

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Save The Date / Week 2

WEEK 2

DON'T MAKE ANYONE YOUR EVERYTHING.

No temptation has overtaken you **except what is common to mankind**. And God is faithful; **he will not let you be tempted** beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 NIV

DAY 1

When you start a new relationship, other things sometimes get tossed to the side. Your attention, energy, and time is suddenly focused solely on that one person. But when that relationship changes, you're left wondering where everything and everyone who was there before went. We've all been there, right? It's common to be tempted to give all we have to the person in front of us!

But God's love calls us all to something higher. It calls us to resist the temptation to make someone else your everything. And not just that, but He gives us a way forward—a way to do what feels so difficult when we ask for His help. **Whether you're in a relationship or not right now, ask your Small Group Leader or a trusted adult to help you stay focused on the right things and resist the temptation to make anyone, other than God, your all.**

So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

GALATIANS 5:16 NIV

DAY 2

Most of us want to be in relationship with another person. It's the way God made us, and it's one of the most beautiful things about being made in His image. Unfortunately, we sometimes misuse that desire, making it the motivation for every decision or choice that we make. When that happens, we end up acting on this desire in ways that are hurtful to not only ourselves, but often to the people we're in relationship with, too.

But as this verse says, walking by the Spirit can help us here. Choosing to walk by the Spirit means choosing to desire God over anything else. It means choosing to let Him be the One that leads and motivates our choices and actions. It means letting Him lead our desires in a healthy way. **This week, pray and ask God to help you walk by the Spirit when it comes to any of your relationships.**

As **water reflects the face**, so one's **life reflects the heart**.

PROVERBS 27:19 NIV

DAY 3

We are made in the image of God. That means that everything about us—from our faces to our hearts—reflects something about who God is to the world around us. Pretty cool, right? Sometimes though, we allow ourselves to forget this truth. Though we still bear God's image, we begin to live a life that doesn't reflect His character or heart. Instead, we make choices that reflect a heart that wants not what God wants, but what we want right now. When we do that, we're no longer reflecting the image God created us to show to the world.

This week, try to memorize this short Proverb. Use it to remind yourself of the image you bear and the way you want your heart to reflect that image. **When you find yourself tempted to make choices that show anything other than the heart of God, think on this verse.**

"I have the right to do anything," you say—**but not everything is beneficial.** "I have the right to do anything"—**but I will not be mastered** by anything.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12 NIV

DAY 4

One of the best parts about growing up and getting older is the increase in the freedom you have. But while that freedom is great, it can also be dangerous. Sometimes without even realizing it, our willingness to exercise new freedoms at every opportunity causes us to be mastered or ruled by things that aren't good for us.

One of the best ways to make sure you're using your freedom the right way is to ask someone for help. The people who know you best know what freedoms are good for you and what freedoms might be harming you.

This week, talk with your leader, a trusted friend, or a wise adult in your life. Ask them to help you identify what freedoms may be mastering or harming you. Give them the freedom to speak into your life about that thing when they see it.

"This is my command:
Love each other."

JOHN 15:17 NIV

DAY 5

When you're in a relationship with someone else, showing love is often easy to do at first. Whether it's a longtime friendship, a brand-new relationship, or even just the closeness you feel to your family, loving that other person seems to come naturally. But as time goes on, you realize the other person isn't always going to be so easy to love. Your friend is going to hurt your feelings, that boyfriend or girlfriend is going to make you mad, that family member is going to get on your nerves. Then, love doesn't feel so natural, does it?

No matter what relationship it is, remember that Jesus' simple command to us is always this: love. Whether it's in a season where love is easy to show or one where it's much more difficult, do what you can to love the people God has put in your life. **This week you can start by praying for them, encouraging them, or just showing up to help them with something.** Then, you will be living out His command!