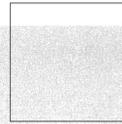
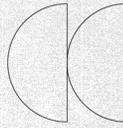




Daily Devotionals



FOR AN
everyday faith.



WHAT I REALLY WANT / WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

<p>So, don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.</p> <p>JAMES 1:16-17 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 1</p> <p>What's the most perfect gift that anyone has ever given you? That one thing that made you feel like that person really knows you? God gives us perfect gifts like that all the time. They aren't like the video game you got for your birthday, or the fuzzy blanket that you got for Christmas last year, but they are the kind of gifts that are made just for you. Whenever something good happens, that's a gift from God. When your friend is there for you in a time of need, when someone shows you kindness when you don't deserve it, when you're able to make a wise choice that helps you resist temptation—those are gifts from God.</p> <p>Take a moment to write down the good things in your life and thank God for the gifts He's given you.</p>
<p>There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."</p> <p>LUKE 22:40 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 2</p> <p>Battling temptation is not something you can do completely on your own. You need back-up! The good news is, we can find that kind of back-up from God Himself! But in order to get it, you've got to be willing to ask for His help. The words from this verse were spoken by Jesus Himself to His closest friends. And if anyone knew what temptation was like in a difficult situation, it was them. Whenever you experience temptation, there's always an opportunity to stop and pray for God to help you deal with the situation. When you ask, you can know that He will show up and give you the help you need.</p> <p>Is there a temptation you're facing now? Pray that God would help you just as He promised to do!</p>

<p>But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.</p> <p>1 JOHN 4:4 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Think about the last time you won something. Maybe it was a big game or a really cool prize in a contest. Winning is a fantastic feeling because it comes with a sense of joy and freedom. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are promised victory over the temptations, struggles, and difficult things we face in this life. Basically, when you have a relationship with Jesus, you can trust that you're already a winner no matter what!</p> <p>Take a moment to listen to the song "See a Victory" by Elevation Worship. Write down the lyrics that mean the most to you. As you go about your day, think about those lyrics as a reminder that God helps us have victory over temptation.</p>
<p>For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.</p> <p>1 JOHN 2:16 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Wanting something isn't wrong, but sometimes, we have to think about <i>why</i> we want that thing. Often, it comes down to pride. We think we deserve that thing or should have a right to it. Eventually, that pride can tempt us to believe we should do something we know we probably shouldn't in order to get it. In those moments, it's important to remember that God really does want what's best for us. And when we want the things He has for us most, we can trust we're not being led by our pride, but by God!</p> <p>Talk to your small group leader about some things you really want right now. Ask them to help you see where you're being motivated by something other than God's best for you.</p>
<p>Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.</p> <p>LUKE 11:3-4 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>God promises to provide everything we need. Temptation can lead us to think that God isn't good or that He won't provide for us. It can lead us to believe that getting what we need is up to us! But as this verse reminds us, we don't want to give in to that temptation. Instead, we want to remember the truth that we can trust God to provide what we need. That will help us resist temptation!</p> <p>Get out and go for a walk today. As you walk, think about the things God has given you. Things like good friends, a home, a family, a great small group! Let those things remind you of His promise to provide what you need.</p>

<p>When I said, “My foot is slipping,” your unfailing love, Lord, supported me.</p> <p>PSALM 94:18 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p><i>Written by Emma, age 20 from Rome, Georgia, USA</i></p> <p>Fun fact: When it rains, things get slippery. Who knew?! But did you know it can rain in your life, too? When you are in your darkest, saddest, and hardest moments, things can feel slippery. It’s easier to fall and get hurt in those moments. And it’s in those moments temptation can grow. Chances are when we’re tempted in the moments we’re slipping, we’ll fall down a lot more than we would in the brighter moments.</p> <p>The difference between real rain and the rain in your life is that God is there to catch you before you fall and get hurt. He loves you and wants to help you. He wants to be there to catch you before you fall. Think about a time when you were slipping—when you were struggling and really needed someone to pick you up.</p> <p>This week, invite God into those moments when you are struggling. Ask Him to be with you and guide you through your tough times.</p>
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<p>Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.</p> <p>PSALM 51:10 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Memorizing Scripture is like remembering an important message from a friend. God sees us that way—as His friends! And the words He shares with us are like words from a friend who wants to love us, encourage us, and help us choose what’s best for us. Try listening to this verse this week. Play the verse on the Bible app, read it out loud to yourself, or even look up someone else reading it on YouTube. As you listen, work to commit a little more of it to memory each time!</p>
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