

DAY 6

1 PETER 4:10, NIV

Think about something you're really good at. Maybe you can solve math problems super quickly, throw a fastball, make new friends easily, play an instrument, or sing in tune. We all have things we're good at, right? But here's the thing: those talents aren't just for us to enjoy. Have you ever thought about using your gifts to help someone else?

It could be something big, like playing guitar for people at a nursing home. Or something small, like helping a friend with their math homework. Whether big or small, when we use our talents to serve others, we're actually serving God. That's pretty cool!

This week, think of a few ways to use your gifts to help someone else. Then go for it!

DAY 7

JOHN 11:25-26, NIV

Have you ever felt like you're just going through the motions—waking up, going to school, doing homework—without a clear sense of direction? Sometimes, life can feel that way, especially when things get busy or stressful. But here's something to think about: Jesus offers us more than just getting by. He's offering a life full of purpose and meaning that goes beyond the everyday grind. When we believe in Him, we tap into something deeper—a hope that lasts forever. No matter what challenges you face, there's a bigger picture: a life connected to Jesus that changes everything. So, what does that look like for you? How does believing in Jesus give you a new way to think about your purpose?

Today, take a moment to consider how your faith in Jesus can help you not just survive, but truly thrive.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE COMEBACK KID / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

JOHN 13:14-15, NIV

When was the last time you remember washing your feet? Maybe it was after running around outside or after a day at the beach when they were caked with sand. Washing our feet isn't something we often think about, but during Jesus's time on earth, foot washing was always a gross job and something that was often necessary. People walked everywhere and often through muddy roads—so their feet could get pretty gross. Jesus decided to wash his friends' feet on his last night with them. He wanted to show what it means to care for and serve his friends. When we serve someone, it just means we do something to help without expecting anything in return.

Today, think of how Jesus served his friends and showed them he loved them. What is one way you can show your friends you love them by serving them this week.

DAY 2

GALATIANS 5:13, NLT

When you think of being "free," do you picture doing whatever you want? Like staying up all night playing video games or eating all the junk food you want? That might sound fun at first, but how do you feel the next day? Tired, cranky, or unable to focus? What seemed like freedom actually led to feeling worse.

Real freedom isn't just about doing what we want—it's about when we do what's good for us and others. Today's verse reminds us that with the gift of freedom comes responsibility and a choice to give back. When we choose to help and care for people around us, we live out the kind of freedom God offers us.

This week, talk to your small group about what freedom means and how you can use it to make a difference for others.

DAY 3

ROMANS 12:10-11, NLT

Think about the last time you rolled your eyes when you had to do something nice for someone but didn't really want to. Maybe you had to let your sister get ready first in the morning or let your brother have the front seat in the car. These may seem small, but they can feel annoying in the moment, right? Now imagine how different it would feel if you did it without complaining—if you gladly let your sister go first or happily gave up the front seat. The end result is the same, but the tone of the moment is totally different. In the first example, you were putting yourself first. But in the second, you're not only honoring your sibling, you're also setting an example of God's love.

Next time you're tempted to complain when serving someone else, think about today's verse. How can you honor them—and God—by serving out of love instead?

DAY 4

MARK 10:45, NIV

Think about a king you may have learned about in history or someone in a similar place of power and authority now. They're usually treated with respect, right? They might have people who cook for them, drive them around, and clean their homes. But now imagine the King of all kings—Jesus—coming to earth. Jesus could have demanded that everyone serve Him and bow down the moment He arrived. But that's not what He did at all! Today's verse tells us that Jesus came to serve us instead of being served. He even gave up his life for us because of his incredible love. That's pretty different from how we think about kings, right?

Take some time today to write down a few ways Jesus is different from the kings and people in power we see today. Then, ask God to help you have the same heart to serve others just like Jesus did.

DAY 5

JOHN 13:35, NLT

*Written by Emma Moore, age 21,
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Have you ever heard someone say that actions speak louder than words? Maybe in your own life, you have experienced someone else's actions communicate more than what they may say. Although the Bible talks a lot about the power of the words we use, it also talks a lot about how our actions communicate powerful things too. That is exactly what Jesus is teaching when he tells his disciples to love one another. When we read this, I think there are two questions that we must ask ourselves: First, do we even want to follow Jesus like His disciples did? Second, do our actions show our love to those around us? If we are a true disciple of Christ, the Holy Spirit is with us always, ready to help us to love others. Pray and ask God what step you need to

take in your life in order for this scripture to be true to you.