



Character Prayers

Tom & Marcia Bishop

Character Building Prayers
From God's Word

WISDOM

Day 1

Verses

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding...

Proverbs 4:6 Do not forsake wisdom and she will protect you. Love wisdom and she shall keep you.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the most important thing. Therefore, get wisdom and with all your getting, get understanding.

Thought

It is very important to have wisdom. Wisdom allows us to see things the way God sees them. Reading and thinking about Bible verses gives us wisdom.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, make sure I get real wisdom. Fill me with wisdom as I read my Bible. Don't let me miss the wise things You are teaching me through my parents and others. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Wisdom – Since only God knows all the truth, wisdom comes as God reveals what He knows about a subject or situation.

WISDOM

Day 2

Verse

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let them ask God for it. He gives generously and does not criticize those who ask.

Thought

The only place to get wisdom is from God. He said if we would ask, He would give it freely to us. We will need wisdom as we pray about these character qualities.

Prayer

Father, I need lots of wisdom. Please keep filling me with wisdom every day for the rest of my life. Make sure I always ask You about everything I plan to do. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

WISDOM

Day 3

Verse

1 Corinthians 1:30 ...Jesus was made to us wisdom...

Thought

When Jesus came to live in our heart, He brought all of His wisdom with Him.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You live in me. Cause Your wisdom to show up in everything I do. As I make the right choices, make sure I tell my friends it is because You give me wisdom. I ask this Jesus in Your name.

WISDOM

Day 4

Verse

Proverbs 15:33 Reverence for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...

Thought

The more we respect and admire God, the wiser we will be. Anyone who does not have respect for God will never be wise.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, work in my heart so I have tremendous respect for You. Precious Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

WISDOM

Day 5

Verse

2 Chronicles 1:10 Give me wisdom and knowledge...

Thought

God told Solomon he could ask for anything He wanted. What would you have asked for? Solomon asked for wisdom and understanding. God was so pleased by this request that He also gave Solomon riches, wealth and honor.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I want exactly the same thing Solomon asked for. Please give me lots of wisdom and understanding so I always do exactly what You want me to do. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

WISDOM

Day 6

Verse

Exodus 36:1 ...in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to do all kinds of work...

Thought

When God needed people to do jobs for Him, He gave them the wisdom and understanding they needed. Whatever jobs He gives us, He will also give us the wisdom to do them well.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, whenever You have something for me to do, I know You will give me the wisdom to do it. Make sure I receive Your wisdom so I do things right. Lord, I ask you these things in Your name.

WISDOM REVIEW

Day 7

Thoughts

We talked about the importance of us getting wisdom. God told us to ask for wisdom if we needed it. We discovered that Jesus lives in us with all His wisdom. We know that reverence for God leads to wisdom. Finally we learned that God will put wisdom in us for the tasks He assigns.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for hearing my prayers this week for wisdom. Give me lots of wisdom as I pray for other character qualities. Especially work in my heart next week as I pray for truthfulness. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 1

Verse

John 14:6 Jesus said to Him, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me."

Thought

Jesus is the truth. Anytime we do not tell the truth we disappoint Him because He never lies and doesn't want us to lie. Almost all lost people lie, but Christians should always tell the truth.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make sure I always tell the truth. Remind me of times in the past where I wasn't truthful and give me the grace to go back and tell the truth. Make me truthful like You are. Lord, I ask this in Your name.

DEFINITION

Truthfulness – Telling what we know about a situation without adding to or subtracting from the facts. (Jesus is the truth and He reveals truth to us through His Word, the Bible, and through the Holy Spirit of Truth in us.)

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 2

Verses

John 14:17-18 I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Comforter who will abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth...

John 16:13 When He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.

Thought

The precious Holy Spirit who lives in us is called the Spirit of Truth. He is always prompting us to tell the truth. He quickly convicts us if we lie. One of His jobs is to guide us into all truth.

Prayer

Holy Spirit of Truth, make sure I always catch myself before I tell a lie. Cause me to remember that a lie may keep me out of trouble temporarily, but always makes things worse later. If I lie, make sure I go back and tell the truth. I ask this in Jesus' name.

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 3

Verses

Hebrews 6:18 ...It was impossible for God to lie...

John 8:44 ...the devil...there is no truth in him...he is a liar and the father of lies.

Thought

God can't lie. Once the devil started lying, it kept growing until now there is no truth in him. Now is a good time to stop all lying and speak only the truth so we will be like God, our Father, and not like the devil.

Prayer

Father, the devil lies to me and tries to trick me into lying. He makes it look like lying is sometimes the best thing to do. Make me like You because You never lie, but only speak the truth. Keep me from believing the lies of the devil. Father, I ask this in the name of Jesus.

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 4

Verse

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, we grow up into Him in all things.

Thought

Our goal in telling the truth should be to help and protect people. That's why we are to speak the truth in love. Love never intends to hurt. Love often waits for the right time and place to tell someone the truth about themselves.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You always told people the truth, but You always did it to help them. When I have to tell someone something they don't want to hear, give me lots of love to share. Make sure I always respond correctly when my parents or others tell me the truth. Lord, I ask this in Your name, You are Truth.

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 5

Verse

1 John 2:4 Those who say they know God and yet do not keep His commands are liars and the truth is not in them.

Thought

What we do speaks much louder than what we say. If someone keeps saying they are a Christian, but keeps on doing things that are not like Jesus, they are lying to themselves and to others. Daily, Christians should be becoming more like Jesus as He works in us.

Prayer

Father, where my actions are not Christlike, please change me. Make sure I talk like a Christian and live the truth. Father, I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name.

TRUTHFULNESS

Day 6

Verse

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, put away lying and every man speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

Thought

When is a liar no longer a liar? When he stops lying? No! He is just temporarily in retirement. This verse tells us we are no longer a liar when we stop lying and start only telling the truth. It hurts us and it hurts others when we lie.

Prayer

Father, make sure I don't lie and that I only speak the truth. Protect me from others who lie about me. Make me known as a truthful person. Father, I ask You this in Jesus' name.

TRUTHFULNESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit only speak the truth. Liars are like the devil. We understand that we are to put off lying and put on speaking the truth. We want to speak the truth in love so we help others. We found out that lying hurts us and it hurts others. We saw that those who talk about being Christians, but don't obey the commands of Jesus are lying to themselves.

Prayer

Father, prompt me to always tell the truth and make me realize when I am being tempted to lie. Father, give me the grace to speak the truth in love all the rest of my life. Just like I can always trust You to tell me the truth, make sure others can always trust me to tell them the truth. I ask these things in Jesus' name.

BOLDNESS

Day 1

Verse

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is chasing them, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

Thought

When we have God's wisdom and are speaking God's truth, we can be very bold. This week we will pray about being bold for God. It is hard to be bold when our lives are full of sin. When we obey God and do what He wants, He will make us very bold.

Prayer

Father, please work in my life to clean up anything that keeps me from being bold. Make me realize that the people around me need to hear the truth about You and about themselves. Give me the grace to boldly share the truth whenever You want me to. In Jesus' name I boldly pray.

DEFINITION

Boldness – Begins with confidence in the Lord, knowing my words or actions are pleasing to Him and will benefit His kingdom.

BOLDNESS

Day 2

Verse

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, see their threats and grant that Your servants may speak Your word with all boldness.

Thought

They didn't ask God to take away all opposition and make it easy to speak. They asked for the boldness to speak no matter how much the devil opposed them. God wants to give us the same kind of boldness. People need to hear about Jesus whether they want to or not.

Prayer

Lord, fill me with boldness to speak up for You. Don't let me forget how important it is for lost people to hear how to be saved. Protect me when people oppose me and don't let their opposition or ridicule keep me from sharing with others when You prompt me. I ask this, in the precious name of Jesus.

BOLDNESS

Day 3

Verse

Ephesians 6:9 Paul asked for prayer so that He would open his ..."mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel."

Thought

Prayer is a key to boldness. We pray for boldness for ourselves. Before we talk to someone about Jesus, we ask others to pray for us. One reason Paul was so effective was because so many people were praying for him.

Prayer

Father, do what is necessary in me to make me bold for Jesus. Cause me to know when and how to tell my friends about You. Give other people strong prayers for me so I will be more bold. I ask this in Jesus' name.

BOLDNESS

Day 4

Verses

Hebrews 4:16 Let us come boldly before the throne of grace...

Ephesians 3:12 (Jesus) in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through His faith.

Thought

God tells us to come to Him boldly and ask for whatever we need. He wants to meet our need and give us grace. Grace is the power to do what God wants us to do. The reason we can come boldly is because Jesus bought us the privilege of prayer.

Prayer

Father, teach me to always come to You boldly in prayer. Jesus, thank You for making it possible for me to come to God in prayer and get answers. Don't let me ever listen to the devil when he tries to keep me from praying. In Jesus' name.

BOLDNESS

Day 5

Verses

Acts 9:29 And he (Paul) spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus...

Acts 14:3 ...they (Paul, Barnabus) spoke boldly in the Lord.

Acts 18:26 And he (Apollos) began to speak boldly in the synagogue...

Thought

If these men hadn't spoken with such boldness, the message of Jesus would never have gotten to us. Unless we speak boldly, some of our friends may never know Jesus. God wants to give us boldness.

Prayer

Father, thank You that someone was bold enough to tell me how to give my life to You. Keep me from being afraid. Give me the right words to say to tell my friends about my faith in Jesus. I ask for this boldness in Jesus' name

BOLDNESS

Day 6

Verse

I John 4:17 In this our love has been made perfect so we can have boldness in the day of judgment, because as He is, so are we in the world.

Thought

Because we personally know and have given our lives to Jesus, we don't have to be afraid of God's judgment. Because Jesus lives in us, we don't have to be afraid here on earth. Romans 8:31 tells us that God is for us and it doesn't matter who or how many are against us.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, that I don't have to be afraid when I meet You in Heaven. Thank You, Jesus, for living Your life in me and keeping me from being afraid here on earth. Cause me to grow in boldness as You work in me. I ask this, Father, in Jesus' name.

BOLDNESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

This week we learned that righteousness is connected to boldness. We discovered that there will usually be opposed when we speak up for Jesus. We know that we can come boldly to God in prayer. We found that having other people pray for us allows God to make us bolder. We realize that some people may never hear about Jesus unless we tell them.

Prayer

Father, make me as bold as a lion. Don't let me keep silent just because there is opposition. Make sure I pray first and then go and talk to others. Give others prayers for me. Draw my lost friends to Jesus. Make sure I know when and how to tell them about my faith in You. Thank You, in Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 1

Verse

Ecclesiastes 3:1a There is an appointed time for everything...

Thought

Punctuality means to be on time. When we are on time, we show respect for others and their schedules. Punctuate is the opposite of tardiness. When we go to a friend's home, school, church or an appointment and arrive on time, we show our respect for others and their schedules.

Prayer

Cause me to recognize I need to be on time when I go to an appointment or any place else I must be. Because it shows I respect others and their time, thank You for working punctuality in me. In Jesus' name

DEFINITION

Punctuality – Not being on time steals from others. Punctuality is managing my time so I do not waste the time of others.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 2

Verse

Ecclesiastes 3:1b ...there is a time for every event under Heaven.

Thought

Because we live with schedules and must be at church, school, work, or play at certain times, we need to develop the habit of being on time for each event.

Prayer

Father, work in me the good habit of being on time for the events I must attend. Keep working in me to develop this good character quality. In Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 3

Verse

Ephesians 5:15-16 ...be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time...

Thought

Many people waste their or others time because they are late to everything they attend. Wisely make the best use of your and others time by being on time. Many people have spent hours preparing lessons for you to learn and fun things for you to do. Show your appreciation by being prompt in your attendance.

Prayer

Father, thank You for the people who work so hard to teach me or give me opportunities for fun things to do. Make sure I am wise with my time so I don't waste their time and effort. In Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 4

Verse

II Samuel 20:5 So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time that David had appointed him.

Thought

This is a sad story in II Samuel 20. Amasa was late in doing what he was told to do by King David and it cost him his life. God seems to take seriously that we are to be on time when we are doing a task we have been asked to do by those in authority over us.

Prayer

Father, keep teaching me the powerful lesson that I need to do what I say when I say I will do it. Thank You for working this powerful truth into my life. In Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 5

Verse

Luke 16: 10 He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.

Thought

When we show that we can be trusted to be on time and obey quickly those who are our parents, teachers and friends, then we might just see that we will receive more privileges with the use of our time. We gain their trust by obeying quickly.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be faithful with my time, so I can gain Your favor and the respect of others because of my obedience. Cause me to obey in small things so I can be trusted in larger responsibilities. In Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY

Day 6

Verse

Psalm 31:15 My times are in Your (God's) hand...

Thought

As we get older, we realize our lives are made up of seconds, minutes, hours, days, months and years. God has given us our times to enjoy. If we invest our time wisely while we are young: learning, obeying, growing, giving; we will enjoy our future years much more.

Prayer

Thank You for teaching me while I am young, Lord, that my times are in Your hands. Cause me to always remember that You are with me and how I use my time shows how much I obey and trust You. In Jesus' name.

PUNCTUALITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

This week we learned that punctuality means being on time. Punctuality is the opposite of being tardy. We need to develop the good habit of being on time. We waste others time if we are late. Tardiness shows a lack of respect for others who have worked hard to benefit us. God takes it seriously if we waste our or another's time. We earn other's trust and respect when we use our time wisely.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for showing me how important it is to my life to be punctual. I want to always use my time wisely. Keep teaching me how to do this. In Jesus' name.

OBEDIENCE

Day 1

Verses

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Thought

Do you like secrets? Sometimes obedience is like a secret to us. You know why? It is because the enemy (satan) doesn't want us to know that when we obey our parents, it defeats what he wants to do in our lives. If we obey, satan can't take advantage of us and get us in trouble. Besides, it is right to obey our parents, and God blesses obedience with a life that goes well. He even says we can live a long life if we obey.

Prayer

Lord, cause me to want to obey my parents. Don't let me miss the blessings that come as I obey them. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Obedience – Fully carrying out the desires or directions of the Lord and those He places over me.

OBEDIENCE

Day 2

Verse

Ephesians 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters.

Thought

We don't have slaves these days, but we are always supposed to obey those who are over us in authority. Teachers, policemen, pastors, grandparents, and others who take care of us. Obedience always brings God's blessings.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for those who care about me and what happens to me as I grow up. Cause me to show respect and obey my teachers and others who are in authority over me. In Jesus' name.

OBEDIENCE

Day 3

Verse

Hebrews 5:8 ...although He (Jesus) was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Thought

Sometimes it "hurts" to obey God rather than go with the crowd. The devil makes it look like we are missing out on some fun when we don't join what everybody else is doing. The truth is, we are the ones who benefit from obeying God and staying away from wrong things.

Prayer

Father, sometimes it's hard to obey Your wise commands and not do what everybody else is doing. I do know, however, no one can "out-give" Your blessings to me when I obey. Make sure I obey You. I ask this in Jesus' name.

OBEDIENCE

Day 4

Verse

Hebrews 5:9 ...He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.

Thought

Jesus was the only One who obeyed perfectly. He never disobeyed God His Father. Because He obeyed in every way, all the time, He was able to pay for our disobedience by His death on the cross.

In that way, He made it possible for us to live forever in heaven with Him.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus for always obeying perfectly so I might have eternal life with You in Heaven. Work in me, Jesus so I will obey God like You did. In Your name I pray.

OBEDIENCE

Day 5

Verses

I Samuel 15:20, 21 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I did obey the voice of the Lord..." "...but the people..."

Thought

King Saul didn't obey God. He wouldn't confess his sin of disobedience so he lied to cover a lie. Not only did he lie, but he also blamed others. Often, that's what happens when we disobey. We lie to cover the fact that we disobeyed or we blame others for making us do wrong. We need to stop lying and confess we have disobeyed so we can be cleared of our wrong doing and start fresh with God.

Prayer

Lord, when I disobey, keep me from covering it up with a lie or by blaming others. Forgive me for when I have done this and cause me now to have a fresh start obeying You once again. In Jesus' name I pray.

OBEDIENCE

Day 6

Verse

I Samuel 15:22, 23a ...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

Thought

God told King Saul that obeying Him was better than sacrificing or giving something to Him. God is more interested in us listening to and obeying Him than He is giving Him something. When we rebel against and disobey Him, it is as bad as being in witchcraft and worshipping idols. We disobey God when we disobey those He has placed in authority over us - like our parents.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be really sorry when I disobey You and then try to cover it up by giving You something. Change me so I am like Jesus and obey You like He did. In Jesus' name.

OBEDIENCE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Satan doesn't want us to know that when we obey our parents and others in authority over us, we defeat him.

Obeying God always brings blessing, but disobedience is sin. Because Jesus obeyed God in every way all the time, He was able to pay for our sin of disobedience, and give us eternal life in heaven. We should never cover up our sin of disobedience by lying or blaming others. God wants us to listen to and obey Him because He knows how much we will be blessed if we do.

Prayer

Father, keep working in me to obey You, my parents, teachers and others who take care of me. Keep me listening to Your wise commands in the Bible and obeying You in all I do. Thank You in Jesus' name.

HUMILITY

Day 1

Verse

Matthew 18:4 Therefore, whoever will humble himself as this little child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Thought

Our Father expects us to be humble because He is humble. He sent His Son to a lowly manger. Jesus demonstrated humility as He laid aside His heavenly power and glory and came to earth to live as a man. He humbled Himself and allowed Himself to be put to death on the cross for our sins.

This is one of the most important character qualities we need if we want to be pleasing to our Father.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, work deeply in my heart so I lead a truly humble life. Make me like Jesus. Keep me always coming to You in simple childlike faith. Don't let me ever forget that all I am and all I have came from You. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Humility – Recognizing that all I have or am came from the Lord and those He has placed in my life.

HUMILITY

Day 2

Verse

Matthew 23:12 And whoever shall exalt himself will be humbled; and he that shall humble himself will be exalted.

Thought

True humility comes as we realize that all we have and all we are come from God. Also, humility comes from realizing that God uses others to help develop the skills and abilities we have. We have lots of reasons to be thankful and no reason to be proud. When I talk about pride, I am not talking about the satisfaction that comes when we have worked hard and done our best. I am talking about thinking we are something great or that we are better than others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, work in my heart so I humble myself and serve others. Make sure I always seek to please You. When You allow me to be exalted and recognized, keep me from becoming proud. Make sure I remember that any success I achieve comes from You. I ask in Jesus' name.

HUMILITY

Day 3

Verse

James 4:6 ...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
1 Peter 5:5 ...God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Thought

The Lord tells us the same thing twice in His word because it is so important. God will always resist us if we are proud and think we are better than others. He gives us grace (power to succeed) if we walk humbly with Him.

Prayer

Father, correct me quickly when I think proud thoughts, say proud words or do proud actions. I never want you to have to resist me. Cause me to be humble so You can always give me lots of grace. I ask this in Jesus' name.

HUMILITY

Day 4

Verse

James 4:10 Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Thought

Humility isn't thinking we are a lowly worm that is worthless. We are wonderfully made and priceless in God's eyes. Humility is remembering that God made us able to do whatever we can do and that He is working in us to make us important in His kingdom.

Prayer

Father, I choose to humble myself before You. Show me how to do this. Show me every place where I am not humbling myself and make sure I change. Thank You for exalting me at the right time. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

HUMILITY

Day 5

Verse

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

Thought

We can humble ourself. We do this by realizing and expressing appreciation to God and others for all they have done for us. If we will remain humble, God can trust us with great success and with positions of honor. If we grab for positions of honor and the first place and the best, we will only become proud and hurt ourselves and others. God won't exalt us if we are exalting ourselves.

Prayer

Develop in me a grateful spirit. Open my eyes to see how much You and others that You work through have blessed and helped me. Make sure I express appreciation to You and to others. Thank You so very much Father for sending Jesus to pay for my sins and give me eternal life. Thank You for making me Your child. In Jesus' name.

HUMILITY

Day 6

Verse

Luke 12:18-20 And the rich man said, "This I will do: I will pull down my barns, and build bigger; and there I will store all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have much goods laid up for many years: take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool, this night your soul will be required of you; then whose will these things be which you have produced?"

Thought

This proud rich man had "I" trouble. He thought he had accomplished all these things and he had forgotten God. It cost him his life. Humility is always the best choice. Pride always loses in the end.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, never let me develop "I" trouble and think "I" am the most important one of all. Thank You for all You have given me. Cause me to use all You have given to help build Your kingdom. In Jesus' name.

HUMILITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

We saw that real humility comes from knowing that God is responsible for all we are and all we have. We saw that being grateful can keep us from becoming proud. We learned that if we are proud, God will resist us. He usually resists us through other people. Whenever people are against us, we need to check for pride in our life. When God sees we are humble, then He exalts us at the right time.

Prayer

Precious Lord Jesus, keep me from becoming proud. Send people or circumstances that will teach me true humility. I choose to humble myself before You and I want to please You in everything I do. Lord Jesus, express Your humble life through me in everything I do. Lord, I ask these things in Your name.

FORGIVENESS

Day 1

Verses

I John 1:9 (LB) But if we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. (And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.)

Thought

God forgave us before we ever sinned! How did He do that? It was because Christ died on the Cross for our sin and His death bought our forgiveness with God. So how do we get that forgiveness? We get it by confessing our sins. It's that simple. There's no remedy for sin except that we confess it to God. Excuses don't work. Trying to pay God back doesn't work. Waiting until He "cools off" doesn't work. But confessing our sins bring about God's wonderful forgiveness and cleansing. Try it and see!

Prayer

Father, show me where I have sinned. I confess _____ . Thank You for forgiving me. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Forgiveness – Pardoning the offenses of others and extending mercy. We must do this because Jesus fully paid for our offenses and commands us to forgive. As we express love and forgiveness to those who hurt us, they see how much God loves them.

FORGIVENESS

Day 2

Verse

I John 1:9 LB (part 2) But if we confess our sins to Him, He can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

Thought

Repentance is a word in the Bible which means to be sorry for our sin and turn away from it. When we sin there are 5 things we can do as we repent. Say: 1) I am wrong. 2) I am sorry. 3) Forgive me. 4) Cleanse me. 5) Empower me. When we confess, God will cleanse but He also adds a bonus...He will empower us not to sin again if we ask Him. When He tells us to confess it isn't a mean thing He requires. Instead, it makes us feel clean and new inside and gives us a fresh start with Him and others.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for always forgiving and making us clean on the inside when we confess our sin to You. It is wonderful to a fresh start with You and others. In Jesus' name.

FORGIVENESS

Day 3

Verse

Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who have sinned against us.

Thought

God has forgiven us of so many things. He wants us to then forgive others when they hurt us and do wrong to us. It's one of His wise rules. If we forgive others for their wrong to us, He will forgive us for our wrongs done to Him. If we don't forgive others, He must uphold His rule and cannot forgive us.

The wise choice is to forgive others so we will also enjoy God's forgiveness in our lives.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for showing me Your wise rule of forgiveness. Work in me so I will give others forgiveness for what they have done against me, so You can then forgive me of what I've done against You and others. In Jesus' name.

FORGIVENESS

Day 4

Verse

Ephesians 4:32 (LB) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.

Thought

Which kind of friend would you choose: one who is mean, angry, and says hurtful things to or about you and others; or one who is kind, loving and forgives quickly? Most would choose the one who is kind, loving and forgives quickly. That's the kind of person God wants us all to be. That's the way God and Christ are, and as Christians with the Holy Spirit living within us, we can be the kind, loving and quickly forgiving people God's wants us to be.

Prayer

Lord, I want to be kind, loving and forgiving. Work in me to cause Your Spirit of kindness, love and forgiveness to be the boss of my heart. In the precious name of Jesus.

FORGIVENESS

Day 5

Verse

Colossians 3:13 (LB) Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Thought

We have a friend who made a decision to forgive others at the beginning of each day. No matter what someone did to him during the day, he had already decided to forgive them. So when the time came to forgive, he was ready. He knew God had forgiven him, so he had to forgive others. He learned that forgiveness was a choice, not a feeling. He didn't always feel like forgiving, but chose to do right by forgiving.

Prayer

Father, I am choosing to forgive others and not to hold grudges. I know I can't do this of myself, but I ask You to give me Your power to love, forgive and not hold grudges. Even if I don't feel like it, I choose to forgive. In Jesus' name.

FORGIVENESS

Day 6

Verse

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return.

Thought

When Jesus said this, He was talking about forgiving. When we are generous with forgiving others, He says He will make sure we are forgiven the same way. It is like someone fixing us an ice cream cone and they take it and keep adding more and more ice cream, pressing it down into the cone. That's the way God will make sure we get forgiven when we forgive generously from our hearts.

Prayer

Father, You have the best way of doing things. Cause me to generously forgive others like You have generously forgiven me. In Jesus' name I pray.

FORGIVENESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Jesus paid for our sin and bought our forgiveness. There is no remedy (cure) for sin except that we confess it and receive God's forgiveness. We must forgive others or God won't forgive us. It's one of His wise rules. Forgiveness isn't a feeling, it is a choice. We choose to forgive others, no matter how we feel. When we give forgiveness, God sees to it that we receive His generous forgiveness back.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for teaching me how to forgive like You have forgiven me. Even though I don't always feel like forgiving, I now know how clean and free it makes me feel when I follow Your wise plan of forgiveness. Show me where I still might need to forgive someone who has hurt me. Thank You for making me be a kind, loving and forgiving person. Make sure I never forget that forgiveness is the best choice. In the name of Jesus I pray.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 1

Verse

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control ...

Thought

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit, we have self-control. Self-control is quickly obeying what the Holy Spirit tells us to do or not to do.

Prayer

Father, I yield myself to You and ask You to make sure I quickly obey everything You tell me to do. When I am about to do something wrong, catch me and cause me to stop before I do it. In Jesus' name I pray.

DEFINITION

Self-Control - Quickly and fully obeying everything the Lord tells us to do.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 2

Verse

2 Peter 1:5-7 ...add to your faith goodness - and to goodness knowledge - and to knowledge self-control - and to self-control patience - and to patience godliness - and to godliness brotherly love.

Thought

Knowledge lets us know what we should or should not do. Self-control grows as we obey what we know we should do. Patience grows as we constantly obey what we know we should do.

Prayer

Father, work in my life so I know what You want. Make sure I consistently do what is right. Give me grace to quickly obey every instruction You give. I ask this in Jesus' name.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 3

Verse

1 Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which He commanded you."

Thought

Saul was supposed to wait for Samuel, but he got nervous and afraid. Saul decided to offer a sacrifice himself and he was not supposed to do this. Just as he did it, Samuel arrived and told him that he was in big trouble. Saul almost never obeyed God completely and he died in failure and defeat. We need to obey God fully in what He tells us to do.

Prayer

Precious Father, don't let me be like Saul. Make sure I take action when You tell me to do something. Fill my life with self-control as I obey You. In Jesus' name.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 4

Verse

2 Samuel 5:25 And David did so as the Lord had commanded him. And he struck the Philistines from Geba until you come to Gazer.

Thought

David carefully obeyed God's instructions given in verses 23 & 24. As he did so, he won a tremendous victory. God always knows what we should do. Our job is to ask Him and obey. Consistent obedience is self-control.

Prayer

Father, when the devil attacks, make sure I completely follow the instructions You give. So work in me that I demonstrate self-control by fully obeying the instructions You give through my parents and others in authority over me. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 5

Verse

Luke 19:29,30,32 He sent two of His disciples saying, "Go into the village over opposite you; in which as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which never a man sat. Release him and bring him here." And they that were sent went their way and found it even as He had said to them.

Thought

Jesus gave specific instructions. As His disciples fully obeyed, they got to see God in action. Everything turned out just like Jesus said. When we exercise self-control by quickly obeying, we will see God in action in our lives.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make sure I hear and obey the instructions You give. I do want to see You in action in my life. Make sure I hear and obey when You are speaking through my parents or others. In the precious name of Jesus.

SELF-CONTROL

Day 6

Verse

Mark 1:42,44,45 And as soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. And Jesus said to the leper, "see that you say nothing to any man." But he went out and began to tell many, and to broadcast the matter, to such an extent that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was away in desert places.

Thought

Jesus told the leper to keep quiet. The leper had no self-control so he told everyone he saw. As a result, the ministry of Jesus was hindered. Jesus was unable to come openly into the town. It is always essential to obey Jesus and do exactly as He commands.

Prayer

Father, make sure I follow Your instructions fully and completely. Make sure I realize that partial obedience or delayed obedience is disobedience. Cause me to see that quick, full obedience always works out best for me and others. Thank You Lord.

SELF-CONTROL REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Self-control is quickly and fully obeying what God is telling us to do or not do. When Saul did not exercise self-control, he lost the kingdom and his life. When David and the disciples exercised self-control and followed God's instructions, things worked out well. The leper disobeyed and hindered the work of Jesus. How did you do this week? Were you quick to do what God told you to do?

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for patiently building self-control in my life. Show me where I am slow to obey or do not obey fully. Fill me with joy when I obey Your instructions quickly and completely. Make me like David, not like Saul. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

LOVE

Day 1

Verse

John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Thought

Since Jesus commanded us to love others, He is working in us to make sure we love others. He gives us His love for others. Sometimes, we don't feel like expressing love, but Jesus expects us to love anyhow.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me Your love for those around me. Make sure I keep loving even when I don't feel like it. I ask this in Your mighty name..

DEFINITION

Love - Expressing by my words and actions tenderness, fondness, warmth and deep affection to God and others. God gives believers His love to share with others. Only God's love is perfect and never dies.

LOVE

Day 2

Verse

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep my commandments.

Thought

It is easy to say we love Jesus, but if we are not obeying Him, we really don't love Him very much.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, work in my heart so I demonstrate my love for You by obeying everything Your Word tells me to do. I ask this in Your name.

LOVE

Day 3

Verse

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Thought

On the cross, Jesus forever proved that He and the Father love us. If we ever start to doubt God's love, the cross and this verse should remind us that it is settled - God loves us and always will.

Prayer

Father, keep me from ever doubting Your love. Cause me to remember that You and Jesus loved me so much that He was willing to die for me. Father, cause me to become more and more in love with You. In Jesus' name.

LOVE

Day 4

Verse

1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He that does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Thought

When we become a Christian, Jesus moves into our life and gives us a new heart and a new nature that are filled with God's love. Only those with Jesus living in them can love because real love comes from God alone.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, cause the love You put inside me to bubble out on everyone who touches my life. I ask this in Your matchless name.

LOVE

Day 5

Verse

1 John 4:20-21 If a man says, "I love God" and he hates his brother, he is a liar. For if he does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And we have this command from Him, he who loves God must love his brother also.

Thought

Brothers and sisters help us find out if we really love God. If we do not have a good relationship with those in our family, then God expects us to start doing our part to make things better.

Prayer

Father, cause me to love those around me with Your love. Show me how to love those I know who are difficult to love. Make me see how much You love them. I ask in Jesus' name.

LOVE

Day 6

Verse

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...

Thought

As believers in Jesus Christ, we respect God but do not have to be afraid of Him, because He loves us so much. If we are afraid of a lot of things, we have not yet learned that God loves and protects us.

Prayer

Father, keep me from being afraid. Keep me surrounded with Your love and protection every day of my life. In Jesus' name.

LOVE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

We have seen that God commands us to love. Whenever He commands something, He gives the power to do it. We demonstrate our love for God by obeying Him. We have seen that Jesus' death on the cross settled forever that God loves us. Also, that only those who know God can really love. Finally, we have seen that if we don't love those around us, we probably don't love God much.

Prayer

Father, keep working on me so I love You and others more and more. Make sure I show You my love by obeying You and loving those around me. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

CONTENTMENT

Day 1

Verse

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Thought

To sell you something, people usually have to make you discontent with what you already have. It saves us lots of time, energy and money when we are content. It often seems the more stuff we get, the more we want and the less content we are.

Prayer

Father, work in my heart so I am content with what You give. Keep me from being caught up in collecting stuff. Make sure I focus on living a godly life and being thankful for what You give. I ask in Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Contentment - Deep inward satisfaction with who we are and what we have as a believer. Contentment comes from knowing we are accepted by God and that He is taking care of all our needs.

CONTENTMENT

Day 2

Verse

Luke 3:14 ...be content with your wages

Thought

This was wise advice John the Baptist gave to soldiers who questioned him. This doesn't mean we wouldn't accept a raise or take advantage of a better job. It does mean we should focus on doing our job well. Then, we should trust Jesus to take care of raises, promotions and to supply all we need.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be content with what You are giving me. Teach me how to use it wisely and don't let me chase after things I don't need. I ask this in Jesus' name.

CONTENTMENT

Day 3

Verse

Philippians 4:12 ...for I have learned, in whatever condition I am in, to be content.

Thought

Contentment is something we learn. As babies, we cried and yelled whenever we wanted something. As we grow up, the Lord is teaching us we can't have and don't need everything we see. He knows that stuff won't make us happy. Our happiness comes from fellowship with Jesus.

Prayer

Father, teach me to be content with what You have given. Lead me into the contentment that comes from having a deep, personal relationship with You. In Jesus' name.

CONTENTMENT

Day 4

Verse

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and clothing let us be content with that.

Thought

Most of us have far more than basic food and clothing. Therefore, we have no reason to be discontent. Everything we have here will eventually rust, rot or burn. Only what God does in us and in others through us will last forever.

Prayer

Father, You are so generous. Thank You for all You give. Don't let me be tricked by the devil into being greedy and discontent. In Jesus' name.

CONTENTMENT

Day 5

Verse

Hebrews 13:5 Let your life be free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have now. For He has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

Thought

God thinks we should be content just because we have a relationship with Him. I think He is right, don't you?

Prayer

Father, open my eyes to see that my salvation is far more valuable than all the treasure and money on earth. Use me to help others find the lasting treasure of eternal life. I ask in Jesus' name.

CONTENTMENT

Day 6

Verse

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil. Some who have chased after money have wandered from the faith and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Thought

Money and things aren't bad. However, when they control us and are all we think about, then they become idols and hinder our walk with God. Those who focus on getting rich always end up with sorrow.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me how to use money and possessions for Your kingdom. Don't let me ever fall in love with money or any other thing. In Your name.

CONTENTMENT REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Being content doesn't mean we are never going to have anything. It means we hold everything loosely and do not allow anything to come between us and God. We trust Him to generously meet all our needs. He satisfies lots of our wants also because He is such a loving, giving Father. A joy-filled, peaceful life is for those who take what God gives and walk with Him one day at a time.

Prayer

Father, teach me to hold loosely the things I have on earth. Make sure I am content with what You give. Cause me to understand that my salvation is far more valuable than anything else I could ever have. Thank You for the priceless gift of eternal life. In Jesus' name.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 1

Verse

Luke 12:48 ...For to whom much is given, of him much will be required...

Thought

The Lord holds us responsible for the training, abilities and possessions He allows us to have. He wants to work through what He has given us to build His kingdom.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to be responsible for all You have given. Make sure I make the maximum use of the abilities, training and possessions You give. In Your precious name.

DEFINITION

Responsibility - Being accountable to God for the abilities and possessions He has placed in our hands.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 2

Verse

Romans 14:12 So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Thought

We need to allow God to develop the character quality of responsibility in us. One day we will have to give account for what we thought, said and did during our life.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to be responsible. Make sure I allow You to be in control of my thoughts, words and deeds. Keep me from wasting my life and the things You give. Don't let me cause others to stumble. In Your awesome name.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 3

Verse

Proverbs 13:18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction, but he that listens to correction shall be honored.

Thought

The Lord is constantly teaching and correcting us. Our responsibility is to listen and make whatever changes are needed. If we don't, we are headed for big trouble.

Prayer

Lord, see to it that I respond correctly to Your instruction. As I grow in responsibility, use me to help others grow spiritually. In Jesus' name.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 4

Verse

Matthew 25:14-15 For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country who called his servants and gave to them his goods. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one. He gave to every man according to his ability...

Thought

Later, the man came back and the people had to give an account of what they had done with the resources entrusted to them. Two did real well but the third person did not use what he was given and gained nothing. The master was mad and took away everything he had and threw him out. Only two of the three demonstrated the character quality of responsibility.

Prayer

Lord, You know my abilities and You are the one who gives me my responsibilities and assignments. Make sure I take them seriously and seek to do exactly what You want done. In Jesus' name.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 5

Verses

Genesis 3:12-13 And the man said "The woman whom You gave to be with me - she gave me of the tree and I did eat." And the Lord said to the woman, "What have you done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me and I did eat."

Thought

Adam and Eve were responsible for the garden and for not eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When they ate and got caught, Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the devil. God held them all responsible, including the devil, and administered the appropriate discipline. When God gives an instruction, He always means it.

Prayer

Father, make sure I obey Your Word. If I mess up, make sure I respond to Your correction and change and obey. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

RESPONSIBILITY

Day 6

Verses

Genesis 4:8-9 And Cain talked with his brother Abel. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. And the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brothers keeper?"

Thought

Cain sinned, got caught, and tried to lie his way out of it. Even though he was punished, he never repented and changed. As a result, his descendants were like him and were out of fellowship with God. We don't want to be like them.

Prayer

Father, forgive me where I have sinned and tried to lie and cover it up. You know everything about me. I was wrong and ask You to forgive me and cleanse me. Show me anything I need to make right. Bring me into a close, intimate relationship with you. In Jesus' name.

RESPONSIBILITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

None of the verses we looked at this week had the word responsibility in them. However, they all showed that God expects us to be responsible for what we have, and what we do. He also disciplines us when we are irresponsible so we can change. One day in heaven He will review everything we did on earth and we will give an account for our thoughts, words and actions.

Prayer

Father, my choice is to be a godly, responsible believer. Teach me, correct me and change me however You need. Make sure I live so I can be praised in the final judgment because I obeyed You. In the name of Jesus.

REVERENCE

Day 1

Verses

Revelation 1:14-17a His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire. And His feet were like fine brass as if glowing in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters. And He had in his right hand seven stars. And out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. And His countenance was as the sun shines in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

Thought

When John got a good look at Jesus in heaven, he fainted. The beauty, majesty and glory of the Lord was more than he could handle. This is the Lord we serve and worship. He is awesome beyond our ability to describe. He deserves our love and reverence.

Prayer

Lord, even though You allow me to talk to You as a friend and a brother, make sure I always give You the reverence and honor You deserve. Open my eyes to see more of how awesome You are.

DEFINITION

Reverence - Deep respect and awe for God and the things He does.

REVERENCE

Day 2

Verses

Isaiah 6:1 & 5 In the year king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Then I said, Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips. For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

Thought

Isaiah was a godly man, but when He saw the Lord, he felt unclean and undone. God is so tremendously awesome. It's hard to understand how people can ignore Him or use His name when they curse. One day they won't ignore Him or ridicule Him any longer when they stand before Him in judgment. The better we know God, the more we can help others know Him before it is too late.

Prayer

Father, You are beautiful and awesome. Thank You for giving us these insights into who You are. Thank You for sending Jesus so we could be changed and be in your awesome presence forever.

REVERENCE

Day 3

Verses

Hebrews 12:28-29 Then, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace by which we may serve God in a pleasing way, with reverence and fear. For also, our God is a consuming fire.

Thought

We are to serve God with reverence and fear. These are balanced by the joy and love that God gives. The Lord gives us the proper balance in our relationship with a loving Father and a holy, awesome God. It is important for us to learn to be reverent.

Prayer

Father, teach me to give You the reverence You deserve. Develop a reverence in me that helps others come into a reverent, loving walk with You. You are wonderful and holy beyond description. I worship and love You. In Jesus' name.

REVERENCE

Day 4

Verse

Psalm 111:9 He sent redemption to His people. He commanded His covenant forever. Holy and worthy of reverence is His name.

Thought

The Lord is the one who paid for our sins and brought us into a forever relationship with Him. He has names like Savior and Redeemer. As we revere His names and always speak them reverently, we show reverence to Him.

Prayer

Lord, You are my Savior and Redeemer and I worship You. There is none like You. You are worthy of all my love and praise. Make sure I revere You and worship You all through my life. In Your mighty name.

REVERENCE

Day 5

Verse

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Thought

We were hopelessly lost in sin and were held captive by the devil. Jesus paid for our sin and made the devil turn us loose. Now we are in Jesus' kingdom and He is our king. Therefore, we should seek to glorify God in everything we say or do.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for saving me and setting me free from sin so I can serve You. So work in me that I glorify You in my body and my spirit. You deserve my reverence and I want to revere You all my life. In Jesus' name.

REVERENCE

Day 6

Verses

Romans 1:21-22 Because when they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

Thought

Those who refuse to glorify and revere God sink deeper and deeper into sin. God's Word points out that it is foolish to know about God and refuse to glorify Him or thank Him. We do not want to be like these people. Read the rest of the chapter to see what awful people they became.

Prayer

Father, I glorify You and am so thankful that You caused me to know and worship You. Don't let me ever think I am wise enough to live without You. I need You every day in every area of my life. You are my Lord. In the wonderful name of Jesus.

REVERENCE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

God alone is worthy of our worship and praise. He is the one who made us and the one who redeemed us from our sin. Worship, praise and thanksgiving are our most appropriate responses to Him. Allow Him to work in Your heart to make you a person who does worship, praise and thank Him.

Prayer

Father, You made me and You gave me eternal life through Jesus Your Son. Work in my heart and my life so I always worship You. Make sure I am thankful. Cause my days to be filled with praise to You. I ask this in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ.

FAITH

Day 1

Verse

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Thought

Faith comes as we read God's Word and listen to Him speaking to our spirit through the Holy Spirit. As we sense what God wants, we take whatever steps of action He directs.

Prayer

Father, make sure I am regularly reading Your Word. Speak to me and cause me to know what You want me to believe and do. Lead me to step out in faith as I discern Your will in a matter. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Faith - Believing what God tells or shows me through His Word and acting on this information. Faith comes as we hear from God through His Word.

FAITH

Day 2

Verse

1 Samuel 22:14 Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who is so faithful among all your servants as David who is the king's son-in-law, and who goes at your bidding, and who is honorable in your house?"

Thought

David was faithful to God and faithful to the king God had placed over him. God honored David's faithfulness and chose David as the next king after king Saul.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, cause me to faithfully serve those You have placed over me. Work in me so I serve them as if I were serving You. Develop my faithfulness. I ask this in Your name.

FAITH

Day 3

Verse

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Thought

Near the end of his life, the apostle Paul could testify that he had been faithful to the assignments God had given him. He did not have easy assignments but God was always faithful to give Paul all the grace and power he needed to get his job done.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be faithful like Paul. Give me strength and power to obey You day after day. See to it that I am always faithful to You. I ask in Jesus' name.

FAITH

Day 4

Verse

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Thought

If we are not faithful in little assignments, the Lord will never trust us with big ones. Our faith is strengthened as we obey the Lord in one small task after another.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, see to it that I faithfully complete every assignment You give. Cause my faith to grow stronger. If there are past assignments that I haven't completed yet, remind me and make sure I get them done. In Your name.

FAITH

Day 5

Verse

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.

Thought

Real faith always results in action or work. Once we know God's plan, we join Him and He works through us to accomplish His purposes.

Prayer

Father, build in me a lively faith that cooperates with You and carries out Your desires. Don't let me try to dream up works of my own, but make sure I faithfully do the works You assign. I pray in Jesus' name.

FAITH

Day 6

Verse

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Thought

Real faith always turns into substance or evidence. We may have to faithfully wait for a time after we pray or after we take a step of obedience, but God always does His part and turns faith into substance and evidence.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be full of real faith that You can turn into substance and evidence for your kingdom. Cause God-like things to happen around my life because of the faith You are releasing in me. In Jesus' name.

FAITH REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Faith is closely tied to God's Word. As we act on our faith, God causes His will to be done and we can see and touch the results. If we are faithful in little things, God will give us bigger assignments. God honored faithful men like David. If nothing "God-like" is happening around us, either our faith is dead or we are not walking with God in faith.

Prayer

Father, make sure I walk in faith. Cause my faith to grow stronger day after day. Bring people into my life who can help me grow in faith. Work in me so I live a faithful life. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus.

GENEROSITY

Day 1

Verse

Romans 8:32 He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Thought

God not only gave His Son Jesus for our sins, but He generously gave everything else as well. When you see someone who is being generous, you are seeing someone who is like our generous Heavenly Father.

Prayer

Father, first of all, make sure I am always generous toward You and Your kingdom work. Then work in my heart so I am generous to those around me. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Generosity - Giving of our time, energy or resources freely like God gives to us.

GENEROSITY

Day 2

Verse

James 1:5 But if any of you lack wisdom let him ask it from God, who freely (generously) gives to all and does not reproach; and it shall be given to him.

Thought

God is generous when we ask Him for things we need. He is developing that same quality of generosity in us.

Prayer

Father, so work in me that I generously give to those who ask. Cause me to always have enough to give. I ask this in Jesus' name.

GENEROSITY

Day 3

Verse

2 Corinthians 9:7 Let every man give according as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity for God loves a cheerful giver.

Thought

God gets excited about those who give cheerfully. They are being like their Father in heaven. God doesn't force us to give, but He enjoys it when we do. We can give help, prayers and love even if we don't have much money.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, make me into a cheerful giver like You are. Teach me to give generously of my time, energy and prayers to others. In Jesus' name.

GENEROSITY

Day 4

Verse

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich.

Thought

Jesus gave up the comfort, peace, joy and riches of heaven to come to earth as a humble baby. He fulfilled the demands of the law for us and then died for our sins in our place. Then He gave the gift of eternal life to those who would give their life to Him. Finally, God gave Him back all He had before and His place in heaven. In addition, God gave Him the church as a wife forever.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I have given You my life. Make sure I never try to take back any part of myself. You deserve everything I am or have. Express Your generous life through me in any way You want. I ask this in Your name.

GENEROSITY

Day 5

Verse

Proverbs 11:25 The soul who gives freely (generously) shall be made wealthy; and he who waters shall also be watered himself.

Thought

The Lord takes good care of those who take care of others. God always gives back more than we give.

Prayer

Father, make sure I give generously to others. Send people who are good examples to help me learn. Change my heart so I don't try to hold on to everything I have. Thank You for always being so generous with me. In Jesus' name.

GENEROSITY

Day 6

Verse

Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. Freely you have received, freely give.

Thought

Jesus sent the disciples and He sends us to freely give the gospel to a lost world. As we give love and help, people will listen when we tell them about eternal life through believing in Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Father, cause me to freely give like You have so generously given to me. Show me all the ways I can give to others. Don't let me miss opportunities to express Your love by giving. In the precious name of Jesus.

GENEROSITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Our Father is a very generous, giving God. He wants us to be like Him. Jesus gave Himself, the greatest gift of all. God loves it when we are generous. Our Father takes real good care of those who are generous.

Prayer

Make me like You, Father. Keep me from being selfish like the world. Change my heart however You need so I will be generous. Cause me to notice and learn from generous people You have placed around me. In Jesus' name.

DEFERENCE

Day 1

Verse

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit, for they watch for your souls as ones that are about to give account, so that they may do it with joy and not with sadness - for this would not be good for you.

Thought

We are cautioned to submit or show deference to those God places over us. We show deference by limiting our rights in order to comply with the wishes of those over us.

Prayer

Father, work in my heart so I show deference and respect to those over me. Make me realize that respecting my parents and my leaders is the same as respecting You. Reveal any areas where I do not show proper deference. In the name of Jesus.

DEFINITION

Deference - Respectful or courteous regard for the desires or wishes of another. We should especially respond to the desires of parents, teachers and leaders God places over us.

DEFERENCE

Day 2

Verses

Luke 2:51-52 And He (Jesus) went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them; but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.

Thought

Jesus showed deference to Mary and Joseph's wishes even though He knew that He had to be about His Father's business. It was eighteen years before His actual ministry began. During this time He was growing in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man.

Prayer

Father, make sure I show deference to the wishes of my parents, teachers and spiritual leaders. Cause me to grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with You and favor with men. In Jesus' name.

DEFERENCE

Day 3

Verses

Isaiah 58:13-14 If you will turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day: and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words: Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your Father. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

Thought

The Lord told them if they would yield their rights and focus on Him on the Sabbath, He would take good care of them and insure their success.

Prayer

Father, work in me so I yield my rights to You and seek first Your kingdom. I choose to honor you with attention and respect. Thank You for taking good care of me. In Jesus' name.

DEFERENCE

Day 4

Verses

Ephesians 6:2-3 Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.

Thought

Showing deference or giving honor to our parents in one of the best ways to develop our character. It pleases God very much and he will make sure we are rewarded for this obedience. The verse doesn't say to honor them only when they are right - just honor them.

Prayer

Father, work in my heart so that I show deference and honor to my parents. Cause me to focus on their position of authority rather than their actions when it seems difficult to honor and obey. In Jesus' name.

DEFERENCE

Day 5

Verse

1 Timothy 3:4 He must rule his own house well, having his children in obedience, with all honor.

Thought

Deference is so important that the Lord disqualifies potential leaders who have not taught their children deference. He knows that such leaders would not be able to teach those in the body of Christ how to show deference to God and to others.

Prayer

Lord, use my parents and others to teach me to show deference. Show me how to respectfully voice my desires and then to respect the wishes of those in authority over me. In Jesus' name.

DEFERENCE

Day 6

Verse

Mark 14:36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You; take away this cup from Me; nevertheless not what I will, but what You will."

Thought

Although He could sense the horrors of the cross, Jesus deferred to the wishes of His Father. He went willingly to the cross for us. As a result, God honored Him with a name above every name and gave Him the church as a wife forever.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to defer to the Father's wishes and to the wishes of those you have placed over me. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

DEFERENCE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

The Lord commands us to show deference to God, our parents and to our leaders. He promises blessing to those who obey and show deference. Jesus demonstrated deference in His youth and in the garden of Gethsemane the night before the crucifixion. We will not be qualified to be leaders if we do not learn deference so we can teach it to others.

Prayer

Lord, teach me deference. Show me where I demand my own way instead of deferring to You or those over me. Teach me the joy of obeying You and doing things Your way. In Jesus' name.

LOYALTY

Day 1

Verse

1 Samuel 23:16-17 And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, "Fear not. For the hand of Saul my father shall not find you; and you shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you; and that my father knows."

Thought

Jonathan and David were best friends and were tremendously loyal to each other. Jonathan was even willing to give up his right to be king because he knew the Lord had given that position to David.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me how to be loyal to those You place in my life. Give me those that will be loyal to me. Most of all, make sure I always remain loyal to You. In the precious name of Jesus.

DEFINITION

Loyalty - Doing all we can to support and help those God brings into our life. Our first and most important loyalty is to the Lord Jesus Christ.

LOYALTY

Day 2

Verses

2 Timothy 4:10-11 For Demos has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed to Thessalonica... Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with you, for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Thought

Demos left Paul but Luke was loyal and remained. Mark had been disloyal earlier when he was much younger. Evidently, he had developed the character quality of loyalty for now Paul wants his help again.

Prayer

Lord, cause me to pass the tests of loyalty that come my way. Give me godly friends with whom I can grow in loyalty. Lord, express Your loyalty through me. In Jesus' name.

LOYALTY

Day 3

Verse

Proverbs 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness, but a faithful (loyal) man who can find?

Thought

This proverb tells us it is not easy to find loyal friends. To have loyal friends, we must be a loyal friend. Even earlier, loyalty starts in the family with the most important people in our lives.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach me to be loyal to others in my family. Then teach me to be loyal to my friends. Give me at least one godly, loyal friend during my school days. Cause me to recognize those few who do have the character quality of loyalty. In Jesus' name.

LOYALTY

Day 4

Verse

Numbers 12:7 My servant Moses is not like that, he is faithful (loyal) in all my house.

Thought

God could trust Moses because Moses was completely loyal to God. How much can God trust us?

Prayer

Father, change my heart so I am loyal to You like Moses was. Show me any disloyalty and remove it from my life. Work in me in whatever way You need as You develop loyalty in me. I ask this in Jesus' name.

LOYALTY

Day 5

Verse

Psalms 41:9 Yes, my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my food, has lifted up his heel against me.

Thought

King David was sick and having trouble. Things looked pretty bad. Then a friend, who was not loyal, turned against David. This really hurt. Ever have a friend turn against You? David realized that God was loyal and would never ever turn against him.

Prayer

Father, give me friends who will remain loyal even during bad times. Make me into such a friend to others. Even if others are disloyal, thank You, Father, that You will never be disloyal to me. Cause me to always be loyal to You. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

LOYALTY

Day 6

Verse

Proverbs 18:24 A man who has friends must show himself friendly. And there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Thought

When we are friendly and loyal, it draws loyal people to us. No matter how great our friends are, none will ever be as close and loyal as Jesus.

Prayer

Father, teach me how to be friendly and loyal to others. Cause me to have a deep, intimate friendship with Jesus all my life. Keep me loyal to Him. In the precious name of Jesus.

LOYALTY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Jonathan and David were friends who were loyal to death. However, both David and Paul had friends who were not loyal and deserted when things got bad. We first develop loyalty within the family. Later, God adds loyal friends to our lives. Throughout life, Jesus is our most faithful, loyal and trustworthy friend.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make sure I grow into a loyal friend like You are. Thank You for being a friend no matter how bad things get. Cause me to make and keep loyal friends. In Jesus' name.

JOYFULNESS

Day 1

Verse

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Thought

Knowing God and all He has planned for us and how much He loves us keeps us full of joy. The joy God gives is lasting and does not evaporate when trouble comes like worldly happiness does.

Prayer

Father, cause me to fill my life with Your Word. As I do, fill me with Your lasting joy. Cause me to overflow with joy to others. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Joyfulness - Expressing through my smile, words and actions the joy I have because God, my Heavenly Father loves and accepts me completely.

JOYFULNESS

Day 2

Verse

John 16:22 Therefore, now you have sorrow, but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice; and no man will ever take your joy from you.

Thought

The disciples were sad that Jesus was going to be taken away by death on the cross. He told them the sadness was temporary and that He would be back and give them everlasting joy that couldn't be taken away. If we have personally given our lives to Jesus Christ, we have every reason to be filled with joy and no one can take it away.

Prayer

Jesus, You have come into my heart and brought Your joy with You. Keep me from being distracted by my problems. Cause Your joy to overflow from my life. I ask this in Your name.

JOYFULNESS

Day 3

Verse

John 16:24 Up to now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Thought

Answered prayers bring joy. Nothing is more exciting than seeing God do things in response to our prayers. So pray much and watch for answers.

Prayer

Father, give me prayers that You want prayed. Cause me to recognize the answers and fill me with joy as I do. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus Christ..

JOYFULNESS

Day 4

Verse

John 17:13 And now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Thought

All of John 17 is a prayer by Jesus and much of it is for us. One of His requests is that we would be filled with joy. Do you think Jesus' prayer will get answered?

Prayer

Father, Jesus prayed for me to be filled with joy. Cause me to receive all the joy You have for me. Develop the character quality of joyfulness in me. Use my joyfulness to draw others to Jesus. In His name.

JOYFULNESS

Day 5

Verses

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control, against such things there is no law.

Thought

When the Holy Spirit fills our lives, He releases all the fruit listed in this verse. We can't produce any of them, He does it. One fruit He releases is joy. Happiness is a temporary feeling we have because something nice happened. Joy is a permanent part of our lives. Joy is in a Spirit-filled believer whether things seem to be going well or not.

Prayer

Father, I surrender control of my life to You. Make sure I become everything You want and do everything You want. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and cause the fruit of the Spirit to overflow from my life. In Jesus' name.

JOYFULNESS

Day 6

Verse

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Spirit.

Thought

Paul and Barnabas were run out of town for preaching the gospel. Instead of being discouraged, they were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. We learned yesterday that when we are full of the Holy Spirit, He fills us with the fruit of the Spirit which includes joy. Paul and Barnabas knew God was in control so they just went to the next place and preached the truth there.

Prayer

Father, use me to tell people the truth about Jesus. Fill me with joy and don't let me be discouraged if they won't listen. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

JOYFULNESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Joy comes from God as we believe His Word and as we yield to His control and are filled with His Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed for us to have His joy. Answered prayers bring joy as we see God take action based on our prayers. We can have joy whether things seem to be going well or not because joy comes from the Holy Spirit inside us and not from external circumstances.

Prayer

Father, continue to build Your Word into my life. Keep me surrendered to You and full of Your Holy Spirit. Cause me to pray and to recognize the answers to my prayers. No matter what is happening around me, keep me full of Your joy. In Jesus' name.

HOSPITALITY

Day 1

Verse

Romans 12:13 Meeting the needs of the believers, given to hospitality.

Thought

The Holy Spirit works in us to cause us to be hospitable. There is great joy in getting our focus off of our wants and focusing on helping others.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, work in me to cause me to show hospitality to others. Make sure I learn hospitality from those around me and put it to practice in my home and church. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

DEFINITION

Hospitality - Doing what I can to provide comfort and joy to guests and visitors in my home or church. Treating others with the love and care that God shows to me.

HOSPITALITY

Day 2

Verse

1 Peter 4:9 Showing hospitality to others without complaining.

Thought

We can make ourselves do nice things for others. If we submit to the Lord, He will work in us to cause us to want to show hospitality. Then He will cause us to enjoy showing hospitality.

Prayer

Father, don't let me be a reluctant or grumbling host. Work in me so I joyfully share my space, my things and my home with others. Thank You for all the ways You have had others show hospitality to me. In Jesus' name.

HOSPITALITY

Day 3

Verse

Titus 1:8 But is a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate.

Thought

One of the requirements for leadership is the character quality of hospitality. Leaders are usually required to be hospitable to others and to receive hospitality from others. If a leader can't model hospitality, then they can't teach it to others.

Prayer

Father, cause me to be faithful to show hospitality in all the opportunities You give. Make it a natural part of my life. Show me ways to increase the comfort and enjoyment of our guests and visitors. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

HOSPITALITY

Day 4

Verse

John 12:2a There they made Him a supper and Martha served.

Thought

Martha and Mary showed hospitality to Jesus and the disciples. They did what they could to make them comfortable in their house.

Prayer

Lord, work through my life to show hospitality to others. Make me a blessing to others and make our home a special and enjoyable place for those You send to us. In Jesus' name.

HOSPITALITY

Day 5

Verse

Hebrews 13:2 Don't forget to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Thought

To spice things up a bit, the Lord sometimes sends an angel to enjoy our hospitality. If we take good care of everyone, we won't miss an angel if God sends one our way.

Prayer

Angels or not, Lord, give me the grace and desire to take good care of all you send my way. Cause me to show hospitality out of obedience to you and not based on whether I think others deserve it or not. In Jesus' name.

HOSPITALITY

Day 6

Verse

2 Kings 4:8 And it happened on a day when Elisha passed through Shunem, a hospitable woman was there. She constrained him to eat bread. And so it was that as often as he passed by, he turned in there to eat bread.

Thought

This lady always fed the prophet Elisha when He came by her house. She even fixed a room where he could stay and rest. God rewarded her hospitality by allowing her to have a son. She had not been able to have children before then. Later her son died, but she had learned to trust the God of Elisha. God used Elisha to raise the son back to life.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for this example of hospitality. Use me to help care for those who are doing the work of the kingdom. Show me practical ways I can express the character quality of hospitality. I pray this in Jesus' name.

HOSPITALITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

When we believe in Jesus, we have no choice but to be hospitable. It is required of leaders, but we can learn to be hospitable when we are young. The Lord takes good care of those who show hospitality to others. There will be times when we graciously give hospitality and times when we joyfully receive it. We need to be good at doing both.

Prayer

Father, use what I have learned this week to develop in me the character quality of hospitality. Show me practical ways to be hospitable at home, at church and as I go through each day. Thank You for all the ways You have shown hospitality to me, especially through my parents. In Jesus' name.

SINCERITY

Day 1

Verse

Philippians 1:10 That you may approve the things that are excellent; that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ.

Thought

Paul prayed for the Philippians to be sincere. Open, honest and sincere believers are best able to share the gospel with others. This week you can grow in the character quality of sincerity as you read God's Word and pray.

Prayer

Father, develop in me the sincerity You desire. Correct me when I say or do things that are not open, honest or sincere. Keep me from exaggerating or hiding the truth. Cause me to speak the truth sincerely. I ask this in Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Sincerity - Being open, honest and real in everything I do or say.

SINCERITY

Day 2

Verse

Joshua 24:14 Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth. Put away the gods that your fathers served on the other side of the flood and in Egypt and serve the Lord.

Thought

The Lord knows whether we are sincere in our Christianity or whether it is only a show. Others can usually tell as they watch our lives. Near his death, Joshua called on the people to sincerely serve God and to turn away from other gods.

Prayer

Father, cause me to serve You in sincerity and in truth. Don't let me have a pretend Christianity. Give me a genuine love for You and for others. Be in first place in my life and don't let me ever put anyone or anything in front of You. I ask in the name of Jesus.

SINCERITY

Day 3

Verse

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have lived in the world and even much more toward you.

Thought

Jesus worked in Paul to model simplicity and godly sincerity. Paul sought to be open, honest and real in everything he said and did. That should be our goal. As we cooperate, Jesus will develop sincerity in us.

Prayer

Lord, I choose to cooperate with You as You develop a godly sincerity in me. The world tries to teach me to be deceptive and hidden, but I choose Your open, honest and sincere ways. Work in my heart to make me open, honest and sincere. In Jesus' name.

SINCERITY

Day 4

Verse

Ephesians 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

Thought

Paul prayed for grace or power for the Ephesians who sincerely loved Jesus. The Lord will give us grace or power to love and serve Him sincerely if we ask.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me the grace and power to love and serve You sincerely all the days of my life. Cause me to be sincere with my friends and not take on a different or insincere personality when I am with them. Don't let me forget that I represent You wherever I am and in whatever I do. In Your name.

SINCERITY

Day 5

Verse

2 Corinthians 8:8 I do not speak as a command, but because of the diligence of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

Thought

Ever hear the statement, "Put your money where your mouth is?" Our giving is one outward expression of the sincerity of our faith in Christ. Another outward expression is when we give thanks even when things look pretty bad.

Prayer

Father, work in me so I demonstrate my sincerity by being a regular, consistent giver to You and to others. Make sure I give thanks in everything as an expression of my sincere trust in Your protection and care. Thank You for being sincere in Your love and care for me. In Jesus' name.

SINCERITY

Day 6

Verse

2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not as many, who corrupt the Word of God. But as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Thought

In Paul's day just as in our day, there were those who pretended to be Christians in order to take advantage of others. In this verse, Paul was reminding the Corinthians that he had been open, honest and sincere in every action toward them. They knew it was true. How about us? Do people see that we are consistently sincere?

Prayer

Father, make me into a person who is consistently sincere. Don't let me do or say things that make people doubt me and doubt You. Express Your sincerity through me for the rest of my life. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus.

SINCERITY REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

We live in a world where many people are not sincere. Others are sincere, but are sincerely wrong because their lives are not based on a personal faith in Jesus and a belief in His Word. We need to be those who sincerely believe God's Word and live it and then sincerely share it with others.

Prayer

Father, develop in me a sincere trust in You and Your Word. Use me to sincerely share the gospel with others and to help them place their faith in Jesus Christ. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

INITIATIVE

Day 1

Verse

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Thought

Everything always starts with God. He made the world and then He took the initiative to call people into a relationship with Himself. We respond to God's initiative by joining Him in what He has started.

Prayer

Father, thank You for creating me and drawing me into a relationship with Yourself. Cause me to respond quickly and correctly to things You want to do through me. I ask this in Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Initiative - Doing what I need to do before someone has to ask or tell me to do it.

INITIATIVE

Day 2

Verse

Acts 13:2-3 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Separate Barnabas and Saul to Me for the word unto which I have called them." And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Thought

As they fasted and prayed, the Lord told them what He wanted. Barnabas and Paul took the initiative to join the Lord in an outreach to the Gentile world. Everywhere the Lord directed, they went and preached and started churches.

Prayer

Father, when I know what You want, make sure I do it quickly and completely. Don't let me sit around and wait when I already know what You want me to do. I ask this in the name of Jesus.

INITIATIVE

Day 3

Verse

Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down off the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Get up and make us gods which shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what is become of him."

Thought

The people took initiative based on their own ideas and not on God's plan. They made a golden calf, worshipped it and got in big trouble. Some of them lost their lives. Our initiative must be based on what God tells us to do. He alone knows the plan and we must follow Him.

Prayer

Father, don't let me sin by dreaming up my own schemes and plans. Make sure I do what You tell me to do. Cause me to wait until I have heard from You and then make sure I take the initiative to do what You want. I ask this in Jesus' name.

INITIATIVE

Day 4

Verse

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Thought

Many times we already know what the Lord wants in a situation. When we do, He expects us to do what needs to be done without waiting for someone to ask us to do it. Can you think of things that fall in this category? If not, ask your parents for ideas.

Prayer

Father, cause me to recognize the things I need to do and to take the initiative to do them without waiting to be asked. I ask this in Jesus' name.

INITIATIVE

Day 5

Verses

Acts 3:6-7 Then Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Thought

Earlier, Jesus had instructed Peter and the other disciples to go and heal the sick. When Peter hears this lame man ask for help, he takes the initiative to command that he rise and walk.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make sure I take the initiative to carry out Your instructions. Just as Peter gave You the credit and glory for this healing, make sure I give you the credit and glory for whatever You do through me. Don't let me be fearful or hesitant when I know what You want me to do. Lord, I pray this in Your name.

INITIATIVE

Day 6

Verses

John 1:40-42a One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Jesus, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ." And he brought him to Jesus.

Thought

Andrew's initiative resulted in Peter's salvation. Our initiative, as directed by the Holy Spirit, can result in others being brought into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Lord, cause me to invite others to know You. Show me when and how to do it. Make sure I respond quickly when you prompt me to share with others. Father, I ask this in Jesus' name.

INITIATIVE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

God always is first to take the initiative in everything, then He prompts us and we join Him in what He is doing. When He shows us what He wants to do, we should quickly take action to carry out His desires. If we take initiative on things that are not of God, we can get in trouble like Aaron and the Jews when they made the golden calf.

Prayer

Father, show me where You are at work and make sure I take the initiative to join You. Don't let me take off on my own to do my own thing and get in trouble. If I already know what You want, make sure I do it before I have to be asked. In Jesus' name.

VIRTUE

Day 1

Verse

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, with all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...

Thought

After salvation, we are to add to our faith virtue. The Lord wants to work in us to clean up our thoughts, words and actions. Many skip over virtue and seek knowledge. Having a lot of knowledge without having a pure life often causes moral failures later in life. Sadly, many leaders with lots of knowledge fail because they have not allowed the Lord to purify their thoughts, words and actions.

Prayer

Father, cause my life to be cleansed. Point out my impure thoughts, words and actions. Cleanse me and keep me clean. I ask this in the name of my virtuous Lord Jesus Christ.

DEFINITION

Virtue - Purity, goodness and moral excellence in all I think, say or do. Allowing Jesus to express His pure life through me.

VIRTUE

Day 2

Verse

2 Peter 1:3 According as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue.

Thought

The Lord has called us to glory and virtue. He can't show His glory safely through those whose lives are not pure and clean. We cooperate by avoiding TV shows, songs, books and jokes that are not clean and pure. It is easy to put junk into our minds and very hard to get it out. Be careful what you see and hear.

Prayer

Lord, I want people to see Your glory in my life. Cleanse me and teach me to avoid the impure stuff of the world. Show me more of Your purity and create in me a strong desire to lead a pure and virtuous life. In Your precious name.

VIRTUE

Day 3

Verse

Philippians 4:8 Finally brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Thought

The Lord directs us through Paul to fill our lives with that which is pure. To successfully do that, we have to avoid the impure and seek that which is pure. It is not easy, since most of the stuff the world produces for TV, music and books is not pure or clean. Who do you want to please, the Lord or the world?

Prayer

Lord, fill my life with good books, good friends and good music. Especially fill me with Your Word and testimonies about the way You have worked through the lives of Your people. Give me grace and help to memorize lots of Your Word. I ask this in Your clean and pure name.

VIRTUE

Day 4

Verse

Ruth 3:11 And now my daughter, do not fear; I will do for you all that you need. All the people of my city know that you are a virtuous woman.

Thought

Ruth kept her life pure. The whole city recognized it. So did Boaz, the man who would become her husband. His obedience to God and her virtue allowed her to be one of the ancestors of King David and of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Father, although most of the world makes fun of virtue and moral purity, cause me to be virtuous and morally pure. Change me any way You need in order to make me pure like You want. Give me the grace to live a clean and pure life. In Jesus' name.

VIRTUE

Day 5

Verse

Proverbs 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that causes shame is as rottenness in his bones.

Thought

The opposite is true also. A virtuous man is a treasure to his wife. Both are treasures to the Lord. We can also bring shame to the Lord and His church if our lives as believers are impure and unclean. Lost people seem to notice every wrong thing Christians do. I guess the devil points out our failures to the lost so he can mock the church and the Lord. The Lord uses our failures to show us our great need for Him.

Prayer

Father in heaven, keep me pure. Cause my life to be a joy to You and to those around me. Keep my future marriage partner pure, clean and in close fellowship with You. In Jesus' matchless name.

VIRTUE

Day 6

Verse

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies.

Thought

I think the Lord usually talks about women when He speaks of virtue because throughout history they have led the way in virtue. Unfortunately, since the 1970s, many women have given up on being virtuous. The result has been a tremendous increase in sexual disease and abortions. Regardless of what the world does, the Lord expects His believers, men and women, to keep themselves morally pure and virtuous.

Prayer

Lord, help! The whole world seems corrupt and impure. Work powerfully in my heart to keep me pure. Use me to encourage and help others to remain pure. Don't let me give in to the pressures. You are stronger in me than any pressures of the world. I ask this in the pure and spotless name of Jesus.

VIRTUE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

We are not impure because an occasional impure thought or temptation to impurity comes into our mind. Those come from the devil and we should refuse them and ask the Lord to cleanse our mind. If we let them stay and think on them, then they will lead to more impure thoughts and then impure actions. Paul advised Timothy to "Flee youthful lusts." We need to stay away from places and people that are impure whenever we can.

Prayer

Father, cause me to flee youthful lusts. Give me a strong desire to remain pure. Give me pure friends who can help me. Cause me to fill my life with Your Word, the Bible, and not with the junk of the world. Show me how to handle the junk I will see and hear in school. Especially guard me in my choices of TV shows, movies and music. In Jesus' name.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 1

Verses

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body and be thankful.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him.

Thought

Grateful and thankful can be used interchangeably. These verses encourage us to be thankful as we realize all God has done for us. He has cleansed and forgiven us and made us part of His church. He fills us with His peace and His Word. As we express our gratefulness to God, it helps others around us to also be grateful.

Prayer

Father, thank You so much for all You did and all You are doing for me. Thank You for peace. Thank You for Your Word. Thank You, Jesus, for living in my heart. Cause me to always give You lots of thanks and praise. In Jesus' name.

DEFINITION

Gratefulness - Telling God and others how much I appreciate all they mean to me, do for me and give to me.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 2

Verse

Colossians 2:17 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him; rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Thought

We received the Lord through the faith God gave us. Now the Lord is teaching and establishing us in the faith. He does this through His Word and people He sends to teach us. We need to both thank the Lord and thank those He uses to help us grow.

Prayer

Father, thank You for giving me faith to believe and for teaching me and helping me grow as a Christian. Thank You for sending my parents and others to help me. Work in my heart so I regularly thank those You use in my life. In Jesus' name.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 3

Verse

Psalms 106:1 Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Thought

God's goodness to us and mercy He gives us should keep our hearts filled with gratefulness. All we are and all we have come from Him. Our only appropriate response is praise and thanksgiving.

Prayer

Father, I thank You for life, health, possessions, friends and family. Most of all, I thank You for Jesus and for eternal life through Him. I praise You for Your goodness and mercy. Work in my heart so I am always giving You thanksgiving and praise. In the precious name of Jesus.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 4

Verse

Psalm 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

Thought

Thanksgivings and words of gratefulness are always appropriate when we talk to God in prayer. He does so much for us for which we can be thankful. Expressing thanks helps us realize how much we need Him and keeps us from becoming proud or selfish.

Prayer

Father, work in me so I am more grateful to You and others. Everywhere I look You are giving to me and meeting my needs. Apart from You I don't have anything. Thank You for safety, protection, food, clothing, shelter and good health. Thank You for never leaving or forsaking me. In the name of Jesus, Your greatest gift.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 5

Verses

Ephesians 1:15-16 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and your love to all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.

Thought

Paul was very thankful for other believers. He prayed for them and was grateful for the prayers they prayed for him. Many people have probably prayed for you. Thank the Lord for them and if you know those who regularly pray for You, thank them also.

Prayer

Father, I thank You for all the other believers You have placed around my life. Especially, I thank You for those who pray for me. Show me the time and way to express my gratefulness to them for their prayers. Use me to pray for others and to give them reasons to give thanks to You. In Jesus' name.

GRATEFULNESS

Day 6

Verse

Romans 1:21 Because when they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

Thought

When people fail to recognize what God and others have done for them, they assume they did it all themselves. Often they become proud, selfish and arrogant. The Lord calls them foolish. We need to make sure we don't become like them.

Prayer

Father, make sure I recognize what You, my parents and others have done for me. Cause me to be quick to thank You and others. Don't let me become a foolish person who thinks they don't need You or others. Keep me strong in the character quality of gratefulness. In the name of Jesus for whom I am most grateful.

GRATEFULNESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Gratefulness or thankfulness was a characteristic of Paul and other godly men and women of the Bible. We all have a lot of reasons for which to be grateful. We need to keep from being so busy or self-centered that we forget to regularly thank God and others. We need to thank those who pray for us and teach us God's Word. Most of all, we need to daily give thanks to our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Father, thank You, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit for all You are doing in my life. Thank You for the promises in Your Word. Thank You for making me Your child forever. Thank You for always working out everything to good for me. Keep me close to You all my life and fill me with thanksgiving to You and to others. In Jesus' name.

DILIGENCE

Day 1

Verse

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found in Him in peace, without spot and blemish.

Thought

We need to diligently insure we have personally put our faith in Jesus alone for salvation. Then we should diligently seek to allow Him to be the Lord of every area of our lives. Such diligence leads to peaceful, clean, blameless lives.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I do trust You alone for my salvation. On the cross You did everything necessary to pay for my sins and purchase my salvation. I have given You my life and received Your eternal salvation. Now, Lord, be the Lord of every area of my life. Cause me to diligently follow after You and obey You all the days of my life. I ask this in Your powerful name.

DEFINITION

Diligence - Applying the necessary attention and effort to my tasks to insure they are done right and on time.

DILIGENCE

Day 2

Verse

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him. For he that comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Thought

The Lord doesn't do much through the lives of shallow, casual Christians. However, those who diligently seek the Lord find Him to be more real, wonderful and exciting than they had ever imagined possible. Diligence involves time in Bible study and prayer. We can learn diligence by spending time with those who have a close walk with God.

Prayer

Father, cause me to always be a diligent seeker. Cause me to believe You and Your Word. Give me strong prayers and don't let me miss the answers when they come. Show me other diligent seekers who can help me draw closer to You. In Jesus' name.

DILIGENCE

Day 3

Verses

Exodus 33:9&11 And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the pillar of cloud descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses. And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he returned to the camp, but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, stayed at the tabernacle.

Thought

Even as a youth, Joshua was diligent to stay at the tabernacle and spend as much time as possible close to the Lord. As a result, God promoted him and placed him over Israel after Moses died.

Prayer

Father, cause me to diligently seek You and serve You like Joshua did. Open my eyes to recognize Your presence and Your activity in and around my life. Don't let me ever stop following and obeying You. Give me friends who will help me grow into a diligent follower of Christ. In Jesus' name.

DILIGENCE

Day 4

Verses

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk about them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Thought

Get the idea? God's Word is to be a permanent, continual part of our life. However, we must be diligent to keep our life and the lives of those around us filled with God's Word. As we find new truths we should share them. When our lives are full of God and His Word, we are less likely to fall into sin and get into trouble.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, work in me to fill me with Your Word. Give me a hunger for the Bible. Work through me to help others be full of Your Word. Don't let me be distracted from Your Word by other things or activities. In the name of Jesus, I pray.

DILIGENCE

Day 5

Verse

Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent shall rule, but the lazy shall be servants.

Thought

The Lord gives places of authority in His kingdom to those who are diligent. Earthly bosses do the same. If we learn the character quality of diligence while we are young, we will benefit all the remainder of our lives.

Prayer

Lord, show me where I am not diligent. Change me so I diligently study Your Word and do the tasks You assign. Prepare me for the places of authority You want to give me. In Your diligent name.

DILIGENCE

Day 6

Verse

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard wants a lot, but has nothing. The soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

Thought

Even if sluggards have things, they quickly lose or destroy them through neglect. Those who take care of what is given to them shall be given more. The diligent will also have wonderful fellowship with God because they seek Him daily.

Prayer

Lord, don't let me be a sluggard. Show me areas in my life where I am not diligent and change me. Cause me to be diligent as I study Your Word and spend time in prayer. Make sure I diligently carry out all my responsibilities. I ask this in the name of my Lord Jesus, who diligently obeyed everything You told Him.

DILIGENCE REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

Everyone gets the same promises in the Bible, the same indwelling Holy Spirit and the same invitation to have an intimate love relationship with God. Some waste their opportunities. Others go for all of God they can obtain. They are never disappointed. There is always more of God to know and greater depths of intimacy with Him to experience. Are you going to have a shallow walk or are you going to diligently seek Him with intensity?

Prayer

Father, don't let me ever be satisfied with a shallow relationship with You. Cause me to be a diligent seeker who is constantly experiencing more of You. Cause me to be diligent to do the assignments You give and to care for the things You place in my care. I thank You, in Jesus' name.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 1

Verse

Colossians 2:8 Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Thought

We need to be cautious. Not everything that sounds or looks Christian really is. The devil is an expert at counterfeits. He probably has a counterfeit for every good thing God has given. In school or college you will possibly have to take philosophy class. Philosophy is based on the thoughts of so-called wise men, but is not based on God's Word. Only God's Word is pure and without error. Stay close to God's Word.

Prayer

Father, develop in me the character quality of cautiousness. Make sure I compare man's wisdom and traditions against Your Word. Keep me from being deceived by the devil's counterfeits. Reveal Your truth and cause me to reject things I read and hear that do not line up with Your truth.

DEFINITION

Cautiousness - Checking with the Lord about everything I do and obeying the prompting He gives through His Holy Spirit, His Word or those in authority over me.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 2

Verse

1 Samuel 23:12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will deliver you up."

Thought

David had just delivered this city from the Philistines. Normally, you would think the city would be grateful enough to want to protect David. However, David is cautious and checks with the Lord. That's what we should do in everything. The Lord tells David the people will turn him over to King Saul so David has to run.

Prayer

Father, so work in me that I always check with You as I make decisions. Guide me day by day through the traps the devil has set for me. Make sure I am always cautious, especially in spiritual matters so I won't be deceived or won't deceive others. In the name of my wise, wonderful Lord Jesus.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 3

Verses

Matthew 7:15-16a Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.

Thought

The best way to recognize false teaching is to look for the fruit it produces. It takes some time to recognize fruit so we should be slow to embrace things that sound too good to be true. The Holy Spirit in us knows who is true and who is false. If we will listen to Him and stay in God's Word we will not be deceived by false prophets.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, keep me from being deceived by the devil and his false prophets. Cause me to check with Your Word and with those in spiritual authority over me. Teach me how to tell good fruit from bad fruit. In the name of Jesus my protection.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 4

Verses

Joshua 9:14-15 And the men looked at some of their supplies and did not ask the counsel of the Lord. And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them to let them live.

Thought

The Gibeonites tricked Joshua and his leaders. They pretended to be from a distant land. Actually, they lived nearby. Joshua looked at the old bread and cracked wineskins, but did not check with God. Those who are out to trick us will often have good evidence. We need to always check with God. This is always true before we join a different church or an unfamiliar Bible study. The devil's crowd often pretends to be Christians.

Prayer

Lord, keep me from being deceived by evidence or slick words. Make sure I check with You. Don't let me be drawn into a cult or a group that are not real Christians. Use me to warn others of groups I know to be false. In Jesus' truthful name.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 5

Verse

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Thought

John knew there were lots of false religions around. There are even more today. Then, as now, they pretend to be Christian and pretend to lead to a relationship with God. Usually they deny that Jesus is God and that salvation is through faith in Jesus alone. This warning is to encourage us to be cautious and not believe everything we hear.

Prayer

Father, teach me how to compare things with Your Word. Show me who I can safely ask about groups or teachings which I have questions. Make sure I am cautious and keep me from being deceived. In Jesus' Holy name.

CAUTIOUSNESS

Day 6

Verses

Colossians 3:15-16a And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you are called in one body and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

Thought

When we are full of God's Word, we will not have a peace about things which are not of God. If we have no peace, what we are about to do has something wrong about it. Even though we may not understand at the time, if there is no peace, we should not proceed even though everything looks good. The devil often tries to rush us into wrong decisions.

Prayer

Father, make sure I listen to Your peace which acts like a referee inside me. Cause me to know when I have no peace so I know what I am planning to do needs more prayer and evaluation by myself and others. Cause me to be cautious and keep me from mistakes. Don't let me cause others to make wrong choices. In Jesus' peaceful name.

CAUTIOUSNESS REVIEW

Day 7

Thought

In life you will have to make a lot of decisions. The devil will try to lead you into as many wrong ones as possible in order to ruin your life and the lives of those around you. The Holy Spirit of Truth will reveal the truth of situations as you study God's Word and pray. The devil will never be able to fool God. He won't fool us much either if we stay close to God and His Word.

Prayer

Father, work in me to develop cautiousness. Keep me from hasty decisions. Make sure I check with You in prayer and look in Your Word. Guide me into the truth. See to it that I make right choices throughout my life. I do choose to always listen to You. In the name of Jesus, the One who came to destroy the works of the devil.