

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

More To The Story / Week 4

He loves whatever is just and good;
the unfailing love of the Lord fills
the earth.

PSALM 33:5 NLT

DAY 1

When it comes to sex and dating, it is normal for teenagers to be unsure of what to think, do and feel. There are a lot of different ideas and opinions floating around on the topic.. This verse may seem like it has nothing to do with sex, but what does it look like to care deeply about what's just and good, not only as it relates to social causes, but also in your personal relationships? What does it look like to treat the people you date or don't date in a way that is fair? Not only is treating others well by acting justly good for our relationships, it also points others to God because He cares about these things too. **This week, ask God to show you ways to treat the people you are close to in ways that are just and good.**

But if from there you seek the Lord
your God, **you will find him** if you
seek Him with all your heart and
all your soul.

DEUTERONOMY 4:29 NIV

DAY 2

In almost every show or movie with dating in it there is a moment where someone has to figure out whether or not to tell the person they like how they feel. Usually there is also at least one friend that tells the person to play it cool or hard to get. While this is fun to watch on tv, when it's real life and we are the ones trying to figure out what to do it's the worst. Thankfully when it comes to our relationship with God, the author of this verse makes it clear. We don't have to play it cool, and there is no fear of rejection. He wants us to know Him more, and when we seek Him we will find Him. So, what if we poured more of our energy into experiencing more of God? Yes, we *always* have His love. But we can still desire to know Him better.

This week, talk to someone you know that seems to have a close relationship with God. Ask them what they've done to grow closer to Him and then try some of their steps in your own life. Even if just one of their examples helps you experience more of God, it will be worth the effort.

As water reflects the face, so **one's life**
reflects the heart.

PROVERBS 27:19 NIV

DAY 3

What's inside your heart comes out through your life. This is especially true for our relationships. Just think about those moments in life where you said or did something and immediately thought, "where did that come from?" Well, according to the author of Proverbs, an ancient king named Solomon, those moments are indications of what's going on deeper inside. This is why it's so important to pay attention to what's going on in your heart. Jesus wants more for your story; so, do the choices you make lead to the full life Jesus is inviting you to? What is your life and your relationships saying about what's going on inside of you? Are you living in a way that reflects a heart that is following Jesus? If not, what does it look like to take the time to address what's really

	<p>going on inside? This week, ask God to give you the wisdom you need to understand how your day-to-day life is connected to what's happening in your heart.</p>
<p>There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.</p> <p>ECCLESIASTES 3:1 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Do you ever get jealous when scrolling social media? Maybe you became jealous of someone's relationship because you were single? Or maybe you just wished you were the one that got the new job, the good grade, or the best friends? Chances are you have been there, and maybe even wondered when it was going to be your turn. It's so helpful to remember that God hasn't forgotten about you. Instead we can be confident that God is writing a greater story for you. Do you believe this? Not just in the good times, but the tough ones too? It's so difficult but this truth changes the way we see the difficult things we go through. This week take some time to write down some ways you have seen God provide and work in your life so you can have it as a reminder of God's plan for you.</p>
<p>He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name.</p> <p>PSALM 23:3 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Have you ever heard two very different instructions from two different people about the same thing? Or maybe you read two different news articles that reported the same event very different? Maybe you felt torn and didn't know what to do or believe. Sometimes we experience the same thing when it comes to sex and relationships. Between tv, social media, friends, parents, and church we are constantly receiving mixed messages about what is right and wrong. Even when we do know the wise choice, it can be really difficult to act on it. Thankfully we don't have to navigate making wise decisions alone. In this verse the Psalmist says that not only will God guide us in making wise choices, but also give us strength. This week when something in your life feels overwhelming or you are faced with a tough decision take it to God. Pray and ask God to guide you. Breathe deeply. Maybe even repeat the verse above over and over. Allow yourself to be refreshed and find strength in God's presence.</p>
<p>But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.</p> <p>There is no law against these things!</p> <p>GALATIANS 5:22-23 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Have you ever had a really long to-do list? Maybe it was full of homework assignments, chores, and extracurricular activities. Maybe you had so much to do that it was hard to know how to even get started. Sometimes following Jesus can feel the same – like a really long list of things to do and things not to do, especially when it comes to topics like sex, pornography and relationships. Even this verse lists nine characteristics that can be kind of difficult to live out, but take a closer look. These characteristics aren't just a list of chores; they actually make our lives better, and not just in one, or two, areas, but our entire lives. When we approach relationships and dating, through our understanding that God has more for our stories, including these characteristics, we can move closer to relationship with him. Paul also says that the Holy Spirit produces these kinds of fruit in our lives. So it's not just up to you, but instead God in you. This week if it is hard to practice one of these characteristics, ask God to help you live out those things and remember you don't have to do it alone.</p>

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

DAY 7

Challenge a friend to memorize this verse with you. If you want to make it a competition, see who can memorize it first.