

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Explained / Week 1

For your kingdom is an **everlasting kingdom**. You rule throughout all generations.

PSALM 145:13A NLT

DAY 1

Have you ever read the Bible and felt a little confused? It was written in a different time and in a different culture. But as unfamiliar as the Bible can feel, there's good news. Even though time passes and people change, God doesn't change. What God cares about doesn't change.

God is still about making the world reflect Him and His character: He is kind, loving, just, and full of peace. He stays the same. You can count on Him. **This week, to remind yourself of these things, write this phrase on a piece of paper and use it as a bookmark or home screen: God is kind, loving, just, and offers me peace.**

I took my troubles to the Lord; I cried out to him, and **he answered my prayer**.

PSALM 120:1 NLT

DAY 2

Whenever we go through something difficult, we have a tendency to pray and ask God to show up dramatically. Faced with BIG worries, we ask God to do BIG things. But the truth is, even though God can and does show up in more obvious ways sometimes, we can find Him at work in small, less obvious ways too. Sometimes it's only when we look back that we see what God was up to. What seemed overwhelming is a smaller deal than we initially thought. We may see that God gave us a peace to get through it, rather than take it away.

Prayer is our lifeline to a God who can see past our current circumstances and into our future. **Take some time today to pray. Thank God for what He has done in the past for you. Ask Him for help to see what He might be up to right now.**

The heart of the godly thinks **carefully before speaking**.

PROVERBS 15:28A NLT

DAY 3

Have you ever noticed that you start to talk, act, sound, and sometimes even dress like the people you are with the most? Without trying, we can begin to resemble those we spend the most time with.

This verse in Proverbs tells us that we resemble God when we think before we speak. In other words, as we spend time with God, we start to become more thoughtful about what we say. **This week, try thinking carefully about your speech, and set an example in the words you use.**

<p style="text-align: center;">But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 JOHN 2:5A NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Do you ever think of the Bible as just a big book of rules that you couldn’t possibly follow? Good news: the Bible is so much more than a rulebook. It’s a book where God shows us His good heart and His good ways. Meaning, in the Bible, God is teaching us who He is and showing us the best way to live.</p> <p>Since God made the world, He knows the best way to live in it—and the Bible gives us plenty of examples of how it can go wrong when we don’t. The rules aren’t just there to keep us in line. They are there so we can learn how to live a good life—the kind of life God wants for us. This week, ask yourself these questions: Is there something God has been asking me to do, but that I don’t want to? What if God is looking out for me and not trying to rob me of having fun? How would knowing that change what I do today?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MATTHEW 7:7 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>The Bible is full of people who repeatedly asked God for something. Sometimes they got what they wanted, and sometimes they didn’t. But what we learn from consistently praying is that praying isn’t merely about getting what we want. It’s learning to connect with God amid our frustration, disappointment, or impatience.</p> <p>So the next time you find yourself asking God for something, try expanding your idea of what an “answer” to that prayer may look like. Sure, maybe things will turn out the way you want. But it could be that an answer to your prayer is you finding peace and a greater sense of God’s presence no matter what happens.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Imagine life without things like a fridge or cell phones or cars. Life would be crazy without tools like that because they’re so useful. It’s easy to overlook how much harder life would be without them. But in reality, the same is true with the Bible.</p> <p>The Bible is more than just a history book; it’s the most useful and helpful tool we have access to. God knew that reading and applying His words to our lives would help us grow. It would challenge us, give us wisdom, and guide us to live out the plans He has for us. So this week, don’t overlook it. Find a time, a place, and a plan to spend time engaging with God’s Word.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 TIMOTHY 3:16 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>One easy way to help you memorize Scripture is to write it down on a sticky note or notecard and put it in a place where you will see it often. As a way to help you memorize this verse, try placing a sticky note on your planner, mirror, or locker! If you are not a sticky note person, make this the lock screen on your phone, so every time you pick up your phone, you see the scripture.</p>