

DAY 6

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

Hebrews 10:24 NLT

There is always an opportunity to do something good. Think about it! You probably have hundreds of opportunities to do something kind every single day. Not just in your community or school, but in your circle of friends, too. In fact, you and your friends can do a lot of good in the world by working together. You all have the ability to do good for someone else by simply finding ways to show kindness and love toward the people around you.

This week, get your circle together and look for a way to serve others. Think about how you can make an impact simply by loving and doing good to those around you. Then, actually do it!

DAY 7

Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

Luke 6:31 NLT

A huge part of life as a middle schooler is making new friends and being wise about the friends you keep close. Verses like this one can help us remember the importance of not just finding the right friends, but being the right kind of friend to others, too

So, think about how you can memorize this verse this week. Use it as a prayer, saying it by memory and asking God to help you be a friend to others.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

REAL FRIENDS / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Proverbs 27:17 NLT

Have you ever been around someone who made you feel like you were becoming a better version of yourself? Simply spending time with them brought out the best in you! Maybe you have a friend who is a hard worker, or a friend who chooses not to gossip, or a friend who serves others first. Whatever positive qualities your friends might have, all of them have the ability to help you grow into the person God created you to be.

Take some time to ask God to help you identify the best qualities your friends have. Thank God for the friends in your life who are helping you become a better version of yourself because of the good things they demonstrate in their own lives.

DAY 2

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 NLT

Picture your favorite superhero. Batman? Wonder Woman? Spiderman? Black Panther? Does that superhero have a sidekick? A friend who always helps them save the day? Chances are they do! Why? Because even superheroes know that life is better lived alongside other people. We're all better off with the help of someone else. Whether we're trying to save the world or simply just trying to make it through the last class of the day, we all need the support and encouragement of those closest to us.

Today, think about how God is using your friends to make you better. Then, challenge yourself to be that same kind of person for your friends, too!

DAY 3

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT

Think about a time when someone encouraged you. Maybe it was before an important test or a big game. Maybe it was when you were facing difficult circumstances. Or maybe it was when you just needed an extra push to try something new. Whatever comes to mind, you would probably say that the encouraging words of that friend made a huge difference. That's because kind words have the power to completely change someone's day—and maybe even their life!

Today, think about how you can use your words to build others up. Get creative with it! Send a friend a text, or a postcard, or make them a video to encourage them this week.

DAY 4

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20 NIV

Sometimes when we're given a task, we can't help but wonder how much easier it would be if we had someone to help us. Doing the dishes would be faster if your siblings helped out. A group project is better when everyone actually does the work. Cleaning up after your team is more fun with teammates helping you get it done. The reality is, a lot of things are better with a friend by your side. Well, the same can be said about your faith! When you share your faith with your friends, you suddenly become a team. You are all working together toward the same goal: to live life with Jesus.

Today, with your small group or a close friend, brainstorm ways you can encourage each other to grow in your faith. Then, pick one way you'll encourage someone in the group and do it this week!

DAY 5

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 12:26 NIV

Written by Madi, age 14, from Mattoon, Illinois, USA

Have you ever heard the saying, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future"? I know I have, but I didn't really understand what it meant until I realized I had a friend that wasn't helping me live the kind of life that I wanted to. I remember feeling like I was living two different lives when I was around this person and when I wasn't. The person was hurtful toward people around me, and I realized the friendship needed to change. I will be honest with you though: breaking off a friendship you feel closest to is easier said than done. I stayed in that friendship for a while. So how did I get through that? Jesus. Instead of staying in that friendship and trying to become popular and not disappoint others, I decided to trust God and find friendships that lead me toward God.

You can't see what your future will hold, but you can decide who your friends are now to help you move toward God.

So today, think about your friendships. Are they leading you to God, or away from God? Spend one minute asking God for friends that lead you toward God and toward the kind of life you want to live.