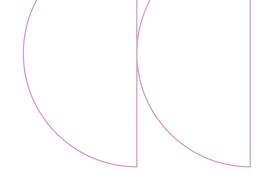
DAY 6

COLOSSIANS 1:16 NLT

There is nothing that will fill your appetite like your favorite meal! Sure, your appetite can be satisfied by meatloaf, but that doesn't compare to a good pizza. When you eat that, your appetite isn't only satisfied, it's fulfilled. When it comes to our lives, being made by God means that we will only ever be satisfied and fulfilled by living our lives for God. Sure, some things in this world may give us temporary satisfaction, but that stuff never lasts. True, lasting fulfillment only comes in a relationship with God. It's the one authentic place we can go to know we'll never be left wanting.

Today, invite a Small Group Leader, a parent, or another trusted adult in your life to help you see where you might be looking for fulfillment in places outside of God. Ask them to help encourage you to find your lasting, authentic fulfillment in God alone.



DAY 7

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

It can be easy to forget who we are. When the world around us is constantly speaking into the person we are or the person we're supposed to be, it's hard to quiet the noise long enough to get back to the truth. That's why having Scripture memorized can be so helpful. When other voices threaten to drown out the truth of who God says we are and how God has called us to authentically live, having verses like this one already in our hearts and minds is so helpful. It's there to combat the noise from others with the truth of God.

To help you put this verse in your heart and mind, work on memorizing it this week. Look it up in a few other translations. (The YouVersion Bible app is great for this!) As you read each one, notice the way the words are each still speaking the same truth about who you are and what God calls you to in this life.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN everyday faith.

A.I.: ARTIFICIAL IDENTITY / WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

REVELATION 4:11 NLT

Let's talk technology! Your phone does it all, doesn't it? It probably has a camera, answers your questions, sends messages, makes calls (if you dare to talk on the phone!), acts as a gamina system, and orders your dinner! When something is created to be so technical and so complex, nobody questions the fact that it needs the help of a creator. There's no way all those pieces and functions just came together magically to work the way they do. Well, let's apply the same logic to ourselves. We were created by a Creator. Every authentic detail of who we are was designed by God. So why would we question anything about who we are? If we trust that we were created by a Creator, then we can trust that the unique complexities about each of us are there by design and for a purpose.

Today, reflect on this truth by considering where you may be critical of the way you're made. Are there things about yourself that you struggle to like or accept? Take them to God, asking for help to remember that every detail of who you are was created by a loving Creator.

DAY 2

GENESIS 1:27 ESV

Have you ever been to an art gallery? Part of what's so beautiful about art is that so much of it is open to your interpretation. Even though each piece has characteristics, attributes, colors, and techniques that might inform its meaning, only its creator can truly speak to what it means. While we can make our own assumptions or have our own interpretations, the only one who can tell us its authentic purpose in this world is the artist who made it. In the same way, God created us. With that, God speaks about exactly how we're created: in God's own image. What's cool is that no other part of creation was created in God's image. As humans, we're distinct. We're meant to be set apart from the rest of creation. We're meant to be seen as God's own image in this world. So, don't leave it open to interpretation when it comes to what you think about yourself. Let who God says you are and what God says about your existence be the only interpretation you let hold weight.

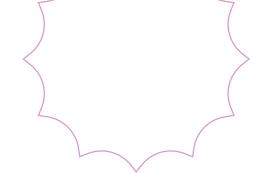
Today, invite God to speak to all that you authentically are. Think about how you see God's image in yourself and pray that you'd reflect it to the rest of the world, too.

DAY 3

PSALM 139:13-14 ESV

Have you ever seen a child's artwork? Maybe your parents still have some of yours hanging in their home now! You likely know just how messy most children's artwork is. An explosion of colors, a mess of shapes, a mix of images you can't quite make out. Though most of the world wouldn't say it was "wonderful," the parent or loved ones of that child probably think there's something wonderful about it, right? Well, in the same way, God created you as something wonderful. Will the rest of the world always see it that way? Unfortunately not. But that doesn't mean it isn't true! And when we let God's voice speak louder than any other about who we authentically are, we won't be as easily shaken by the voices of others.

This week, spend time reading through Psalm 139. What do the words tell you about how God sees who you are? How can you let those truths ring loudest in your life this week?



DAY 4

EPHESIANS 2:10 NLT

Who am I? This age-old question seems to wear people out before they ever find its answer. Do you want to know why? Because we're searching for identity in all the wrong places! Paul's words in Scripture give us our answer: We are God's masterpiece! In other words, we're created with skill, purpose, and care. We aren't just any old work of art. We're the masterpiece—the best thing God has made! That's the foundation of who we are. And when we live out of that truth, we can live authentically as the people God made us to be.

Today, write the word "MASTER-PIECE" somewhere you'll see it often. Maybe even make it the lock screen on your phone so you see it every time you open it. When you come across it, let the word speak to the foundation of who you are. Let it remind you that, in God's eyes, this is who you are, and that's what matters most.

DAY 5

EPHESIANS 4:24 NLT

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

The best feeling in becoming a Christian is the removal of the weight of sin and death that we face apart from God. We have the capability to live like Christ, follow His Word, and bring glory to Him through our words, actions, and character. Instead of making your faith in Christ solely a decision, you should make it your lifestyle, personality, and the whole of who you are. People should see Christ in you by how you portray yourself and act in your everyday life. If we live according to Paul's words in Ephesians, we will be a living witness of Christ for the whole world to see! In Christ we are a new creation. When we put our faith in Christ, we remove ourselves from the patterns of the world and impress God's Word on our hearts so that we can live a righteous and holy life.

This week, pray that you'll live your life for Christ, not conforming to the world but walking in the light of the Gospel for the rest of your days.