

DAY 6

PROVERBS 28:6, NLT

Can you imagine a statement more opposite from how the world operates? Our capitalistic culture pushes the narrative that more is better. Therefore, we think we must go get more. While having more is not a problem, the means in which you acquire it can be. This proverb offers us a mindset shift of what's most valuable. It's not wrong to want nice things or work hard, but if we're willing to lie or cheat to get there, we lose something far more valuable: our integrity. Greed and envy can easily creep in when we're focused on getting more, but God's wisdom tells us to focus on being trustworthy and true. That's a noble pursuit!

Today, ask God to help you value integrity in the pursuit of what you want and to give you the wisdom to make decisions that build more of it in your life. Remember, that's the kind of wealth that lasts.

DAY 7

PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NLT

Pastor and author A.W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." It's a bold thing to say, but Paul's communicating the same truth to the church in Philippi here as well. Whatever dominates your thoughts will dominate your time. Therefore, Paul doesn't just say to value what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, but to fix our thoughts on them. To keep our minds there so that we think about them first. Over time, they'll become the things we think about when we think about God, too!

So here's a simple challenge: Grab a sticky note and write down those six words: true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Since we all need reminders, place the note somewhere you'll see it later today, like your mirror, the dash of your car, or next to your bed. Let it remind you to turn your thoughts to what is excellent and praiseworthy, even when distractions try to pull you away.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE NOBLE EXPERIMENT / WEEK 3

HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 1

JOHN 14:6, NLT

How do you know if something is true? This question is important because what you believe to be true shapes how you live. In this verse, Jesus makes a bold claim. He says that He is the way to live, the source of truth, and the key to real life. In other words, Jesus offers us a path that shapes who we become. Because whether we realize it or not, we're always being shaped by something. So, why does this matter when it comes to integrity? Because what you choose to believe as true—or maybe we should say who you choose to believe as true—will determine how you live in public and in private. And Jesus says He's both the way and the truth. So, why not believe Him?

This week, take some time to reflect on what you believe about Jesus. Do you trust that what He says is true? If so, that means following His way will lead you to a life that's meaningful and full.

DAY 2

PROVERBS 4:25-27, NLT

It's easy to get distracted, especially when you're working on a school assignment and your phone starts blowing up with notifications. Those little distractions can be a nice mental break, but sometimes they make it hard to focus on what really matters. In life, distractions can be more than just temporary breaks; they can pull you off course. It's important to think about what direction you're headed. Are you on track with where you want to go? Or are you letting distractions get in the way of living with purpose?

Talk to a trusted adult, like a teacher, coach, Small Group Leader, or family member. Ask them how they stay focused on what matters most. Then, take a moment to think about the path you're on. Are you headed in a direction you're proud of? Or do you need to make some adjustments to stay on course?

DAY 3

LUKE 6:31, NLT

You've probably of the "The Golden Rule," right? Even people who don't follow Jesus see it as a great way to live. For those of us who follow Him, it's not just a suggestion; it's a way of life. In the middle of His most famous teaching, Jesus informed His followers that the greatest way to live life is to treat others the way you want to be treated. In this, there are two major things to notice: You have to love others, and you have to love yourself. While neither are easy all the time, with God's help, it's possible!

Take a moment today to think about how you see yourself. Do you believe you're worthy of kindness? Remember, God sees you as valuable and deserving of love. Once you start to understand that, you can more easily show kindness to others, too. So challenge yourself to do both this week: love yourself and love others.

DAY 4

LUKE 6:45, NLT

What do you really value? What do you think about most? Jesus says that what we treasure in our hearts eventually shows up in our words and actions. It's like planting seeds. You can't plant apple seeds and expect lemons to grow. In the same way, you can't expect good to grow in your life if you don't plant good in it along the way. If your heart is filled with good things, like love, kindness, and truth, that's what will come out in your life.

Find a few moments today to get honest with yourself. Grab some paper and write down the top five things you think about most often. Are they things that lead to good in your life? If not, ask God to help shift your heart toward things that bring more joy, peace, and love. According to Jesus, what we treasure shapes our lives in powerful ways, so let's treasure what's good above all else.

DAY 5

2 CORINTHIANS 8:21, NIV

*Written by Cherish Faith,
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In my first year of high school, my history class would have a review quiz at the beginning of each class. While everyone else seemed to do well, I would always get one or two questions wrong. One day, as I explained my frustrations to my classmate, he explained to me that the answers to the questions were online. He asked me, "How else did you think everyone did so well?" I had two choices in this situation: cheat and get a guaranteed good grade on the quizzes or not cheat and risk getting answers wrong. In the end, I decided it would be a better reflection of God's example in my life if I did not cheat. So, I continued to struggle with quizzes and did not do as well in the class as I wanted to.

Doing what is right is not always easy or rewarding. Jesus lived His life following God's instructions, knowing that He would one day suffer for it. As Jesus followers, doing what's right is not always the simple choice. But when we do what is right, we are showing God that we love and trust God more than we love and trust the outcome or the reward.

Next time it is difficult to do the right thing, ask Jesus to give you the courage to follow His example and trust in God even when it isn't easy.