

# DAY 6

## GALATIANS 1:10 NLT

Achievement and approval are things we all strive for in just about every area of our lives. On social media, at school, in our jobs, with our friends, on the team—in every aspect of our culture, we're pushed to do more, be more, and gain more approval. When you look at it that way, it's no wonder contentment in life feels so out of reach. We'll never find it down that road because it's not the road we were made to walk. Throughout Scripture, we are reminded to live for eternal things, not earthly things. Instead of spending time with people from whom you are trying to win approval, what if you spent more time with people who remind you approval from Jesus is most important? What if you allowed yourself to listen to the voices who encouraged you to see yourself and your life the way Jesus sees it? It's in that space that real, lasting contentment can be found.

**This week, ask God to help you identify who those people in your life might be. Reach out and ask them to help be voices that encourage you to focus on what Jesus says matters most rather than what anyone else is pointing you to believe.**

# DAY 7

## ROMANS 12:2 NLT

As you consider what's true about who you are, what do you think about? Whose voice do you let speak to that in your life? Whose words hold weight over the way you see yourself? As Scripture reminds us, God's words about us are the most important words. When we let those words hold the most weight, it will transform the way we see ourselves. It will help us see who we're authentically made to be.

**This week, share this verse with a friend. Ask them what it means to their lives to know this is how God calls us to live. And then, share your thoughts on it, too.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

A.I.: ARTIFICIAL IDENTITY / WEEK 4

HIGH SCHOOL

# DAY 1

## GENESIS 1:31 NIV

When God created human beings, God called us "very good." What's interesting is that, in all of Scripture, we're the only ones God says this about. God thinks all of creation is good, but God thinks humans are more than that. In us, there is a deeper delight. We aren't just objects of God's creation; we're objects of God's affection. You are made to be loved by God, plain and simple. There is nothing you can do to earn or deserve it. Just as you are right now, God sees you with love and calls you a "very good" part of creation. Your choice is simply this: Will you believe that's who you really are?

**Today, will you accept this invitation to be loved just as you are? Take time to consider your answer. If it's "yes," thank God for the fact that you were made to be very good, very loved, and very close to God. And if you're not sure, talk to a trusted adult or Small Group Leader about your thoughts.**

# DAY 2

## COLOSSIANS 1:17 NLT

There's something satisfying about being the person who has the last word, isn't there? In a fight with a sibling, in a conflict with your friend, in an argument with the opposing team, there's something in each of us that wants to have the final say. It makes us feel like the boss—the authority on the matter. Well, as we grow up, we learn that our words don't hold that much weight. We aren't really the authority of much, are we? The good news is that God is! God holds power over everything in this world, and that means only God gets the final say in any of it. When the words of others threaten our sense of identity, we don't have to let them be the last word on who we are. Instead, we can remember that God is the authority on it all, including who we are.

**Today, make a list of what God thinks about you. Ask God to help you see these words as the last words on who you are. Give God the authority to speak louder than anyone in your life.**

## DAY 3

PSALM 139:16-18 NLT

Have you ever had a backseat driver? Or maybe you've been the backseat driver! You know what that means, right? Though someone else is in the driver's seat, the person not in control of the car is trying to direct every single step. In the same way, sometimes, we give the voices of others in our lives space to become our figurative backseat drivers. We let their words, their advice, their opinions, and their critiques become what drives us. And while some of those people may even be guiding us toward good things, if we're listening to them above all else, we're still not headed in the right direction. God's thoughts of you? They're precious and vast! And that means God's thoughts are more important, more powerful, and more personal than anyone else's. That makes God's voice the only one we should let guide us down the road in this life.

**Today, think about who else's voice you may be giving too much power to in your life. Ask God to help tune your ears to hear God's guidance more than anyone else's.**

## DAY 4

JOHN 4:27-29 NLT

Think about your deepest, darkest secret. Is there anyone who knows it? Likely not! That's because all of us fear what others would think about us if they knew. We wonder, What would they say? Would they still love me? Would they think I'm terrible? Would they think this is who I really am? Thankfully, Jesus' encounter with people all throughout Scripture shows us something different. Jesus didn't think twice about talking to or engaging with people who had secrets or were judged by others for their deeds. It didn't matter who they were or what they had done. Jesus wanted to engage with them just as they were, and that changed everything. It can do the same for us, too. When we let Jesus into every part of our lives—the good, the bad, the dark, the hidden, the triumphs—we can trust that we'll be met with love and grace every single time.

**Today, tell God everything! Sharing it all with God and experiencing God's love and acceptance as you do will change you, little by little, the more you invite God into those spaces in your life.**

## DAY 5

ROMANS 12:2 NLT

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

Have you ever felt like the world is trying to form you into its mold? Attempting to shape your thoughts, actions, and dreams? In a society driven by trends, expectations, and the pursuit of success from a worldly point of view, it's easy to lose sight of who we are meant to be in Christ. Our minds will be truly transformed through immersing ourselves in God's Word, spending time in prayer, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When I think of this change, my mind goes to the metamorphosis of a butterfly. The metamorphosis is not only a change of its appearance; it's a complete transition of its being. In the same way, God's renewal process transforms us from the inside out, enabling us to live out God's will in our daily lives.

**Are there areas in your life where you feel the world trying to turn you away from God? Is there a part of your thinking that needs renewal? Today, let's invite God to start this transformative work in our own lives. Let's choose to spend time in God's presence to allow God's Word to wash over us and the Holy Spirit to guide us.**