



AN UNDIVIDED HEART

“Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.” - PSALM 86:11

January 12 - February 1, 2025

21-Day Daniel Fast Devotional | Kids Edition

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PARENTAL AGREEMENT

I, _____, agree to use the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting for Kids with my child each day and commit to:

1. Read the daily Scripture with them
2. Help them fast the various daily items listed
3. Pray the Prayer Focus with them each day

During this Fast we are believing God for (check as many as apply)

- Unity in our home Healing Freedom from Addiction
 Peace in our home Finances Other: _____

We are going to fast the following:

- Sugar/Desserts/Candy Media (TV/devices, except school/HW)
 Fried foods Fast Foods Pastries Artificially Sweetened Juices

PASTORAL CHARGE

SERVE CHRIST WITH AN UNDIVIDED HEART

Dear Beloved Kids in Christ,

As we enter this season of prayer and fasting, our hearts are set on serving Christ with undivided devotion. Let us pray as David did:

“Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness. Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name” (Psalm 86:11).

What a powerful prayer! It calls us to seek God's ways, His truth, and a heart wholly devoted to Him. God desires our hearts to be loyal, and He responds when we seek to live according to His will. Our devotion should reflect Jesus's unwavering commitment to the Father, doing only what He commanded (John 14:31).

David's life is a profound example of serving God with an undivided heart. Despite his flaws, David pursued God with a pure heart, often praying for wholehearted devotion. He passed on this wisdom to his son Solomon: *“Serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought” (1 Chronicles 28:9a).*

Our best life is lived in complete devotion to God, trusting Jesus as our Savior and the Holy Spirit as our strength.

With single-minded devotion, we align our lives with His purposes. As we strive to serve Christ wholeheartedly – to **SEEK CHRIST, SHARE CHRIST, and SHOW CHRIST** – remember:

- *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength” (Deut. 6:5).*
- *“Obey the Lord your God with all your heart and soul” (Deut. 30:2).*
- *“Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and soul” (Deut. 10:12).*

Let us make Christ the center of all we do—at home, at work, in our communities, and in our ministry. This is the essence of living our best lives.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Spencer

“The tendency of fire is to go out; watch the fire on the altar of your heart. Anyone who has tended a fireplace knows that it needs to be stirred up occasionally” - William Booth, Founder of Salvation Army

Like prayer and Bible reading, fasting is one of the spiritual disciplines of followers of Jesus. This guide is here to help you get your mind around fasting, and help you get started in this powerful Christian habit!

WHY WOULD A KID FAST?

- A. To Get To Know God Better By Drawing Closer To Him;
- B. To Be Willing To Give Up Something They Enjoy Eating To Focus On Something More Important, Especially On Behalf Of Others;
- C. Because Jesus Said That Fasting Is Important When Praying For Something Difficult To Obtain or Fix;
- D. To Be In Agreement With The Adults In Their Family Who Are Fasting; and
- E. To Practice Fasting So That It Becomes A Familiar Discipline For Strengthening Their Spiritual Lives.

Go for it! You'll be glad you did.

Source: Faith Deliverance COGIC Awakening Youth Fasting guidelines

How should I prepare to fast?

For a 1-day fast, it doesn't take much preparation. It's best to slow down your eating before the fast, and then pick it back up slowly by eating small, simple foods. For a longer fast, DEFINITELY prepare this way. It's smart to plan ahead and make sure you'll have plenty of the fruits, vegetables, juices, etc. on hand. If not, you're likely to overeat at your next meal, and that's never a good choice!

What should I do while fasting?

Drink lots of water. Pray. Read your Bible. Listen to worship music. Think. The space provided in this devotional for you to journal is designed to help you in all that.

How to Use this Journal:

Very simply, carve out a quiet time each day. It's best to do this in the morning. Why? Because once your day begins, there will be a million distractions. Learn to put God first in your day, and He will multiply your time. You'll find that you get more done in less time.

During your quiet time, go through the daily devotional this way:

1. **Scripture:** Read the Scripture passage and short commentary
2. **Observe:** Think about what you see that clicks with you. What do you think it means? Are you going through a similar situation?
3. **Application:** How do you think this Scripture applies to you, personally? What is God trying to say to you through His Word?
4. **Prayer:** Pray and ask Jesus to make those applications real. Is there something you need to change? Someone you need to speak to? Apologize to? A different way you need to act? Is there something God is asking you to do that you've never done before?

Yep, that flow spells: “**SOAP.**” Wash your brain with the Word of God. Easy to remember. You can continue this practice in your daily time with Jesus.

Very Important Notice

Fasting requires reasonable precautions. If you have any health concerns, please consult your parent or physician prior to beginning your fast, especially if you are taking any medication or have a chronic condition.

DAY 1 01/12/25

ABOVE ALL ELSE, SEEK GOD!

**SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIVE
RIGHTEOUSLY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.**

- MATTHEW 6:33 NLT



Close your eyes for a second and imagine a giant crowd of people standing at the base of a mountain listening to Jesus teach these verses. Maybe they've seen Jesus do miracles or they've heard of Him healing people in other cities. Now they're here to see Him in person—full of excitement for what He might say (you can open your eyes now). They noticed right away that His teaching was not like that of other teachers; it was the most powerful and greatest teaching they had ever heard.

He tells them not to be anxious about food, drink, and clothing: the basic necessities of life. Don't be anxious, or worry about those things. Why? Because worrying about them is like a dog chasing its tail—it's an empty pursuit. It does nothing to solve the problem.

The "Gentiles" in verse 32, or, the people in the world who don't know God, worry about those things first and foremost, rather than focusing on the things of God. What are we supposed to do instead? Verse 33 says to put first-things-first: Seek first the kingdom of God. Go after the things that are most important to God—like loving Him, having a relationship with Him, and loving others. Also seek His righteousness, which means the things that are right according to God. How do we know what's right according to God? His Word is what tells us what is right and true.

<https://seedskidsworship.com/twenty-verses-in-2020-verse-7-devotion-1-matthew-631-33/>

DAY 2 01/13/25

FOR IN CHRIST, WE LIVE.

“HIS PURPOSE WAS FOR THE NATIONS TO SEEK AFTER GOD AND PERHAPS FEEL THEIR WAY TOWARD HIM AND FIND HIM—THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM ANY ONE OF US. FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND EXIST. AS SOME OF YOUR OWN POETS HAVE SAID, ‘WE ARE HIS OFFSPRING.’” - ACTS 17:27-28 NLT

Proverbs 3:5

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.

How to Live a Good Life



That night, Paul and Silas went to another city called Berea (buh REE uh). The people there listened to Paul's message, and they studied the Scriptures to make sure he was telling them the truth. Many people in Berea believed the good news. But the Jews in Thessalonica heard what Paul was up to in Berea. They followed him there and caused trouble, so Paul left and went to the city of Athens in Greece.

Paul was upset by what he saw in Athens. The people there did not worship the one true God. Instead, they worshiped many idols. Paul talked with the people who lived in Athens and told them the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

The men asked Paul to explain what he was talking about. So Paul went to a meeting with them and said, “Men of Athens, I can see that you are very religious. I saw in your city an altar that said: ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ You worship a god that you do not know. This is the God I want to tell you about.”

So Paul told the people about the one true God. He explained that God made everything, and that He is bigger than man-made temples. God is not like the idols in Athens. He is not made of gold, silver, or stone. Paul said that God wants everyone in the world to turn away from their sin and turn to Him. When the people heard about Jesus being raised from the dead, some of them laughed. Some of them wanted to hear more later. Some of them joined Paul and became believers.

DAY 3 01/14/25

UNITED WITH CHRIST

FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST, WE HAVE RECEIVED AN INHERITANCE FROM GOD, FOR HE CHOSE US IN ADVANCE, AND HE MAKES EVERYTHING WORK OUT ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN. - EPHESIANS 1:11 NLT



Proverbs 28:5

Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the Lord understand it fully.

How to Live a Good Life



Hello, children of God! What do I have here? This is an apple. It probably seems pretty plain and ordinary, right? I mean, we might eat apples every day. There's nothing too exciting about a piece of fruit. But I just so happen to have big plans for this apple. I am going to turn it into a pie! I am going to peel it, and chop it, and mix it with some other ingredients, and transform it into a delicious new creation. I have another apple here, and it might serve a different purpose. I could cover it with caramel and nuts like candy, or I could smash it down and turn it into juice or cider! There are a lot of things I could do with such a simple thing. I could take the seeds and try to plant another apple tree, too. I guess it's not so ordinary after all. I have chosen it to fulfill an important purpose.

Did you know that you were chosen for a special purpose, too? You might feel like your life is just simple and basic, but God has a plan for you. He has promised to bless you and provide you with special and wonderful things. In the book of Ephesians, we are reminded of the grace and blessings He gives us. God chose us and had a plan for us even before the world began! How can that be? He loves us so much that He knew what our lives would be like before we were born, and before the Earth was born. God has adopted us into His family. He calls us His children. Because of that, we are promised a special inheritance. An inheritance is something that your family gives you to take care of you when they pass away. God has given us an inheritance as His children. We are part of His will, and one day we will receive Heaven!

<https://ministry-to-children.com/childrens-sermon-ephesians-1-chosen-by-god-for-a-purpose/>

DAY 4 01/15/25

LIVE IN LOVE, LIVE IN GOD.

WE KNOW HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, AND WE HAVE PUT OUR TRUST IN HIS LOVE.
GOD IS LOVE, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN LOVE LIVE IN GOD, AND GOD LIVES IN THEM.

- 1 JOHN 4:16 NLT



We know how much God loves us because we have experienced His love in our lives. And we believe Him when He tells us that He loves us dearly, because we know first hand how much He has done in our lives. God is love and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in Him.

What then does the word “love” mean? Love is not a passive word where you just say, “I love you” and do nothing. Love is a word of action. His Spirit motivates us to love others.

God loved us so much that He sent His Son to save us. Jesus loved us so much that He gave His life on the cross to pay for our sins and to bring us into the family of God. What should we do to show our love?

First we need to respond to God’s call and accept Jesus into our hearts as our Savior and Lord. Then we need to respond to others in the love of God. But how do we do this? How can we show the world that we are Christians? We show our love by the way that we live.

DAY 5 01/16/25

COMMIT TO THE LORD

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD; TRUST IN HIM AND HE WILL DO THIS: HE WILL MAKE YOUR RIGHTEOUS REWARD SHINE LIKE THE DAWN, YOUR VINDICATION LIKE THE NOONDAY SUN. - PSALM 37:5-6 NIV



Trusting in Him is saying, “I want to follow Your ways. I want every thought I have, and desire and possess, and word I say, and thing I write, and every decision I make. Everything I do, I want to glorify You and then I want to obey You, and then I’m trusting in You that Your ways are better than my ways.”

And then, verse five says, “Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act.” And you’re like, “Wait a second. I thought this whole verse was about what I’m doing? Committing my way to God and trusting him? But verse five says he will act.” And this is the beauty. This is the beauty of what we see all over the Bible. It’s in a sense, so much of the essence of Christianity, what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The only way you and I can walk in God’s way is by his grace at work in our lives.

In other words, the only way we can act in all the ways that we know are good and that we desire, as we commit our way to him, the only way we can do that is based on his power at work within us; his spirit, his grace, his wisdom, his guarding, leading, guiding, comforting direction in our lives. His enabling in our lives. So our action is totally dependent on his action, which is why we pray. Because prayer is maybe more than anything else in the Christian life. The clear, evident expression of our need for God’s help, for us to do that which we cannot do apart from him.

DAY 6 01/17/25

GOOD FRUIT [ROOTS]

A TREE IS IDENTIFIED BY ITS FRUIT. IF A TREE IS GOOD, ITS FRUIT WILL BE GOOD.

IF A TREE IS BAD, ITS FRUIT WILL BE BAD. - MATTHEW 12:33 NLT

Proverbs 12:12

Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.

How to Live a Good Life



Good Fruit:

- *Asking questions about God's Word because I don't understand*
- *Trusting in God even when I am worried*
- *Not getting upset with my little brother when he destroys my stuff for the fifteenth time*
- *Deciding to help my mom clean the toilets*
- *Learning to thank God instead of complaining*
- *Helping the new girl make friends at school*
- *Loving Jesus and wanting to do what is right*
- *Singing to God with joy in my heart*

Not So Good Fruit:

- *Complaining to my Grandma about having to come to church*
- *Picking fights with kids at school*
- *Being usual grouchy me – DO NOT WAKE ME UP OR YOU WILL BE SORRY!!!!*
- *Wanting someone else's stuff so much that I steal it*
- *Give me that remote and give me it NOW!!!!!!*
- *Playing video games until I turn blue*
- *Talking back to my parents*
- *ME! ME! ME! ME! ME! I am the most important person in the universe! Treat me that way!*
- *Watching that show that my parents don't like me watching*

So.... What kind of tree are you? Are you a good tree with healthy fruit? Or are you a bad tree with rotten fruit? Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to be made right with Him? Or do you think that you can have good fruit on your own?

Remember that a tree is recognized by its fruit. You cannot live life without God and produce good fruit. You cannot be the "good" person that God desires on your own. You need the power of the Holy Spirit to work in you and through you. Only then, will you produce the kind of fruit that we call the Fruit of the Spirit! It is His work in you – nothing that you can do by yourself.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/fruit-of-the-spirit-bible-lesson/>

DAY 7 01/18/25

REMAIN IN JESUS

REMAIN IN ME, AS I ALSO REMAIN IN YOU. NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF; IT MUST REMAIN IN THE VINE. NEITHER CAN YOU BEAR FRUIT UNLESS YOU REMAIN IN ME. I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND I IN YOU, YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. - JOHN 15:4-5 NIV

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.

How to Live a Good Life



Have you ever noticed that when Jesus was teaching, he often told stories to help his followers understand what he wanted them to learn? Well, he did, and our Bible lesson today is one of those stories. If Jesus had given his stories a title, he might have called this story "The Vine and the Branches." This story was about grapevines. He chose the grapevine for this story because in the land where Jesus lived, there were many grapevines and he knew that his followers would know a lot about grapevines.

I don't know if you have ever seen a grapevine, but there are two parts to the grapevine. There is the vine—and there are the branches growing out of the vine. The grapes grow on the branches. That is pretty much like any fruit tree that you might have seen. They have a trunk and branches with fruit growing on the branches. The only way that a branch can have fruit on it is for it to remain connected.

Jesus wants you and me to produce fruit in our life. He wants us to be kind, gentle, generous, and loving. Can we do that on our own? No way. Just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us. If we keep our life connected to Jesus, we will grow. Our life will produce beautiful leaves and delicious fruit. But if we are separated from Jesus, our leaves will wither and die and we will never put forth any fruit.

DAY 8 01/19/25

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE. - MATTHEW 28:19-20 ESV



Hardly any subject gets more press coverage, or sparks more debate, than global warming. It is being blamed for higher temperatures, storms, rising sea levels, droughts, and virtually any other phenomenon which we can't explain. There are some who believe that if a solution is not found, the world is doomed. There are others who think global warming is just a natural trend which will correct itself in time. The purpose of our lesson today is not to try to persuade you one way or the other about the issue of global warming. I would, however, like to discuss global warming of a different kind and encourage you to do your part to increase it.

Back in 1969, a composer by the name of Kurt Kaiser wrote a song entitled "Pass It On." Here is a part of the lyrics of that song:

Pass It On

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going.
And soon all those around can warm up it it's glowing.
That's how it is with God's love once you've experienced it;
You spread his love to everyone, You want to pass it on.

There is no doubt that our Lord approved of this form of global warming. Before he returned to heaven, he gave this admonition to his disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

You and I have the Good News that the world needs. Let's "Pass It On."

Father, we have been given the task of making disciples of all nations. Help us to be faithful in sharing your love and teaching others to keep your commandments. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

<https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/go-and-make-disciples-1>

DAY 9 01/20/25

DO THE WORK

AS FOR YOU, ALWAYS BE SOBER-MINDED, ENDURE SUFFERING, DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST, FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY. - 2 TIMOTHY 4:5 ESV



In the apostle Paul’s final letter to his young protegee, Timothy, he warns him about something he expected to happen in Timothy’s life and ministry. People will look for false teachers. They will seek after the kind of teaching that isn’t sound doctrine, is contrary to God’s Word, and isn’t the full gospel. They do this, Paul says, because they want to follow their own desires. Paul sandwiches his warning to Timothy inside two verses of instruction to him. He says to preach the gospel – all of it – using it to correct, rebuke, and encourage his people. And he tells him to be prepared for the suffering that will come with this, to stay clear-minded, and to keep going.

Ask your kids, “Have you ever been told something that was necessary or important, but you didn’t want to hear it?” For instance, “No, you can’t have cotton candy for dinner,” or, “Yes, you need to wear a coat when you go out in the cold.”

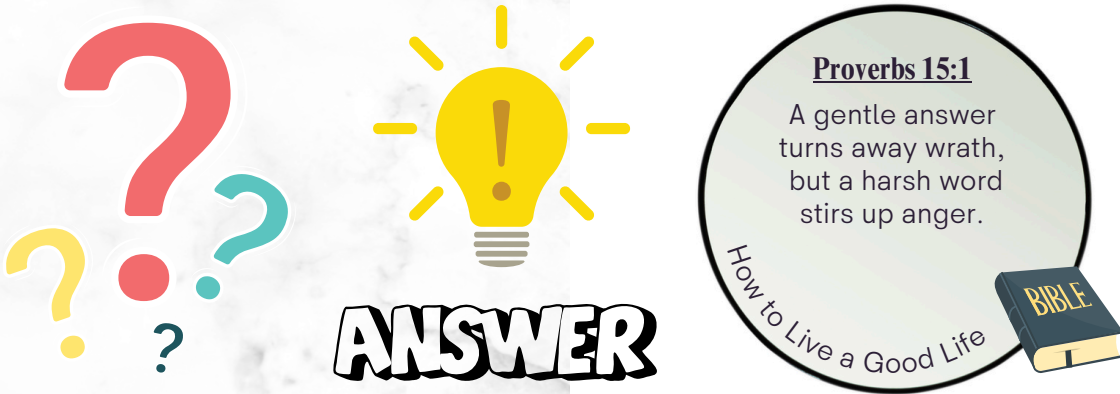
Sometimes the Bible tells us things we don’t always want to hear or things that are hard to do, but God crafted Scripture the way He did because He cares about us and wants the best for us. So when we hear or read something in the Bible that is difficult or that we might even disagree with, our job is listen to what the Bible really says and obey, not tell ourselves that the Bible says something else.

Tell your kids about one of the most difficult lessons you’ve had to learn from Scripture. It might be loving your enemies or maybe a fruit of the Spirit you realized you needed help from God in developing more. When your kids see you learning and growing in response to Scripture, it will challenge them to learn and grow too!

DAY 10 01/21/25

PREPARE THE ANSWERS

BUT IN YOUR HEARTS REVERE CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT, KEEPING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, SO THAT THOSE WHO SPEAK MALICIOUSLY AGAINST YOUR GOOD BEHAVIOR IN CHRIST MAY BE ASHAMED OF THEIR SLANDER. FOR IT IS BETTER, IF IT IS GOD'S WILL, TO SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD THAN FOR DOING EVIL. - 1 PETER 3:15-17 NIV



Have you ever had the teacher call on you in class to answer a question? Maybe you didn't know the answer to the question, or maybe you didn't even know what the question was, because you were daydreaming, or not paying attention or thinking about your new bicycle. Has this happened to you? I know that sometimes it even happens to us as adults; maybe we're at work and we're thinking about something at home or thinking about our children.

When teachers call on you in class, they are helping you get ready for a test, aren't they? They want to know that you have learned the lesson and will do well on a test. It's the same way with God. God wants you to prepare for a time when he will give you a test. But God's test won't be with a pencil and paper or on a computer. God's test may be asking you to help someone else when they need it. How do you get ready for God's test? You get ready by reading your Bible, by coming to church and by practicing the way God wants you to live. If you are kind, other children will want to be around you. They will want to talk with you and that will give you a chance to tell them about Jesus. Will you be all set or will you be daydreaming or distracted and miss out on the chance God gives you?

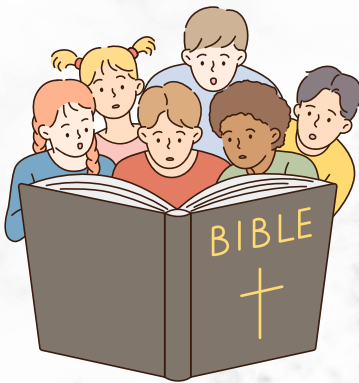
Perhaps God will call on you to be kind to someone in your class who needs a friend. Possibly God will ask you to share your toys with someone who lives near you who you don't really like. Whatever it is that God calls you to do, you need to be ready to answer when he calls.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, help me to study and know your word in the Bible. Help me to pay attention to the people around me and help them. Give me the chance to be kind and help me to know how to tell other people about Jesus' love for them.

DAY 11 01/22/25

CARRY THE MESSAGE

HOW, THEN, CAN THEY CALL ON THE ONE THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED IN? AND HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE IN THE ONE OF WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW CAN THEY HEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING TO THEM? AND HOW CAN ANYONE PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT? AS IT IS WRITTEN: “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!” CONSEQUENTLY, FAITH COMES FROM HEARING THE MESSAGE, AND THE MESSAGE IS HEARD THROUGH THE WORD ABOUT CHRIST. - ROMANS 10:14-15, 17 NIV



Proverbs 15:23

A person finds joy in giving an apt reply — and how good is a timely word!

How to Live a Good Life



Q: Does anyone [know] what the gospel ABCs are?

A: Admit you are a sinner, B: Believe in Jesus Christ, and C: Confess Him as Lord and Savior!

(The gospel ABCs come out of Romans 10:1-13.) Romans 10:13 says, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Remember the huge chasm that separates us from our holy God because of our sin? We call upon the name of Jesus by faith, not works, and God makes a way for us to cross that chasm into salvation! Praise the Lord for the simplicity of the gospel!

But then what? After we have our “ABC gospel moment” of salvation, do we then just go back to living our lives as if Jesus didn’t exist? Absolutely not!

Q: What letter comes after C? D! And D stands for Disciple! The ABCs of the gospel make us Disciples of Jesus Christ!

*Disciples of Jesus love Him so much that they want to think, feel, and live their lives more and more like Him.

Christian disciples look up to Jesus as their hero!

Romans 10:14: While the gospel is as easy as the ABCs, Paul points out that people still need to hear about those gospel ABCs! Imagine that the whole world is dying of a sickness that will kill them. But then you discovered the medicine that cures it!

Romans 10:15: Here is the idea of being SENT! Jesus SENDS His disciples out and notice how pleasing it is to God when we do this! Sometimes it is across the street to our neighbor. Other times it might be across an ocean to a different country.

Romans 10:16: But notice not everyone believes and obeys! People may hear about the medicine that cures their sickness, but they still have to take the medicine! That is not up to us though. Our job as disciples is to share the ABCs of the gospel and leave the results up to God.

Romans 10:17: Jesus said back in Matthew 28 that disciples were to be taught ALL of what He had said.

https://rmcalvary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Romans-10_13-17.pdf

DAY 12 01/23/25

LEAD THE WAY

AFTER THIS THE LORD APPOINTED SEVENTY-TWO OTHERS AND SENT THEM ON AHEAD OF HIM, TWO BY TWO, INTO EVERY TOWN AND PLACE WHERE HE HIMSELF WAS ABOUT TO GO. AND HE SAID TO THEM, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST. - LUKE 10:1-2 ESV

Proverbs 10:5

He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

How to Live a Good Life



Have you ever been on vacation? Everyone needs time away to relax and have fun, right? I have a suitcase here. Do you think you all could help me come up with a packing list so I don't forget anything on my next vacation?

- Clothes
- Hair products
- Some comfortable shoes - for when I have to walk
- Sandals - in case I go to the beach
- Swimsuit - for the beach or the hotel swimming pool
- Camera - for sightseeing trips
- A book - in case I get bored
- Money to spend

Can you think of any other things I may have forgotten? I want to make sure I have everything I might need on the trip. What kinds of things do you pack to take on a vacation? (Pause for responses.) Sometimes we pack so much to take on vacation, it feels like we're not really "getting away from it all" -- we're taking it all with us!

The Bible tells us that Jesus appointed 72 of His followers and sent them out, two-by-two, to go into every town and place where He was about to go. Do you know what Jesus told them to take with them? (Pause for response.) Nothing!

Jesus said to them, "Go!" Then He went on to say, "Do not even take a purse, or a bag, or a pair of sandals."

Why would Jesus tell them to leave everything behind? I think it's because none of that stuff could help them share the good news the way only Jesus could.

Just as Jesus sent out 72 people, He wants you and me to go to people today and share the good news about Jesus. We don't need to pack anything special; we can just go as we are and obey Jesus. Jesus loves us and He loves our friends. The results of us telling others about Jesus don't depend upon us. We should not become proud when people receive the message and we should not be discouraged when they reject the message. Jesus tells us just to go and tell others and leave the rest to Him.!

Dear Jesus, may we be ready and willing to go when You say, "Go!" and leave the results up to You. Amen.

<https://sermons4kids.com/sermons/it-all-depends-on-jesus>

DAY 13 01/24/25

LOVE THE GOSPEL

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD FOR SALVATION TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK. - ROMANS 1:16 ESV



Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

How to Live a Good Life



I heard a story about a man who was vacationing in Mexico. One day he was walking along a deserted beach when he saw a man approaching from the opposite direction. As he watched the man, he saw that the man kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it into the water. As he got closer, he could see that the man was picking up starfish that had washed up onto the beach and he was throwing them back into the water.

As the two men met, he said, "Good morning. I was wondering what you are doing."

"Why, I am throwing these starfish back into the ocean, because if I don't, they will die."

"I understand, but there must be thousands of starfish on this beach and you can't possibly get all of them. Besides, there are hundreds of miles of beaches along this coast and the same thing is happening on every one of those beaches. Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The man bent down and picked up another starfish and threw it back into the ocean. He smiled at the man and said, "I made a difference to that one, didn't I?"

All over the world there are people who are like a fish out of water. They are dying because they don't know about Jesus. Can we make a difference? You bet we can! Maybe we can't get to all of them, but we can tell those that we meet each day about the love of Jesus. Each time that we tell someone about Jesus, we can say, "I made a difference to that one."

Dear Lord, help us to make a difference in the lives of the people we meet by sharing the love of Jesus with them.

DAY 14 01/25/25

MAKE THE APPEAL

WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS, AS THOUGH GOD WERE MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US. WE IMPLORE YOU ON CHRIST'S BEHALF: BE RECONCILED TO GOD. - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 NIV

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

How to Live a Good Life



Representing Jesus Wherever You Are
Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Explanation

- An ambassador represents their country in another land, just as we represent Christ here on earth.
- Being an ambassador means sharing God’s love and message with others through words and actions.
- Your life is a reflection of who Christ is—people may see Him through how you live.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally to be Christ’s ambassador?
2. How can your actions and choices reflect Jesus to others?
3. What challenges do you face when trying to represent Christ at school or in your friend group?

DAY 15 01/26/25

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

**IN THE SAME WAY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

- MATTHEW 5:16 NIV



Bible Reading: Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Explanation

- You are called to shine brightly in a dark world, bringing hope and truth to those around you.
- Your “good deeds” are a reflection of God’s character—when people see them, they’re pointed to Him.
- Being a light means living in a way that’s bold, visible, and impactful for God’s kingdom.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you let your light shine in your school or community?
2. What fears or insecurities might keep you from living boldly for Christ?
3. Who has been a light in your life, and how can you do the same for someone else?

<https://youthgroupministry.com/lessons/sunday-school-lesson-for-teens-living-as-ambassadors-for-christ-2-corinthians-520/>

DAY 16 01/27/25

BECOMING ALL THINGS

TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, TO WIN THE WEAK. I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS I MIGHT SAVE SOME. - 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22 NIV



Paul said that to the Jew, he became like a Jew. To those under the law, he became like one under the law. To those not under the law, he became like one who was not under the law. And to the weak, he became weak. He sought to find common ground with people in order to be able to lead them to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Paul met people where they were, not expecting them to conform to who he was. He never compromised his faith. And he always sought to honor God in all he did. But within those limits, Paul was willing to embrace the people he shared with, becoming like them as much as possible. He made himself a slave to everyone to win as many as possible (1 Cor. 9:19).

We are often guilty of failing to follow Paul's example. We seem only willing to share the gospel with people like us. And so we miss out on the blessing of sharing the gospel with people from all walks of life.

Pray: Heavenly Father, teach me how to reach my family and friends without losing my way in You. Lead me to help some get to accept and know You.

DAY 17 01/28/25

WISE ENGAGEMENT

BE WISE IN THE WAY YOU ACT TOWARD OUTSIDERS; MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY. LET YOUR CONVERSATION BE ALWAYS FULL OF GRACE, SEASONED WITH SALT, SO THAT YOU MAY KNOW HOW TO ANSWER EVERYONE. - COLOSSIANS 4:5-6 NIV



Reflect

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:6). Before people had refrigerators and freezers, they needed a way to store food and make sure it would be safe to eat. How did they do that? With salt. Someone, a very long time ago, discovered that salt rubbed into food (like meat) would preserve the food in a safe way. It also made it taste better!

Why does Paul tell us to season our conversation with salt? He means that our words should be tasty and delightful to people who may hear them. Our words can also be used as a preservative— to build and to strengthen relationships. Do your words build up people around you? Does your conversation reflect that Jesus lives in your heart? The next time you talk to someone in person or through technology, remember Paul’s advice: let your conversation be full of grace and seasoned with salt!

Want to dig deeper and explore what scripture says about our words? Check out Proverbs 12:25, 15:1, 25:11, 16:24.

Challenge

Make a list of all the ways your family communicates with each other and with others (talking, notes, pictures, phones, email, texting, apps, social media, etc.). Which are most used for building each other up? Which are often used for tearing people down? Have each family member pick a method of communication and use it to encourage people throughout the week.

<https://kidscorner.net/liz-and-friends/episodes/hold-the-phone>

DAY 18 01/29/25

MY HEART, YOUR HOME.

THEN CHRIST WILL MAKE HIS HOME IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU TRUST IN HIM. YOUR ROOTS WILL GROW DOWN INTO GOD'S LOVE AND KEEP YOU STRONG. - EPHESIANS 3:17 NLT



Proverbs 24:3-4

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

How to Live a Good Life



Measuring God's Love (John 3:14-21)

One of my favorite Bible verses begins, "For God so loved the world" (John 3:16). I was thinking about that verse and wondering just how great God's love is and how we could measure it. This morning I brought several things that we often use to measure stuff. I thought they might help us measure God's love.

Sometimes we measure ingredients. If I were making some cookies, which of these would I use to make sure that I put in exactly the right amount of flour, sugar, and milk? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.) That's right, we would use a measuring cup for cookies, but I wonder if we might use a measuring cup to measure God's love? The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want....my cup runneth over" (Psalm 23:1,5). Well, if our cup runs over with God's love, I guess we couldn't use a measuring cup to measure it.

If we were building something, which of these would I use to measure the length, width, and height of different things? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.) That's right, a tape measure, but I wonder if we might use a tape measure to measure God's love? The Bible tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens (Psalm 108:4). If God's love is higher than the heavens, I don't think we could use a tape measure to measure it, could we?

Which of these would I use to measure time? (Allow kids to pick between the measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch.) We use a watch to measure time. There will probably be some people here this morning who will use their watches to measure how long the pastor's sermon lasts. I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Bible tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103:17). Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I guess we couldn't measure it with a watch.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it. We don't need to, but we do need to experience it.

My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

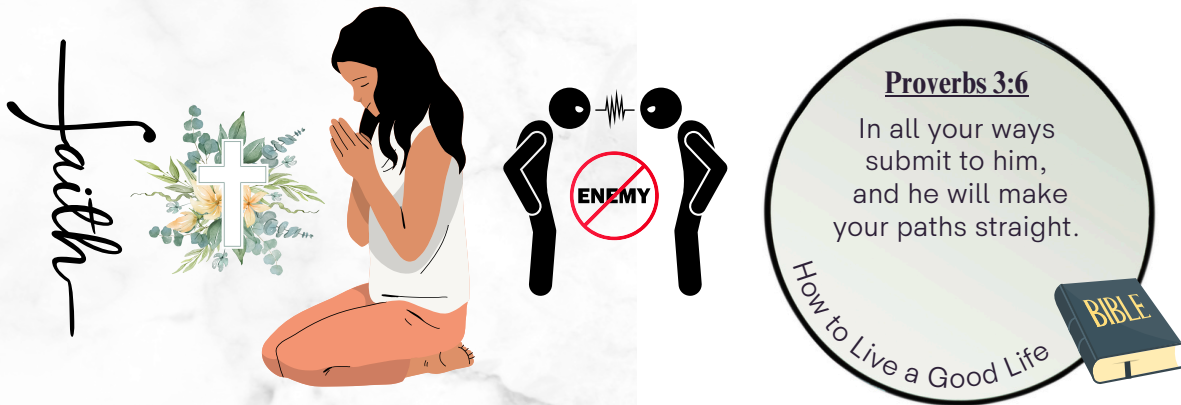
Dear God, we thank You for Your love—a love so great that You gave Your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life. In Jesus' name, amen.

<https://seedskidsworship.com/twenty-verses-in-2020-verse-7-devotion-1-matthew-631-33/>

DAY 19 01/30/25

LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH

WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS, IF SOMEONE SAYS HE HAS FAITH BUT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS? CAN THAT FAITH SAVE HIM? IF A BROTHER OR SISTER IS POORLY CLOTHED AND LACKING IN DAILY FOOD, AND ONE OF YOU SAYS TO THEM, “GO IN PEACE, BE WARMED AND FILLED,” WITHOUT GIVING THEM THE THINGS NEEDED FOR THE BODY, WHAT GOOD IS THAT? SO ALSO FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT DOES NOT HAVE WORKS, IS DEAD.- JAMES 2:14-17 ESV



All people are created in God’s image and loved by Him. Unfortunately, we sometimes treat people differently, showing partiality or judging others based on appearances or possessions rather than intrinsic value. James warned the people of the day not to show favoritism to certain people, but to love others with genuine actions. The same words can be directed at people today. This lesson reminds children that God sees us all the same, despite our differences, and that all people should be welcome in church.

The focus of this lesson reminds us that the Gospel is for all people. We all sin, and therefore have no place to judge what others do. Yet God gives love and mercy to everyone. Regardless of how we look or how much we have, all are welcome in His family and precious in His sight. The book of James can sometimes feel like an emphasis on following the law or performing good works. But it isn’t only works that James urges. Our faith is proved genuine by the state of our hearts. When we truly love God and others, it is easily evidenced by daily actions.

This is another passage that can be a little bit tricky, because we know that our works do not save us. However, this doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do good things. We are saved by faith, through Christ. But as evidence of that faith, we need to be honoring and obeying God, which includes taking care of His people. A “dead” faith might be shown by ignoring the needs of others, or talking a good game without actually caring for them. Faith that is living and active not only says “I hope you get what you need,” but provides what others need.

Can you think of people in our community who are in need? How can we help them?

To parents: Encourage your child to identify ways of caring for others and [how to] live out this passage. Again, the idea is not to enforce guilt or emphasize good deeds, but to consider how we can obey Scripture by how we live our lives and serve others. We show God’s love to others by accepting them for who they are and taking care of all kinds of people. We show His love by helping them and providing what they need!

<https://sundayschool.works/lessons/loving-and-accepting-others-james-21-17-sunday-school-lesson-for-kids/>

DAY 20 01/31/25

GOD WON'T FORGET

BUT, BELOVED, WE ARE CONFIDENT OF BETTER THINGS CONCERNING YOU, YES, THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION, THOUGH WE SPEAK IN THIS MANNER. FOR GOD IS NOT UNJUST TO FORGET YOUR WORK AND LABOR OF LOVE WHICH YOU HAVE SHOWN TOWARD HIS NAME, IN THAT YOU HAVE MINISTERED TO THE SAINTS, AND DO MINISTER. AND WE DESIRE THAT EACH ONE OF YOU SHOW THE SAME DILIGENCE TO THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE UNTIL THE END, THAT YOU DO NOT BECOME SLUGGISH, BUT IMITATE THOSE WHO THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE INHERIT THE PROMISES.- HEBREWS 6:9-12 NKJV



REMEMBER!



Imagine you're playing a game with your friends, and you're working really hard to win. Hebrews 6:9-12 is like someone reminding you that even when it gets tough, keep trying your best because God sees your effort and will reward you for it, just like how your friends cheer you on when you play hard!.

God Remembers Your Good Deeds:

Just like your parents remember when you help out around the house, God remembers when you are kind to others and try to do good things.

Keep Trying Hard:

Don't give up easily, even if things get tricky. Keep working towards being a good friend and doing what's right, just like when you practice to get better at a sport.

Be Like Others Who Are Good:

Look at people who are always trying to be kind and helpful, and try to be like them.

Simple Breakdown of the Verses:

Verse 9: Even though we might remind you to keep doing good, we are sure you will because you are already on the right path.

Verse 10: God isn't unfair, he won't forget the good things you do for others.

Verse 11: We want you to keep trying your best and not get lazy, always working towards being a good person.

Verse 12: Be like those who keep trying and never give up, and you will get the good things that God promises.

DAY 21 02/01/25

LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS

“YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AND HATE YOUR ENEMY.’ BUT I SAY TO YOU, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU.” - MATTHEW 5:43-44 ESV



Proverbs 3:3a & 3:4

Let love and faithfulness never leave you. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

How to Live a Good Life

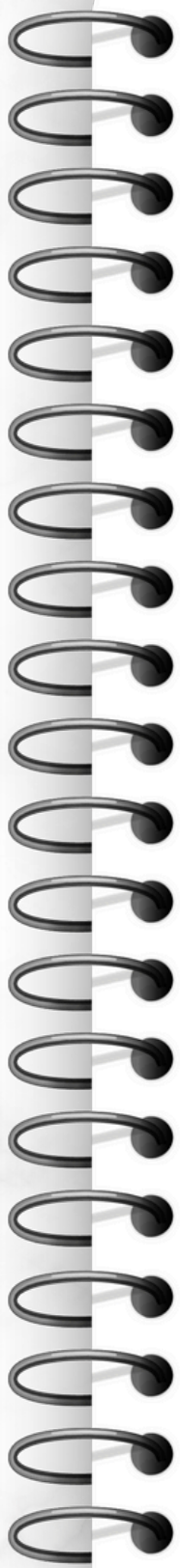


Jesus taught his disciples everywhere he went. One of the places was a mountain, and what he taught there is often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. He talked about many things while he was on the mountain with his disciples. Jesus referred to Leviticus 19:18: "...you must love your neighbor as yourself," and then added, "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you" (Matthew 5:44).

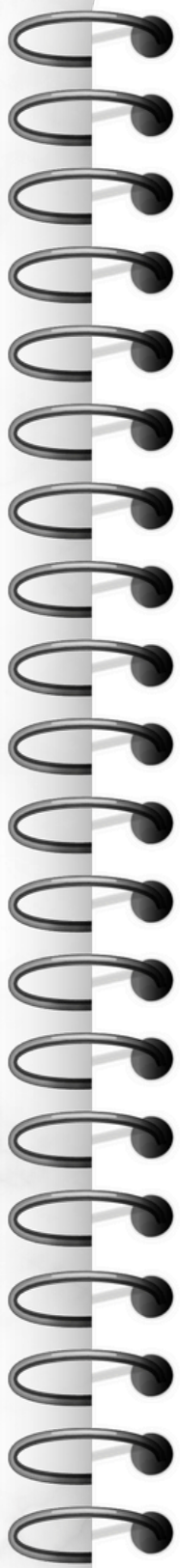
Jesus used the words from the Hebrew Bible about loving your neighbors, but added the words to love your enemies. Jesus was making clear that God loved all people. To follow God and do as God wanted, we, too, must love all people, even those we consider enemies. Jesus calls us to include everyone as our neighbor. Jesus reminds us that we are all created in the image of God and, therefore, we must treat everyone with the same indiscriminate love and grace that God does.

It's hard to show love to people we don't like. It's much easier to love people that like us. Jesus is telling us to do the hard work of loving and accepting people unlike us. It isn't easy, but that is what we are called by God to do. By showing love to all people, we are showing our love for God and claiming we are children of God.

NOTES



NOTES



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