

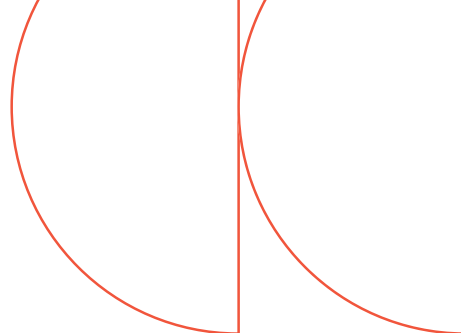
# DAY 6

**Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies. You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me.**

**Psalm 138:7 NLY**

Just as sure as there will be good times in life, there will also be times when you look up and feel surrounded by troubles, like the writer of this Psalm says. In those times, it can be difficult to remember that God is with you. David wrote these words as a reminder for him. Sometimes in a moment of trouble, it's hard to remember what God is like and what God has done in the past.

**Take a moment today to write down your own reminder of God's commitment to help you in the times when you need it the most.**



# DAY 7

**Memory Verse: If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

**Romans 12:18 NIV**

Have you ever wondered why everyone isn't just a peaceful person at birth? This may sound like a great idea, but it just isn't how things will ever be. God has given everyone the ability to choose for themselves the way in which they decide to live their lives. So, if you want to make the spaces you're in better, some of it starts with you. Making an internal decision to live at peace with everyone is the best way to become the positivity that you wish to see in others. Will there be moments of disagreements or times when the actions of others upset you? Yes! However, you get to decide if the way you respond to those moments will be a way that leads to peace.

**This week try memorizing this verse by writing the scripture down somewhere where you will be sure to run into it daily.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

**ELEVATE / A CONVERSATION ON BULLYING**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

# DAY 1

**The Lord is my light and my salvation - so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?**

**Psalm 27:1 NLT**

Did you ever build pillow forts as a kid? Remember how indestructible you thought they were? There was something about being inside of a fort that made us feel safe (even when it's made out of a few rickety chairs and some old pillows!). If we feel a sense of protection from a fortress made of pillows, how much more will we feel protected when we truly believe God is our fortress; a safe place for us no matter what we are facing?

**As you head into your day, ask God to remind you that God is your protector through whatever circumstances you find yourself in.**

# DAY 2

**Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.**

**Luke 6:28 NLT**

In most action movies, there are two main characters: a hero and a villain. The heroes are always good, while the villains are always bad. Whether we realize it or not, we tend to think of people in the real world as good or evil, too. But the truth is, there is always more to the story. The people who have hurt you have usually been hurt by others. They're not bad; they're just broken. We all have a story that has in some way influenced how we interact with others—for better and for worse. The good news is, the story isn't over. Jesus encourages us to be a part of a greater story for those who have experienced the type of brokenness that causes them to behave badly.

**Today, when you may be tempted to dismiss someone, remind yourself there is more to their story than you may know.**

## DAY 3

**Do not repay evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.**

**Romans 12:17 NIV**

When someone treats you poorly, it's natural to want to get back at them. But that doesn't mean it's right. How we treat people should always flow from the core of who we are. God actually shows us what this looks like every single day. Even though we hurt God when we sin, God responds by treating us with love and kindness, because God is love and God understands that paying back evil for evil never leads to a change of heart.

**So, let's do for others what God does for us, and start this week by choosing to show love towards people. That doesn't mean we put up with abuse or bullying; in that case, your best step might be to talk to an adult you trust. But for life's other hurts, who knows, your response to evil with love might just be what influences that person to change.**

## DAY 4

**"So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."**

**Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT**

It's always good to be reminded that God is present with us no matter where we go, or what we face in life. That is exactly what Moses is reassuring the Israelite people of in today's verse. The journey ahead for them would be filled with uncertainty, anxiety and fear. But Moses reminded them that in spite of all that, God is an ally, and God is close by. No matter how alone or overwhelmed we might feel in whatever we are facing, God has not and will not abandon us. It's a promise.

**Today, take a minute to pray and ask God for help in remembering that God is with you every step of the way.**

## DAY 5

**So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well.**  
**Philippians 1:9 MSG**

*Written by Beatriz, age 18*

*From Alpharetta, Georgia, USA*

Think back to when someone shared their last French fry with you, helped you get ready for homecoming, helped you out with homework, or gave you a really genuine compliment. I know those are silly examples, but even being shown love in small ways makes us feel valued and important, huh?! Just like it's said that we never know how our words might hurt someone, on the flip side, we never know how loving someone might affect them. Love has the ability to transform insecurity into confidence and love has the ability to unite people who usually wouldn't get along. Love can make a huge impact on our lives.

We were all created by God, which means every one of us is valuable and important. This is true about me, about you, and about everyone else. God's love is why we should treat everyone like they are important

and deserving of love. Love should flourish within us, so that it overflows to people around us.

**Today, ask God to give you opportunities to show love to other people.**