

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Awkward / Week 3

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

3 John 1:4 NIV

DAY 1

What does it mean to "walk in truth?" If God finds no greater joy than to see us do just that, we probably want to know how to do it, right? Simply put, it means following the path God has for us and making choices that line up with what He says is true. So how do we do that? Well, in order to *walk* in the truth, we have to first *know* the truth. Start there! This week, take some time to look up, memorize, or write down three new verses from the Bible. Ask your Small Group Leader for help finding Scripture if you need it! Focus on learning those truths and trying to put them into practice in your life.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 NIV

DAY 2

At times, following God can feel like obeying a long list of rules. While we know that these things will make our lives better, it can feel overwhelming to try and live the way He wants us to live. That's why this verse is so helpful. It narrows down what God asks of us to just three things: acting fairly, loving mercy, and living with humility. When we focus on these things, we can trust that we're not only following God's plan for our lives, but we're becoming the kind of people He wants us to be. So, write down these things as a reminder of what God is calling us to do. And this week, ask for His help to do just one of them.

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by His own glory and goodness."

2 Peter 1:3 NIV

DAY 3

We all have rules and expectations that we have to follow, whether that be at home, or at school, or on a team! Sometimes though, expectations can cause us to work hard at trying to be perfect at whatever it is we are doing. Trying to meet those expectations can sometimes leave us feeling anxious or even like a failure. Why? Because perfection just isn't possible! But the good news is, God isn't asking us to be perfect. He isn't asking us to meet every single expectation. In fact, He's asking us to do the opposite. God has already given us everything we need to be the kind of people we want to be. All we have to do is ask for His help. This week, ask God to help you find comfort in knowing that you are enough just as you are.

DAY 4

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14 NIV

Most relationships have one thing in common: conflict. Little arguments, big disagreements, hurt feelings—they're just a part of what it means to do life with other people. Though we can't avoid conflict, our job is to do what we can to bring as much peace as possible to our relationships. That may mean praying more, offering more apologies, listening instead of speaking, using kinder words, or ultimately choosing what's peaceful over anything else. When we pursue peace in our relationships, we're being the kind of people God calls us to be! Is there a relationship in your life that has a lot of conflict? Someone in your life who you need to make peace with? Ask God to help you take just one step toward peace in that relationship this week.

DAY 5

"You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is good for you. You say, 'I am allowed to do anything'—but not everything is beneficial."

1 Corinthians 10:23 NLT

The author of this verse is telling us that in life, we'll face tough decisions and choices all the time. There are so many things we *can* do, but they may not all be things we *should* do. They may not be things that are good for us. So, what do we do? We focus on what's good for us. On the things that will help us make helpful, wise, and healthy choices. We focus on what God has for us! This week, start there! Think about how you can spend time with God. Maybe praying, reading the Bible, going for a walk, or listening to worship music! Make the choice to do something good for you today by spending time with Him!

DAY 6

"This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you."

John 15:12 NLT

Nobody likes rules, right? Well, here's a little secret: Rules aren't all bad! In fact, they can really help us treat other people better. The word "commandment" used in this verse means "a divine rule." In other words, a commandment like this is a rule from God. And what does God ask us to do? To love other people. God could have given us lots of rules telling us what not to do, but instead, He commanded us with one thing that we can do: love others. That's a rule that will make not just your life better, but the lives of those around you better, too! Spend some time in prayer and ask God how you can love others well.

DAY 7

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:2 NLT

Do a little mix-and-match to help you memorize this verse! Write the words of the passage on different pieces of paper. Then, mix the papers up so that you have to work to put them back together in the correct order. Do it as many times as you need until you can lay out the entire verse correctly. The more you memorize, the more of God's Word you know that you can use to help you when you face difficult circumstances or important decisions.