

# DAY 6

## ECCLESIASTES 2:12-13 NLT

What does wisdom mean to you? By definition, it's the knowledge of what is true or right coupled with the judgment to act on it. This may not be how you'd explicitly define it. It may be that you've never even thought about how you'd define it. But in reality, you know wisdom when you see it. Why? Because you know the absence of it when you see it, too! What are the things the writer describes as foolishness and madness here? That's essentially his way of saying, "These are the things that come from a life without wisdom." When your best friend sneaks out of their house to go to that party, when a kid on your team gets kicked out of the game for fighting, or when you downloaded the App your parents told you not to—that's the absence of wisdom. And that's easy to spot! The bad news? Consequences still come from the decisions you make without wisdom. But the good news? Once you choose to let the light of Christ shine wisdom into your life, you see those old patterns and behaviors for what they are.

**Then, you can choose a new way of living—the way of wisdom. Are there any patterns or behaviors in your life that you've noticed or had someone tell you were less than wise? Take time today to write them down and share them with a trusted leader who can encourage you to pray for wisdom and implement wiser patterns or behaviors.**

# DAY 7

## MATTHEW 5:16 NLT

In Scripture, we find glimpses of the light that comes from Jesus. And when we memorize Scripture, we're opening our hearts up to hold the light of Jesus in them. That means it's there to illuminate what is good, what is best, what is wise, and what is Godly. When we're confused, unsure, or even stuck in a cycle of decisions that bring chaos into our lives, the light we find in God's Word can help guide us toward a better way.

**This week, in an effort to hide a little bit of light in your own heart, work to memorize this verse. To start, write it somewhere you'll see it, maybe on your mirror, or on your bedside table. Each time you see it, stop and work on committing it to memory. Let it serve as your reminder of the light of Jesus shining in your life.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

THE HILLS / WEEK 2

HIGH SCHOOL

# DAY 1

## EPHESIANS 5:13-17 NIV

Waking up can be disorienting at first. Even if you're the stereotypical morning person, it still probably takes you a minute or two to go from fully asleep to fully awake. Opening your eyes as your alarm blares to see the light breaking into your dark room, you have to give yourself a minute to adjust. Then, after a moment or two, your eyes get used to the morning light, your body begins to move around, and you're ready to step into a new day. In the same way, when we choose to follow Jesus, we begin to see things in a new light. Sure, it takes time to adjust to this new way of seeing, of living, of being. But over time, the light illuminates everything in a new way. Our choices, thoughts, relationships, words, actions, and more—all change when we let Christ's light shine on us. It all changes when our faith becomes fully awake in Jesus.

**This week, talk to a good friend, trusted adult, or your Small Group Leader about how you've seen the light of Christ wake up something new in you.**

# DAY 2

## GENESIS 1:2-5A NIV

There are certain parts of the world where, depending on the time of year, there is a limited amount of daylight. In specific seasons, those places may see only minutes of light each day. And in those seasons—the times when their days are literally shrouded in darkness—studies show that eventually, the people living in those places carry the weight of it mentally and emotionally. We see this in the rise of depression, addiction, anxiety, and conflict. In other words, life becomes more chaotic for those living in that darkness. This is what makes God's simple words at the formation of the world all the more powerful: "Let there be light." In a literal sense, God was bringing light to the world, giving people a reprieve from night. But in a spiritual sense, it was so much more. That light brings order to our chaos, even today.

**When we're covered in figurative darkness—when we're battling pain, heartache, loss, and the chaos that comes with it—we can always look for the light. Even if only for a moment, when we find it, we'll experience the kind of peace God designed.**

## DAY 3

LUKE 11:36 NLT

Have you ever walked outside on a sunny day and turned your face to the sun? Whether it's the heat of summer, the first taste of spring, the sun breaking through on a chilly fall morning, or a long-awaited glimpse of the sun on a cold winter day, the moment the warmth of the sun's glow hits your face, you feel it. You experience the difference. In the same way, when we let the light of Christ shine on us, we're changed. We feel the difference. What once felt cold, dark, and chaotic now feels warm, light, and peaceful. Does that mean our circumstances never bring a sense of chaos to our lives? Unfortunately not. But what it does mean is that we can carry this sense of peace and light into any situation or circumstance. In even the coldest, darkest of moments, we can feel the light of Christ shining on us.

**Next time you see the sun breaking through outside, step out for a second and feel its warmth on your face. Let it remind you of the light of Christ shining in your life, too.**

## DAY 4

JOHN 1:4-5 NIV

Before Jesus' arrival in this world, light was hard to come by. Not literally, of course, but in a spiritual sense, the light had gone. Darkness was all there was. After sin created separation between God and God's people, they were left without hope, without peace, and without a light to guide them. Rather than leave the world and its people in that darkness, God made a choice that changed everything. God chose to send life and light back to the world through the person of Jesus. His death and resurrection changed everything. Jesus ended our separation from God, and Jesus made a way for light to shine again. This is the message of the Gospel. This is the hope of our hearts. This is the light of the world still shining on us today.

**This week, talk to a trusted friend, adult, or Small Group Leader about what Jesus' light and life mean to you. If you aren't sure, have questions, or want to take a step to understand more about what following Jesus might mean for you, share that with them, too!**

## DAY 5

JOHN 1:5 NLT

*Written by Matthew, age 20,  
from Sanford, Florida, USA*

Have you ever seen a solar eclipse? I saw one a couple of months ago, and it was incredible. If you don't know or haven't seen one, this is when the moon crosses in between the sun and the Earth, blocking the light from the sun. In some areas the moon will block out the light from the sun, but only in a small area. The moon isn't big enough to block all the light all the time. Even in the darkness, the sun is still shining.

Those of us who trust in Jesus are the same way. We can read in John that our light shines even in the darkness. There is nothing that can overcome it. Maybe at your high school, it seems like no one believes what you believe. That is a chance for you to overcome the darkness with the light and hope of Jesus. You might be

on a team where those around you talk about things that do not glorify God. Well, that is an opportunity for you to be a light to them. Or maybe your whole family looks at you weird for believing in Jesus. That is another opportunity for you to share the light of Jesus with them however you can.

**This week, look for ways this week that you can be a light in the darkness around you. Remember that through it all, the light and hope of Jesus is inside of you. That means He is always there to help you shine.**