

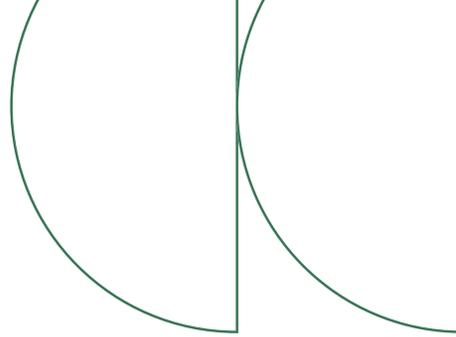
DAY 6

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

Philippians 4:8a NLT

Have you ever gotten something new that almost immediately caused you to forget about something old? It isn't that the old was bad... but the new shoes, phone, video game just kind of made the old one worthless to you. This is how Paul describes what knowing Jesus is like. Of course, that doesn't mean we start hating everything that isn't praying or reading our Bible. Paul is talking more about a change in perspective, saying that when we realize how good Jesus is, how good the life is that Jesus leads us to, we will see that nothing else can give us what Jesus can. The way to a fuller life, a good life, is through Jesus. Nothing else can do it for us.

Is there something in your life you are hoping will give you the good life, but hasn't delivered?



DAY 7

Memory Verse: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Experiencing this fruit of the Spirit in our life is what the good life really looks like. Memorizing these verses heightens your awareness of how in-step you are with the Holy Spirit.

This week challenge a friend to memorize this verse with you. To raise the stakes, pick a deadline and put something on the line (your favorite meal, etc.). Or think "3x3x3." There are nine fruits, and you can memorize them by saying them out loud or writing them in sets of three.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE GOOD LIFE / WEEK 1

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12 NIV

196... 144... 92... 40... Do those numbers mean anything to you? They are, on average, the number of weeks you have left in high school from the first day of each new school year. Knowing our time is limited pushes us to use that time for what matters most. Right now, Google, "weeks until" and then plug in the month and year you're hoping to graduate. Put that number somewhere you can see it... the lock screen on your phone, a jar of marbles in your room, up to you!

There's a better way to do high school, and it helps to remember we only get to do it once and that our time in high school won't last forever.

DAY 2

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:9 NIV

Sometimes the future is fun to dream about...other times it feels terrifying. For many of us, controlling the future seems like the only way to make it less scary. But we can face the future, and live the good life when we realize that no matter where our steps take us, God is right there with us. There's nowhere we are going that God isn't going too. This takes a lot of the weight and pressure off of us and allows us to be present in whatever moment God has for us.

What's one thing taking up space in your mind right now that you can pause and choose to trust God with instead?

DAY 3

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

Psalm 16:11 NLT

Have you ever had a great coach? Teacher? Maybe even an older teammate or friend who you look up to? Those farther along than us in life can show us the way to the good life. By being willing to learn from them, we can even avoid a few pains or pitfalls they may have experienced. Even more valuable than what they can teach you though, is simply the gift of the relationship itself. In the same way, when we learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, we can walk in the way of life that God says is best, without having to learn the hard way. Becoming more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence helps us stay in tune to the things God wants for us and helps us feel less alone.

What is something the Holy Spirit might be trying to show you today?

DAY 4

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Have you ever changed your haircut, got a new pair of glasses, or changed your personal style in a way that made you feel like a whole new person? Of course, after the newness of the change wears off, you realize, you are still exactly who you were before. But Paul tells us in this verse that when we follow Jesus, we literally are new people! Spending time with Jesus, learning to pay attention to the Holy Spirit and what God is doing in your life is part of how we lean into that new identity.

How has following Jesus made you new? Where are you still relying on your old identity?

DAY 5

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.

Psalm 46:10 NLT

Written by Anna, age 18

From Shawnee, Kansas, USA

I'm guessing a lot of people have walked onto an airplane, sat down, and had a decent flight even though they didn't know all the mechanics and other complicated things going on in the cockpit. Most people don't know exactly how an airplane flies, so when they choose to fly, they are trusting the pilot in charge. I think about a relationship with God in a similar way. As much as we may want to be, we are not in complete control of everything that happens in our own lives. Thankfully though, God knows what's best for us and helps us live life to the fullest.

Have your worries about your circumstances or future ever taken up a ton of space in your mind? I know I've experienced this personally. It is in those moments when we have to intentionally remind ourselves that

God is still working, even though life isn't going exactly the way we expected. Just like in the airplane, there is a lot going on beneath the surface for a successful flight to happen, and there is a pilot who knows how to make sense of it all! Trusting that God is working in the world around us and with us always helps us to truly be still and know that God is doing more than we can see. It's in choosing to trust that God is always at work in us and the world around us, that we can begin to set down our worries and overwhelming thoughts.

Today, take a few minutes to pray in total silence if you can. Allow yourself to be still and talk to God about what it means that God is working in your life and in the world around you.