

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Vital

WEEK 1

WHAT WE'RE FOR IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT WE'RE AGAINST.

"For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

1 JOHN 3:11 NIV

DAY 1

Jesus made it pretty clear that loving others was a top priority. But if we're being honest, there are some people that are just plain hard to love! In those cases, it is important to remember that God loves us even when we're hard to love. He loves us unconditionally, even though we don't deserve it. Eventually, we must admit that loving others is about what God has called us to do, not always what we want to do. We love because He asked us to—that's it! This week, commit to praying for someone in your life who is hard to love.

"Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver."

PSALM 119:72 NLT

DAY 2

It's hard to appreciate something you don't fully understand. Some of the subjects you study at school seem like a complete waste of time, but as you grow up, you'll realize just how important those things are to your life. Unfortunately, we can sometimes treat the Bible the same way. Reading and studying it as a student can help you a lot as an adult. Though you may not always realize it, the more you learn about God's word, the better your life will be. This week, connect with a trusted friend or Small Group Leader and ask them to share how they study the Bible with you.

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.”

HEBREWS 13:1 NLT

DAY 3

If you have siblings, then you know that getting along with them isn't always easy. But even on the worst days, you're held together with your siblings by the love you have for each other as family. And in the family of God, the same rules apply. As believers, we must remain committed to loving each other. Even when we disagree or don't get along, still we must love. Think of the last person you had a hard time getting along with in your life. Ask yourself how that situation could've been different if you'd approached them with a little more love.

“For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts.”

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4 NLT

DAY 4

Students have to deal with so many different influences in their lives—pressure from friends, pressure from teachers, pressure from parents, pressure from social media, and more! They're all telling you to prove yourself in one way or another. But as Christians, we have the freedom to live truly for an audience of one—God! His approval is ultimately the most important in our lives, and pleasing Him should be our primary motivation. In all you do this week—at school, at home, with friends, in sports—remind yourself that you're ultimately doing it for God.

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.”

GALATIANS 5:13 NLT

DAY 5

The older we get, the more freedom we want to have—freedom from rules, freedom from chores, freedom from curfews, freedom from our parents. While we want freedom to do the things we want, the Bible reminds us that the point of our freedom is actually to use it to do what God wants. And often, He calls us to use that freedom to serve others. It isn't easy, but as you grow, focus on using your freedom the way God wants you to use it. This week, thank God for the freedom you have, and ask Him to help you use it to serve and help others.