

DAY 6

“Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.”

Romans 12:12 NLT

Prayer can require a lot of patience. That’s because sometimes, it takes a long time to see results. Maybe we’re praying for a good grade, or to make the team, or for a friend who is hurting, or a parent who is sick. Some of those prayers are answered quickly, but others, not so much! The good news is that when we keep on praying and practice patience when it comes to prayer, we can be confident God is working, even while we’re waiting. All it takes is a little hope to keep praying and continue trusting God.

Today, share with a friend a prayer you are waiting on God to answer. Ask them to encourage you to keep praying. You could even ask them to be praying for you, too!

DAY 7

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”
Philippians 4:6 NLT

Sometimes prayer can feel complicated. Maybe we’re not sure what to say or how to say it. Is there a right way to pray? The good news is that when we pray with an open and honest heart, we can be sure God’s there to listen and respond. And one of the ways we can do that is through Scripture. We can use verses (like this one!) to help guide our prayers.

To do that this week, work on memorizing this verse by writing it out as a prayer.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

DIRECT MESSAGE / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

“I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.”
Mark 11:24 NLT

Prayer isn’t so much about asking for things we want; it’s more about connecting to the God who promises to give us what we need! All that’s required of us in prayer is belief. When He was on Earth, Jesus spent a lot of time talking to His followers about belief. He wanted to make sure His people really believed God would hear their prayers. And the same is true for us today! When we pray, it’s important to do so with faith that God hears us, loves us, and wants to give us good things.

This week, spend time in prayer. Specifically, ask God to help you believe that God hears your prayers and knows what you need.

DAY 2

“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”
Luke 11:9 NLT

In most areas of your life, the more you do something, the easier it will become. Think about it! How well would you be doing in school if you only went once in a while? How bad would your next visit to the dentist be if you only brushed your teeth once a month? There are some things we have to do over and over again to see the benefit from it. And one of those things is prayer. The more you make prayer a habit in your life by doing it over and over again, the easier you’ll find it to connect with God. And the more often you connect with God, the more you’ll begin to see the good of it in your life.

Decide on a specific time in your day to pray and connect with God. Then, set an alarm or a reminder for yourself, so you remember to keep doing it!

DAY 3

“The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.”

Psalm 34:17 NLT

God hears you each time you pray. And that’s great news! It means you don’t have to use big words or close your eyes for God to hear you. God only wants us to show up and trust that God is there. Not just to hear our prayers, but also to help us with the troubles we’re praying about.

Is there something difficult you’re going through right now? Trouble you are experiencing or something you’re worried about? Tell God about that thing this week. Then, ask a trusted friend, small group leader, or a parent to pray with you, asking God to help you through it.

DAY 4

“Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.”

Colossians 4:2 NLT

Sometimes the best prayer we can pray is one of gratitude. Simply saying, “Thank You, God,” can speak volumes. Remember, prayer isn’t just about asking God for things; it’s also about thanking God for what we’ve already been given. It’s hard to be grateful when we’re only focusing on what we don’t have, isn’t it? But when we focus on what we do have, we start to see our hearts change, becoming more thankful with each prayer of gratitude we pray.

Try practicing gratitude this week by looking for things in your life to be thankful for. Write them down as you think of them and keep that list as a reminder of all God has given you. Then, spend time thanking God for each one in prayer.

DAY 5

“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NLT

Written by Sam, age 14, from Burke, Virginia, USA

Have you ever had a really bad day? I know everybody’s answer to that is yes. We all have bad days from time to time! Maybe you failed a test or said something you later regretted. I recently had a bad day. I could NOT figure out the answer to a question on a math test. I almost cried in class! And not only that, but after the test, I went for a run and felt horrible while I ran. It was just a really bad day! It can be easy to think that we are in this by ourselves. Sometimes we may even think that the world is out to get us. But the amazing thing is, none of that is true. God watches out for us and listens to us. We might think, “How do we even reach God? God is the Creator of the universe. How could we possibly talk to God?” The answer is prayer. We can talk to God at anytime, anywhere, about anything. Here, God even tells

us to never stop praying. God is so good and amazing and always has time for us. God may not answer our prayers in the way we want, but God does answer our prayers. And God wants us to find the joy in our lives, even when we go through things that are really difficult.

Take one minute to think about one way God has answered a prayer for you, or one way that God has shown up in your life. Spend time thanking God for answering that prayer or showing up in a way that was better than you could have thought of!

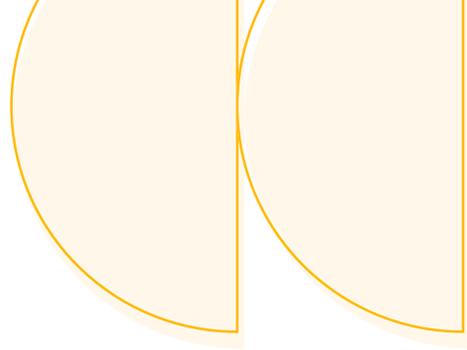
DAY 6

“In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”

Jeremiah 29:12-13 NLT

What does it mean to look for God “wholeheartedly?” Well, it means to be 100% determined in seeking God for your life. Remember, prayer isn’t about the words you say but the way you pray. God wants us to pray with our whole hearts. That means we commit to going to God with everything we have. To showing up and sticking with it until we begin to see a change in our hearts as we pray. When we do that, God promises to be there each and every time.

Today, pray for courage in seeking God wholeheartedly, with everything you have.



DAY 7

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”
Philippians 4:6 NLT

Scripture helps us know and remember what is true about God. For example, when we’re not sure God is there or listening to our prayers, we can turn to verses like this to remind us of the truth: God is there, God loves us, and God is listening to our prayers.

Write this verse down in a place you see it often. Maybe it’s a place you even spend time in prayer! When you see it, stop and say it aloud, working on saying more of it from memory each time until you can eventually recite the entire verse. Then, you’ll have it in your mind when you need to remember what’s true about God.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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DIRECT MESSAGE / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.”
1 John 5:14 NLT

One of the best things we can do is pray for the things that God wants for our lives. Then, instead of only praying for the things that we want, we can focus our prayers on the things God wants for us. Things like having patience, being kind toward others, and focusing our mind on God’s Word. Those are the things God really and truly wants to help grow in our lives. And when we pray for those things, it shows that we care about the things God wants to give us and the way God wants us to live.

Today, make a list of qualities you know God wants for your life. Then, ask God to help you develop more of those things in your life.

DAY 2

“The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.”
Psalm 145:18 NLT

God loves when we pray. Why? Because God loves us and wants to be connected to us. Even the smallest prayers bring us closer to God. Try thinking of prayer like talking to your best friend. The more you talk, the more you get to know each other. The more you get to know each other, the closer you become. Prayer can be similar. When you pray, think about talking to God like you would talk to a friend—someone you want to stay close and connected to.

To help, try memorizing this verse this week. Let it remind you of how much God wants to be close to you. When you connect with God in prayer, you can be sure God is near!

DAY 3

“Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.”
1 Chronicles 16:11 NLT

Have you ever played a game of hide and seek? The thrill of looking for and finding your friends is what makes the game fun, right? In the same way, you can find excitement in seeking God in prayer. But, of course, God isn't hiding from you! Seeking God doesn't mean actively looking like you would for something that's hidden or out of sight. No, seeking God means continually looking for God at work in your life. And prayer is just one way we can do that. When we pray, we are seeking God. We are asking God to open our eyes to see and experience God in new ways.

Today, ask a trusted friend, small group leader, or parent how they seek God.

DAY 4

“I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.”
Psalm 17:6 NLT

Sometimes we think God is too busy or too big to hear us when we pray. With so many people and so many prayers, how could God possibly hear us over everyone else? Well, the good news is, God hears us every single time we pray. Why? Because God is so big! God's attention is not limited like ours can be at times, and that means God is always willing and ready to lean in and listen to you! God's greatness makes that possible.

This week, make a point to get outside and take a walk. Notice the things around you that show you how great and big God is. As you do, remember that this same great God is close enough to hear your every prayer.

DAY 5

“The Lord says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.”
Psalm 91:14-15 NLT

Written by Reagan, age 16, from The Colony, Texas, USA

God promises to rescue, protect, and be with everyone who loves God. I remember when I first realized this truth. I was in middle school, and I was starting to become closer to God. It was around that same time that I started reading my Bible more, praying, and really beginning to trust God for the first time in my life. And I realized that everything starts with loving God! Loving God is a decision we get to make every single day. It's not only a feeling, but it's a decision. And we can choose to love and know God more by simply spending time with God, just like we would with a friend! Think about it. You probably wouldn't know your friends very well if you didn't talk to them. You probably

wouldn't feel close to them or feel like your friendship was getting stronger. It's the same way with God! Spending time with God will help us know God better.

And here's the good news: God promises us to love us, protect us, rescue us, and be with us, no matter what we will face.

So today, start by getting to know God more by talking to God. Reach out with whatever it is you're going through and tell God how you feel. Then, remember the promises God has made to always love you, protect you, rescue you, and be with you.