

# DAY 7

**Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed them.**

**Matthew 4:19-20 NLT**

In the process of memorizing scripture, we take time to think about the truth of God’s words to us. This process can help us understand and live out The Bible so much better than just reading it one time! Write the verse on a dry erase board. Each time you read the verse, erase one word. See if you can memorize the whole verse by the time you erase the last word.

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# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

**THE BIG QUESTIONS/WEEK 1**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

## DAY 1

**When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

**John 8:12 NIV**

Have you ever experienced a power outage? It’s easy to take all the light and electricity around us for granted... until we’re suddenly plunged into darkness! Whether it be the sun in the sky or a lamp in your home, light illuminates, reveals, and energizes. Maybe you’ve heard Jesus referred to as the light of the world. That means that not only will we never be left alone to figure out life on earth by ourselves, but also when the world is a “dark place” filled with tragedy or hate or dishonesty, we can look to Jesus to be a source of hope for what is right, true, and good. Like a light that illuminates everything around us, when we stay close to Jesus and begin to see things like he saw things, we can see life more clearly.

**Spend some time today praying and ask Jesus for his perspective on the “dark places” of your life where you need help or clarity. You can trust God to be your light.**

## DAY 2

**And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.**  
**Philippians 1:6 NLT**

We all love things to happen instantly – we want to watch videos without waiting for them to load, have our friends text us back immediately, and find the answers to our questions with just a few clicks or swipes. However, not everything in life is fast or instant. God is working in the world and our lives, but it’s not an instant process. We don’t always see immediate answers to prayer or instantly see change happening in our life. God is doing a good work within you – changing the way you think, helping you grow in wisdom – but this is a process that won’t be finally finished until we are with Jesus. Oftentimes we can see progress in others more clearly than we see it in ourselves.

**Text someone in your small group and encourage them with a way you’ve seen God work in or through them lately.**

## DAY 3

**The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

**Psalms 18:2 NIV**

We don't use words like fortress, rock, or deliverer very often. Instead, we're more likely to use words like shelter, or safe room, or anchor. The writer of this psalm is helping us see that God is reliable. God is strong enough to protect us, to handle our biggest fears, to make us secure when life seems uncertain. When life seems to crumble around us, we have the incredible safety and security in knowing that not only does God know and understand our problems, but God actively defends and comforts us. A relationship with God is like a shield for our hearts and minds, we can rely on God for protection and rest.

**Write down 5-10 heavy things in your life right now. Pray specifically for each one and then cross it off as a reminder that God is your rock.**

## DAY 4

**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

**2 Corinthians 5:15 NIV**

What do you live for? What do you think about and spend the most time doing? Maybe it's for accomplishments like grades or goals. Or maybe it's relationships – like friends or a boyfriend/girlfriend. You could live for the relaxation you feel when you're watching your favorite show, playing your favorite game, or working on your favorite hobby. We all tend to live for ourselves, doing whatever we can to make our lives comfortable, exciting, or impressive. The crazy thing about living for yourself is that you can end up feeling hollow, like something is missing. When we believe that Jesus died and rose again, it changes everything. Following Jesus changes our focus from being only about ourselves to living for God and serving others.

**A life with Jesus is so much more fulfilling and satisfying than living for only ourselves. How can you live for Jesus today?**

## DAY 5

**Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.**

**Proverbs 16:3 NIV**

Are you: (A) a super detailed person, or (B) a go with the flow person, or (C) something in between the two? Either way, we all have hopes and plans for the future. Whether it's what job we want in the future or just what we want to eat for lunch, we're constantly making plans. The problem is that our plans sometimes don't work out, or we feel stuck when making a big decision. It can feel like the weight of the world is on your shoulders to figure out the rest of your life. Here's the good news: when we put God first and commit to following God, we start to want our plans to align with God's plans. Our plans start to go from very specific to very purpose-seeking - from "making the team this spring" to "being a light in any community and social situation I'm a part of, whether I get on the team or not". That means that our future is in God's hands, which honestly is so much better than our own!

**The next time you are facing a decision big or small, commit it to God through prayer and ask God to guide you into wise actions.**

## DAY 6

**This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT**

*Written by Beatriz M., age 17 from Alpharetta, Georgia, USA*

Think of something silly about yourself. Like for me, I make a very strange noise whenever I laugh too hard, and sometimes my sense of humor can be a little weird. But then, there are more serious things – maybe you don't like the way your body looks, or you have a hard time making friends. The point is that there will always be things we don't like about ourselves, but when we bring those things to God, God can help us figure out the truth about them. It's true that you are perfectly made. It's true that you matter to God. It's true that you belong to God. It's true that God is madly in love with every single part of you. And it's also true that God can turn your imperfections into assets and gifts. Whenever you run to Jesus, He'll help you transform yourself. You become a new person! You will become a better version of yourself, more Christ-like, and your flaws will be turned into something good.

**Next time you are not sure about your identity or your purpose, remember that God can help you answer those questions!**