having more patience with your siblings, or doing something kind for your friends on a regular basis. Whatever it is, make a choice to start something new in your life this week.**

## DAY 5

ROMANS 6:6 NIV

*Written by Graham, age 19, from Monroe, Georgia, USA*

As Christians we have been given the blessing to be able to live in harmony with our Savior every day. God sent Jesus to this world to be a living sacrifice for us, showing God's true love for all of mankind. Jesus died for our sins today, tomorrow, and forever. A beautiful picture of the importance of Jesus' sacrifice is found in Paul's letter to the Romans. He reminds us that, through Christ, we are no longer enslaved to sin. Instead, we are alive in Christ. It should bring us so much joy to know that our past sins, failures, hurts, and wrongdoings can be laid at the foot of the cross and forgiven by the Savior of the world. We can be forgiven and saved through Christ's blood! We as the body of Christ must live this truth out and share it with the world.

**Instead of hiding our faith and testimony, we should share the good news of Jesus and His sacrifice to any person in our lives, whether that's friends, teachers, or family. We are no longer slaves of this world, but through Jesus, we are free from the death which comes from sin.**