

# DAY 6

## Colossians 3:12-13 NIV

Have you ever spent a ton of time in front of a mirror trying on clothes to find the perfect fit? God gives us great advice on how to put on some quality characteristics that will get noticed by others in all the best ways. They're the kinds of things God's Spirit can help us put on and show off in the way we live every single day.

**Look at the characteristics listed in Colossians 3:12-13. Ask yourself, "Am I struggling to wear any of these well?" As you look over the list, write down the characteristics you struggle to use in your everyday life. Ask God to help you take on more of those things in your daily life.**

# DAY 7

## John 10:10 NIV

One of the best ways to start the party in our faith is to memorize Bible verses. Scripture reminds us of what's true about God and the life God wants us to live. So, work to memorize this verse as a way to start the party!

**Snap your fingers to a beat as you repeat the words of the verse. Try to add some fun new rhythms to the beat until you find one that makes the words flow nicely. Repeat the verse to the beat as you work to memorize it in a new way!**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

START THE PARTY / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

# DAY 1

## Philippians 4:13 NIV

Do you ever find yourself dreading something on your to-do list? Maybe you have a big test, or need to have a hard conversation with a friend, or there is a really difficult game on your team's schedule. Things like that certainly don't make our days feel like the party Jesus promised, do they? Whatever it is that's causing you to not look forward to the day ahead, remember you aren't facing it alone. God's strength is there to support you and give you courage to face whatever may come your way.

**Take a moment to read Philippians 4:13. Where the verse says, "all this," replace those words with the thing you're dreading. As you read it, ask God to give you the courage and strength you need to face the things ahead.**

# DAY 2

## Psalms 28:7 NIV

One important thing at any party is the music. A good song can get people out on the dance floor, and a solid playlist sets the vibe for the whole room. Music has a way of sticking with us in such a meaningful way. A writer of the Psalms, a guy named David, wrote a lot of music to reflect on all God was doing in his life. He often made it a point to remind himself (and us!) that God wants to turn the volume up on love, joy, and comfort in this world. That's a soundtrack for a good party!

**Find a worship song that reminds you of God's love and turn it up. As you listen, pay attention to the words that remind you of God's love, joy, and comfort.**

## DAY 3

### James 2:1 NLT

One of the things that Jesus prioritized was including others. He always made a point to connect with people from diverse backgrounds—especially those that were outcasts or overlooked by the rest of the world. Jesus wanted to remind them of how equally valued, loved, and welcomed into His party they are. And as party starters, Jesus wants us to do the same!

**Think about someone in your community that seems often overlooked or left out. Write them an encouraging note, DM, or text this week. Let them know you notice them and are glad they're part of the community you're in. It's a simple way to follow Jesus' example of including and caring for all people this week.**

## DAY 4

### Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

Most people feel sad when their friends are invited to a party and they aren't. It's hard being left out, isn't it? The good news is that Jesus never forgets to invite us to the party. His invitation is open to everyone! In fact, He often went out of His way to show love, kindness, and more to all. It's what He does for us, and it's what He calls us to do for others.

**So this week, do just that! Spend time with your small group, a few friends, your team, or even your family. While you're together, take time to talk about what it might look like to invite someone new into your group. Think about how you can get into the habit of not just spending time together but also inviting and including others the way Jesus did.**

## DAY 5

### John 10:10 NIV

*Written by Kallie, age 21, from Gate City, Virginia, USA*

When I was five years old, I was in a convenience store with my mom. While she was checking out, I was playing with a measuring tape that I had found sitting on the counter that was only \$1. I was filled with such joy while I was playing with it. My mom eventually finished checking out, and we left the store. I was still holding my "new toy" when we walked out. We were halfway home when I realized that my mom did not pay for it. I thought I had accidentally stolen it! Of course, my five-year-old self began crying, but my mom reassured me that everything was fine because she had actually paid for it when I wasn't paying attention!

While this seems like a funny story to tell now that I am older, there is a deeper truth that can be found. My focus shifted away from my mom in the store. I didn't notice that she paid for the toy or that she was even finished checking out. However, my mom never forgot about me, even when my attention was elsewhere. The love that Jesus provides is the same. There are

moments in life where our eyes shift away from Jesus. Moments when other things take our focus away and eventually steal our happiness.

I had no way of paying for the measuring tape that day, just like I am unable to pay the price of my sins or mistakes now. What my five-year-old self did not know at the time was that the toy I thought I stole was already paid for. My mom had paid for it when she was checking out. The way my mom had intentionally paid for my toy is the same way that Jesus intentionally paid for our sins on the cross. I did not ask my mom to pay for the tape measure just like I did not ask Jesus to die for my sins. He did it anyway because of how much He loves me and wants me to experience the full life that He offers each of us.

**Is anything taking your focus off of Jesus right now? Take one minute and write down what is distracting you. When you feel yourself getting distracted by the things you've written down, remind yourself to keep your eyes on Jesus to experience the full life He offers us every single day.**