



LIVING
Faithfully

A 21-DAY GUIDE TO GROWING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Welcome to Living Faithfully



This is a 21-day guide through important passages in the Bible. We hope this material will help you grow in your relationship with God, understand how to better read God's Word, and live out your faith. On average it takes 21 days to form a new habit, so consistency will be key throughout these next three weeks. Before you know it, it'll be second nature. Don't think of this book as homework or another assignment (no one will quiz you or make sure you answer all the questions). Think of this book as a resource when it comes to furthering your relationship with the Lord. Following Jesus is the most important decision you'll ever make, and the Second Students team wants to help you through it. For more info about Second Students, please see the resources on page 55.



Helpful definitions



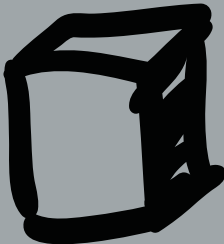
God's Word: The Bible



Your walk: your relationship with God



Called to: encouraged to do by the teachings in the Bible





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Things to understand about this resource

It's a way to grow in your faith

It's a guide to understand how to study God's Word

It has guided prayers and questions to help with personal application to your own life

It's not a replacement for your Bible

Let's Get Real

3 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE GOSPEL



01. Our sin separates us from God

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
(Romans 3:23)



02. God loves us

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)



03. We can have a personal relationship with God

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)



Your Walk

God's Goodness

Day 1

As we hit those rocky places or events that make us question God's goodness, we must remember that we serve a good God. God sees the big picture, and good things can still come from what seems like a bad situation.

If things aren't going as you planned, it doesn't mean that God has stopped doing good or being good. You may need to step back and focus on the good things in your life.

You might have asked yourself, "Why does a good God let bad things happen to good people?" The truth is that bad things happen to all people because our broken world has existed since the fall of man, as described in the book of Genesis. The Bible also tells us in Romans 3:12, "No one is good, not even one." No number of good deeds will ever make us genuinely righteous. God created us in His image but has given us free will to make choices, good and bad. We all experience the consequences of our choices, and some of us experience the consequences of others' choices. The good news is that we serve a good God who gives us a way to have a relationship with Him even in this broken world. When we let God be the Lord of our lives and spend time in His Word, God reminds us that even in difficult times, He is always good.

Read

Nahum 1:7

Next read

James 1:17

Now read

Psalms 107: 1, 8-9



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God for His goodness and for sending His Son to take the penalty of our mistakes. Ask Him to remind you that His plan is perfect and good even in the moments when you cannot see the whole picture. Pray that you glorify Him in all circumstances.

THINK ABOUT IT

What comes to mind when you hear the word "good"?

Do you believe that all good things come from God?

Do you think that everything that He has allowed in your life is for your good?

Have you experienced a circumstance that made you question God's goodness?

What's something that you can be thankful for today that will help you recognize God's goodness in your life?

Forgiveness

Day 2

We do not live in a perfect world. Because we are imperfect people, bad choices affect others and us. When people say or do unkind things to us, we can become angry, resentful, frustrated, and even sad, which can lead to unforgiveness from us. Unforgiveness threatens to ruin our lives, but might not affect the person who harmed us. That unforgiveness negatively affects us while not impacting the person who hurt us is a harsh truth. When we refuse to forgive someone, our anger and bitterness sink deeper and deeper until it takes root in us, causing more pain. When others harm us, God calls us to forgive. Forgiveness may seem too difficult or even impossible. However, we must follow God's example of forgiving us for our sins through His Son Jesus dying on the cross. Unforgiveness causes destruction, whereas forgiveness provides the building blocks for reconstruction. God created us, and He has more incredible things for our lives than being stuck in a place of unforgiveness.

Read

Ephesians 4:31-32

Next read

Luke 6: 27- 31

Now read

Acts 13:38



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to help you forgive those who have hurt you. Ask God to help you see those people the way He sees them, with love, compassion, and forgiveness.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

How can forgiveness be beneficial to your life?

Are there people in your life who have hurt you and you need to forgive?

How has your unforgiveness toward them affected you?

Are you willing to forgive this person (or people) today?

Love, Grace, and Mercy

Day 3

Love, grace, and mercy are three gifts God has given us that change everything.

Love from The Father is unconditional, which means we can do nothing to earn or lose His love. Because of His great love for us, He showers us with grace and mercy.

Mercy is when we do not get what we deserve. The Bible explains that we are all sinners, and all sin has a cost. Because we are sinful and live imperfect lives by nature, the price of our sin is separation from the perfect God. Jesus lived a perfect life and paid the price for our sins when He died on the cross. God showed His great mercy by sending Jesus to take the punishments we deserve. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we have a relationship with God now on earth and for eternity.

Grace is when God gives us things that we do not deserve. We do not deserve a relationship with Him because of our sins; instead, He has given us love, acceptance, and eternal life with Him. Our sin causes pain and destruction in our lives and the lives of others, but because of His grace, God gives us life, purpose, and restoration. So many things God freely gives to us just because He loves us. Everyone matters to Him, and nothing we do or don't do changes that.

Read

John 3:16

Next read

Romans 3:23-26

Now read

Ephesians 2 : 4-9



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God that nothing we can say or do can separate us from God's love. Pray that His mercy and grace leads you to turn from your sin and to live life for His glory.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Grace and mercy are similar, but how are they different?

What do we deserve because of our sin? What do we get instead?

Why does God give us grace and mercy?

Besides your relationship with Jesus, what are some ways you've seen these three gifts in your own life?

What are some ways that you can implement these in your own life?

Obedience

Day 4

No one likes having someone tell us what to do, but we can't avoid it. At home, your parents tell you what to do. At school, teachers tell you what to do. We may have a coach or a boss that also tells us what to do. No matter the path we choose, someone with authority will be there too. God is the ultimate authority, and by obeying the person with authority He has placed in our lives, we are also obedient to God.

As Christ's followers, our calling is to obey God because He has our best interest at heart. Being obedient is not just a list of things we can and can't do. It's choosing to say yes to the things we get to do because we have a relationship with Him. It's waking up every day and deciding that we will choose God over everything else.

As we saw on day one, God is good, and scripture tells us in Romans 8 that He is working all things for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. When we are obedient, He directs our path, and living for Him is no longer a list of rules but a way of life.

Read
Matthew 22:36-38

Next read

John 14: 21

Now read

Psalms 128:1



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God that obedience is key in a relationship with Him. Pray for a heart that is accepting of His invitation to do the things that He has called you to. Ask for discernment to understand the difference between what you think is best and what God knows is best.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you sometimes find it hard to obey the authorities in your life? Why or why not?

What's one thing that you do to remind yourself that God's way is the best way?

Do you obey God out of obligation or love? Explain your answer.

Is there something or someone in your life that is keeping you from being obedient to God?

Humility

Day 5

Humility is a word that we often hear. In sports, in songs, and maybe even from our parents or friends. However, we may have lost sight of what the word means. The world says being humble is not something we should strive for because it is thinking less of ourselves, and we tend to think we are great, so we choose not to do that. But that isn't humility at all. It isn't thinking less of us, but instead thinking of ourselves less. Thinking of ourselves less means putting others' needs over our own, serving others over serving ourselves.

Jesus displayed the best example of humility. He left His throne in heaven to come to earth and die for us on the cross. Jesus knew that we needed this selfless sacrifice. So, Jesus humbled himself and stepped out of heaven to live on earth with us in the flesh so that He could pay the penalty of our sins.

God calls us to be humble and think of others before ourselves, just as His Son Jesus did for us. When we live humbly, we might not get all the rewards and recognition, but it has an eternal impact on those around us! As we go through our day, let's look for ways to humble ourselves, think of ourselves less, and think of others more.

Read

Philippians 2:2-4

Next read

James 4:10

Now read

Proverbs 11:2



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to show you ways you can remain humble and serve others over yourself.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

How did Jesus model humility for us?

Why is it hard to be humble naturally?

Why should we be humble in our lives?

How can you be humble today in your life?

Counting the cost

Day 6

At times in life you often have to sacrifice things to make room for something else. You might sacrifice your physical strength to practice and improve at your sport. Or perhaps you sacrifice your time to volunteer for your favorite organization. Or maybe you even sacrifice sleep to be on time for school. Sometimes you might walk away from these types of things wondering if the cost of your sacrifice is worth what you gain.

In Luke 14, Jesus tells His disciples that following Him will cost them everything. Jesus wants His followers to understand that having a relationship with Him would mean leaving behind your old way of living. The Bible often reminds us that we are called to live our lives differently than those who don't follow Jesus

Following Jesus has a cost, but when you begin to experience the kingdom of God in your heart and in your life, you realize that the cost is nothing compared to the peace, purpose, and joy of following Jesus.

Read

Luke 14: 28-33

Next read

Luke 9:23-25

Now read

Matthew 13: 44-46



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God that the cost of following Him is always worth it. Ask Him to help you to deny yourself and take up your cross daily. Pray for strength to leave the things of this world behind and pursue a relationship with Jesus with your whole heart.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Does following Jesus require you to sacrifice things in your life?

What are some things that would be difficult for you to give up in order to follow Jesus?

Is what you gain more valuable than what you give up?

What are some things that you have to sacrifice in your day-to-day life?

Did you know that for Christians, this world is not our home? This world is a temporary home, while our eternal home is in heaven. The Bible talks a lot about heaven. Heaven is a place where there is no more pain or suffering. God has prepared a place for us in heaven, and we will forever be in His presence—the presence of the Lord God Almighty, the Savior and Creator, and the One worthy of worship.

Life can get challenging. Things go wrong; relationships break, sickness and disease exist, and so much more. It is always a great reminder that we are not home yet when we reach a point of struggle and difficulty. There is hope as we await our eternal home with God. Our eternal home is a promise we can look forward to when we place our faith in Jesus Christ.

Read

1 John 2:25

Next read

1 Corinthians 2:9
&
Revelation 21:4

Now read

John 14:2



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to remind you that you are not home yet. Ask God to show you how He wants to use you while you are here on earth. Thank God for sending Jesus to die for your sins so that you can spend forever with Him when you believe in Jesus.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why is does it matter that this world is not our permanent home?

Have you put your faith in Jesus? If yes, when? If no, what is holding you back from it?

What emotions do you feel when you hear that Jesus died for your sins?

What emotions come about when you hear God wants a relationship with you?

LET'S RECAP



God is good



God is forgiving



**God is loving, gracious,
and merciful**



**We have an eternal home
in Jesus**



Think about a time you've had to prepare for something. It could be a big test you're studying for, a significant performance, or even an important game. You've probably dedicated more hours getting ready than you spent at the event. The preparation we put into something directly affects the outcome. The more we internalize something, the easier it is to perform well when the stakes are high.

Scripture helps us in the same way. In the Bible, God gives us all sorts of life tools. He teaches us how to handle challenging situations. He consoles us during hard times. There are even basic things in Scripture, like how to save and manage money.

The most important thing about the Bible, however, is that it allows us to get to know the One who wrote it. God reveals Himself to us in His Word. When we read Scripture, we see God's heart for us and how much He truly loves us. We also see His challenge to love others and live our lives. For those who follow Jesus, it is the most important book we could ever read!

Read

Proverbs 2: 1-12

Next read

Psalms 119:9

Now read

2 Timothy 3 : 16 -17

Surrounding
yourself with
Godly
community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God for giving us a way to know Him better. Pray that you can use His Word to live a life that reflects Him. Ask God to reveal Himself to you more each day.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you think it's important to read the Bible?

How can telling others about God's Word benefit you?

Do you feel like you hear from God? List a few ways you best hear from Him

Do you feel closer to God when you read His Word?

Do you think you have to read the Bible to have a relationship with Jesus? If you don't know, talk about this with a leader or trusted adult in your life.

God calls His followers to live differently. When we look at Romans 12, we see Paul encouraging believers to surrender as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Surrender is a giant “yield” sign standing in the middle of the road of your life, serving as a reminder that God calls people to yield their lives to Christ. That is the beauty of living differently. It is saying “yes” to Christ and allowing Him to lead, guide, and transform. Saying yes is what sets Christians apart, or different from everyone else.

The world wants to make us give in, dictate how we think, and influence our decisions. The things of this world say “stand out” for many reasons that can cause harm to us. When we put our faith in Jesus, God transforms us through the power of the Holy Spirit by giving us new thoughts, attitudes, and desires to glorify Him and bring true satisfaction to our lives.

Read

Romans 12:1-2

Next read

Galatians 2:20

&

1 Peter 1:15-16

Now read

Colossians 3:1-25

Surrounding
yourself with
Godly
community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Think about your desires and wants.
Pray and ask God to give you a stronger desire for Him and for His Word. Thank God for setting us apart when we place our faith in Jesus.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Are you desiring more of the things of this world or the things God has for you?

Do you take time to read the Bible? How often each week?
How long each time do you read?

Have you taken time to memorize scripture?

How can you start living differently for God today? What about this week?

Did you know that God wired you for friendships? God wants us to walk through life with others. We need friends who will help us become who God created us to be. Have you ever heard the phrase "We are what we eat"? I'm not so sure that is true, but I can say that a more accurate statement is "We are who we surround ourselves with." Proverbs 13 says that if we surround ourselves with wise people, we will become wise, but if we surround ourselves with foolish people, we end up paying for it. Proverbs 12 says that righteous people choose their friends carefully.

The truth is that the people we connect with most closely determine who we usually become. If we want to live for Jesus, we need to consider the people we surround ourselves with in order to experience "life to the fullest" as Jesus promised.

Read

Proverbs 13:20

Next read

Proverbs 12:26

Now read

1 Corinthians 15:3

Surrounding
yourself with
Godly
community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to show you if your friends are leading you to Him. If not, pray and ask God for new friends who will do that. If yes, thank God for your friends.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Are your closest friends heading toward Jesus or away from Him?

Are your friends constantly pulling you down, or are they helping you grow?

Who are two friends (or possible friends) who you think will help you the most in your relationship with Jesus?

How can you be a friend that others would look for?

In Genesis, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." He was talking about creating Eve, but this statement doesn't only apply to marriage. Humans are relational beings whom God intended us to have others around.

When we look at the early church in Scripture, we see a group together. They constantly spend time with one another. They didn't just pray and go to church together; they hung out with each other. In Acts 2, you see the early church explode with growth because the early church lived out the gospel, and they did it together. When others saw the church, they wanted to be a part of it.

Many people in our local church want to help us grow and take the next step in our faith. Find those people and watch God do some amazing things in your life. We must find ourselves a group of people that we can run with toward Christ, and talk to them about holding us accountable in our relationship with God.

Read

Acts 2:42-47

Next read

Hebrews 10:24-25

Now read

Psalms 133:1

Surrounding
yourself with
Godly
community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God for biblical community in your life like in Acts. Thank God that we were not created to be alone.

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you have people in your life who are pointing you toward Jesus?

Who are the people in your life making the biggest impact on you?

Why is community so important?

What is the difference between friendships and community? If you don't know, talk to a leader or trusted adult in your life.

Staying connected with God is the most important thing we can do. We are probably like most people and feel close to God when we are free of the distractions and noise that the outside world brings. We often fall into the trap of relying on others to create that mountaintop feeling when we give all our attention to God as we do at camps or church events. When we start a relationship with Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit living inside us, and we can connect with God any time we want. Sometimes we don't feel close to God, but we don't let feelings drive our relationship with God. Always remember that He promises never to leave us or forsake us.

It's easy for us to drop our relationship with God when life gets tough, but it is in those seasons that we need Him the most. We can stay connected to God by reading His Word, talking to Him through prayer, and spending time with other believers who can encourage and remind us of God's promises. To stay connected with God, we must choose to prioritize Him regardless of where we are and what we're going through. Just like a branch cannot produce fruit unless connected to the vine, we cannot walk joyfully through life without the Father.

Read

John 15 : 4-11

Next read

Mark 12: 28-30

Now read

Galatians 4: 3-7

Surrounding
yourself with
Godly
community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God for His presence in your life. Pray for peace and strength to walk with Him each day. Ask God to remove the things in your life that keep you from connecting to Him.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

To what or whom do you spend your time connecting?

Give some examples of things in your life that require a connection to work properly. What happens when these things lose their connection?

Is going to church or camp the only way that Christ followers can connect with God?

What is one way you can better connect with God this week?

Whose voice do I listen to?

Day 13

Hearing and listening are not the same. The things we hear daily are often out of our control. It's simply the sounds that our ears pick up throughout life. Listening, on the other hand, means applying what we hear to our lives.

We should always turn to God first regarding what we allow into our lives. God wants to hear from us, and He also wants us to hear from Him. Sometimes God speaks through prayer, His Word, or even other believers. With so many people trying to get us to listen to them, it's essential to know the truth by reading the Bible. The more we know God's Word, the easier it will be to filter out the things that do not align with His will.

Read

James 1: 22-24

Next read

Romans 10: 17

Now read

Philippians 4:8-9

Surrounding
yourself with
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community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Ask God to align your thoughts, words, and actions with God's Word. Pray that His Word lives in your heart and that it guides you every day. Pray for ears to hear God's voice and a heart that listens to it.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

List some people who often want to influence how you live your life.

Of the people you listed in the previous question, whose voice do you listen to the most?

Do the voices that you listen to honor God?

What are some ways you can hear from God?

Do you have a best friend? Do you have someone you talk to about absolutely everything? Maybe it's mom or dad or a sibling. Whoever that person is, the key to making that relationship great is communication. If we don't talk to or listen to our best friend, how can that friendship grow? Our relationship with God is the same. The way we communicate with God is through prayer. The beautiful thing about prayer is that God is never unavailable. He is ready to listen to and talk with us at any time of the day. Prayer should never be something we feel we must do or check off a daily list. Just like our best friend, God looks forward to talking to us. If we don't know where to start or how to pray, that is OK. A great place to begin with prayer is to thank God for who He is and what He has done for us. We can also tell Him what is happening in our lives and ask Him for forgiveness for how we messed up that day. There is no right or wrong way to pray. God wants to hear from us.

Read

Matthew 6: 7-13

Next read

1 Thessalonians
5: 16 -22

Now read

Philippians 4:6-7

Surrounding
yourself with
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community

Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God that you can talk to Him any time you want. Thank Him for caring deeply about you and wanting to hear from you. Ask God to help you not take having access to Him for granted.

THINK ABOUT IT

Why is prayer important?

Is it sometimes difficult to talk to God through prayer?

Do you think that God hears your prayers?

Do you pray only in the bad times or in the good times too?

What are some ways that you can remind yourself to talk to God throughout the day?



LET'S RECAP



**God's Word helps us to
know Him more**



**We are called to be set
apart**



**You can talk to God any
time through prayer**



**Who you surround yourself
with matters**



Being a light

Serving

Day 15

When Jesus came to earth, He became the image of the invisible God and modeled how we should live our lives. Jesus did everything in love and spent His life serving others. He even went as far as washing His disciples' feet. During this time, it was unheard of for a teacher to kneel at the feet of his students. Jesus was not concerned with what was considered culturally appropriate, but with caring for His disciples. Believe it or not, Jesus also washed the feet of those He knew would later betray Him. Jesus' example is an excellent reminder that we have a calling to serve everyone God has placed in our lives. To serve others well, Jesus had to humble Himself and be aware of the needs of those around Him. He did not serve to receive something in return, but instead to demonstrate His sacrificial love for others. If the King of Kings prioritized serving others, we should prioritize it too.

Read

Luke 14: 28-33

Next read

Luke 9:23-25

Now read

Matthew 13: 44-46



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God that you get to serve the people in your life. Pray that you can use the things He has blessed you with to bless others. Ask God for a heart and mind that puts loving Him and others above all else.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

How did Jesus feel about serving others?

What is your attitude toward serving?

Do you think humbly serving others makes a difference in their lives?

What are some ways you can serve those around you in your day-to-day life?

Giving gifts has become a standard part of our world today. Whether it's Christmas, Valentine's Day, or a birthday, our culture loves celebrating others by giving gifts. Any time a gift-giving holiday arises, we often think back to the best gifts we've received. Gifts that have made us smile, laugh, or even brought us to tears always hold a special place in our hearts, and we always take any opportunity we get to tell others about how much those gifts meant to us.

While receiving gifts is nice, we often wonder if we give the same enthusiasm to the best gift ever given, the Savior of the world. God gave us His only Son so we wouldn't have to pay the price for our sins; what gift is better than that? If we can passionately tell others about earthly gifts, what's stopping us from passionately telling others about the eternal gift offered in Christ Jesus?

As Christians, we should share the gospel out of the joy that overflows from our hearts, and we should also share it in obedience. In Matthew, Jesus' last charge to His disciples commands them to tell others about what they've witnessed in their time with Him.

Read

James 1:17

Next read

Matthew 28:18-20

Now read

John 14:23



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God for giving us the best gift ever! Ask for eyes that see opportunities to share the gospel and for obedience to follow through. Pray that God softens the hearts of the people you evangelize to so that they can receive the gift of eternal life.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

What's the best gift you've ever gotten? How did you respond?

How should we respond to the gift that God gave us through Jesus on the cross?

Write down the name of someone in your life who needs to hear about the gift that we have through Jesus?

Why is it important to share the Gospel?

Temptation

Day 17

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to decide between doing the right and wrong things? Most of us have. It is rarely an easy decision because doing the wrong thing often sounds fun or feels good. That feeling of being torn between doing right and wrong is called temptation. God promises us that we will experience trials in our life. Some of those trials will be dealing with temptation. Jesus' temptation came when He was here on earth. Satan tried to distract Jesus during one of His most vulnerable moments, but because Jesus kept His focus on God and did not entertain the thought of the things Satan used to tempt Him, He overcame that temptation. We, too, can resist temptation, just like Jesus did. The Bible says that temptation does not come from God. Temptation comes from Satan and his attempts to make evil look good. The Bible also says no temptation is too great for God to help us overcome. The God who lives inside us gives us everything we need to overcome temptation. We must keep our focus on Him. God will never leave us to fight temptation on our own. He promises to give us everything we need to overcome it.

Read

Matthew 4:1-11

Next read

1 Corinthians 10:13

Now read

James 1:12-14

**Being the
light in a
dark
world**

Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God what He wants you to do. Ask God to remind you He is always with you and He is your strength. Ask God to make your way out of temptation clear.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Is temptation a sin?

Have you ever suffered consequences from giving in to temptation and making the wrong decision?

Have you ever chosen to do the right thing in a tough situation? What were the benefits of that?

Why is it reassuring knowing that there is never a temptation God cannot overcome?

Is there something in your life that keeps you from following Jesus?

Every day is full of scenarios that make our hearts pound, our pulse race, and our hands sweat. We can find ourselves worrying about everything. We live in a stressed-out society that makes us sick, but God doesn't want us to live that way. God tells us not to be anxious or worry about the future. All we need to do is bring our worries and fears to Him. Let Him carry those burdens while we trust and believe that circumstances may not be what we want; He is always aware of the situation and promises our current problems will work out for our ultimate good. Stop and remind yourself that God is in control, and He wants us to trust Him with whatever concerns we have.

Read

Philippians 4:6-9

Next read

Matthew 6:34

Now read

1 Peter 5:6-7

&

James 1:2-4



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to remind you He is with you every moment of every day. Surrender all your worries and fears and doubts to God in prayer.

Thank God for His power and guidance.

THINK ABOUT IT

What steps can you take to let go of some of the fears and stresses that you may be experiencing?

What are the top two things that cause you the most anxiety, and what can you do to allow God to take care of those worries?

Why can it be difficult to surrender things like this to God?

How can you remind yourself God is in control?

Making Good Choices

Day 19

Spending time with God is essential to making good choices in our lives. When we seek God and ask Him for His wisdom in our lives, He will guide us in our decision-making. Seeking Him is vital because most choices we face are hard to make. Most people tend to make easy and popular decisions, but God's Word tells us that His way is not always popular or easy. When we keep our hearts and minds fixed on what is true, pure, right, and pleasing to God, He guides our decision-making. Carving out time each day to spend with Him and in the Bible needs to be a priority. As Christians, He calls us to be set apart from the world and look different. When we face a hard decision, stop, and look at what most people do. If the people around you are not seeking God, the decision you need to make will probably not look like what they are doing.

Read

Proverbs 3:5-6

Next read

Matthew 7:13-14

Now read

Philippians 4:8



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to help you make the right choices. Ask God to help you use wisdom to know what is right and then do it!

THINK ABOUT IT

Have you ever had to choose to make a right decision that wasn't easy? What was it?

Do you find that it is easier to make the right decisions when you are spending time with God?

Why does reading the Bible help us with making the right decisions?

Why is God's way better than our way?

There is a story of a girl who got a bunch of candy for Halloween and saved it for later. After some time, she got a fresh candy bar from the wrapper, opened it up, took a bite, and found it was full of little bugs. They never knew exactly how that happened, but they did know that something got inside that candy bar, multiplied, and made it rotten and gross. Did you know that can happen to you and me? All it takes is for us to allow things in our lives that have no business being there, and - even if everything looks fine on the outside - those things will destroy us from the inside out. In today's world, that happens more than ever through social media, movies, music, websites, and other media types. If we use all those things correctly, we will be fine. But they can be destructive without proper use. Proverbs 4 says that we should guard our hearts above all else. Then the writer talks about protecting our mouths, eyes, minds, decisions, and even the places we go. Did you know that the things we see, the things we hear, the sites we look at, the movies we watch, the music we listen to, and the places we go (online or in life) will all determine the course of our lives? Our eyes and ears are pathways to our hearts. We must be careful about what we allow to come in.

Read

Proverbs 4:23-27

Next read

Ephesians 5:8-18

Now read

Psalms 101:1-4



Things God is showing me in these verses

Pray and ask God to show you what is not good for your eyes and ears. Ask God to help you remove those things and replace them with things that honor Him.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

Are there people you need to stop following, or movies, sites, and media you need to stop looking at or watching?

Why do these things have such a strong impact on our lives?

What are things that would honor God that you can replace these things with?

Who are two people who would help you do this? Be sure to tell them!

You've probably heard the phrase; "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." This phrase should encourage us to avoid comparing our situation with those around us. At times we may be tempted to compare our success with the accomplishments of those around us.

Our world often encourages us to measure success by how much we have, but real success comes from being in the center of God's will. God's ultimate will is for us to know Him and make His name known, but He also has a specific plan and purpose for our lives. God's perfect plan will come together in His perfect timing, so He calls us to a life of obedience.

It's important to ask God what His will is for our lives, but we should also ask Him what His will is for our days. There is no such thing as an overnight success, but when we follow God's direction, we will experience His faithfulness. We should define our success by the moments we grow through walking with God daily, not defined by how we measure up to the world's standards.

Read

John 15:16

Next read

Luke 9:23-25

Now read

Matthew 13: 44-46



Things God is showing me in these verses

Thank God for creating you with a specific purpose in mind. Ask Him to remind you that He is the ultimate measure of success. In the moments where you want to measure your success with the things of this world, pray for a mind that understands that God's ways are higher than our ways. Ask God to show you what Godly success looks like in your life.

Take a moment to pray

THINK ABOUT IT

How do you define success?

Does your definition of success glorify God or yourself?

What is something you have been successful at in your life?

How can you use your success to point others back to God?



LET'S RECAP



We will always be tempted to live in our sinful nature



You are a reflection of Christ



Put good in, get good out



Put God first



DON'T GO AT IT ALONE

JOIN US!



ALL CAMPUSES

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS
BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
LIVE



REACH OUT TO YOUR
STUDENT STAFF FOR
CAMPUS-SPECIFIC
RESOURCES



FACEBOOK
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INSTAGRAM
@SECONDSTUDENTS

Now what?

Yay! You did it! You finished this 21-day guide to growing in your relationship with Christ. Now the question arises "what comes next?" Now you get to be a light to those around you, and use the skills you've learned to pursue the Lord.

At times it may seem that you feel closest to God on the mountain tops in life, but remember that He is with you in the valleys too.



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