

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Do Something / Week 2

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed."

Psalm 82:3 NIV

DAY 1

In most sports, playing defense means trying to stop the other team from scoring. But when it comes to injustice, sometimes it's hard to know what to do when we see someone experiencing it. How do we defend them? How can we stop it? Thankfully, we don't have to figure it out alone. God promises to lead us into doing what's right. Why? Because He loves standing up for others! And He wants to use us to help defend, support, and encourage those who need it. He listens to every prayer when we feel helpless, and He guides us to do what's right, both for ourselves and others! Talk with God about how He can use you to defend and stand up for others this week.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

DAY 2

It's easy for us only to be kind to our friends or people we like being around, right? But to people who are different than us? People we don't always agree with? People we don't know at all? That kindness isn't as easy! Still, God calls us to be part of loving all people. One thing that can make that easier is to remember that God showed us kindness first. Through Jesus, He showed us love, grace, forgiveness, and so much more! And when we remember that, showing that same kindness and love to others gets a little easier. Today, think of someone you're not particularly close with or someone you struggle to love. Write down one way you will show them kindness the next time you see them.

"Justice is a joy to the godly, but it terrifies evildoers."

Proverbs 21:15 NLT

DAY 3

In most movies, there are two main characters: a hero and a villain. The hero is a "good person" who has to overcome something, and the villain is a "bad person" causing all the trouble. We usually cheer for the hero to win, and hope that the villain is defeated. Why? Because we love to see good win! It's the same with God. He loves seeing good overcome bad. He is always cheering for us to accept the good things He wants to give us, and He cheers us on even more when we try to bring that good to someone else's life! Today, try to bring good into someone's life by sending a text or a DM with something positive, funny, or encouraging.

<p><i>“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.”</i></p> <p>Galatians 6:2 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Have you ever had a friend share something really difficult or painful with you? Maybe an injustice that was happening to them? If you have, then you probably felt a lot of feelings in response: sadness, pain, or hurt on their behalf. That feeling is called compassion. God wants us to care about others so much that we respond to what they face as if we are experiencing it ourselves. He wants us to act with compassion to support, encourage, and help them. He wants us to love them like He loves them. This week, ask God to give you compassion for others. Whether it’s friends you know or people hurting around the world, pray He would help you care about and support those who need it.</p>
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<p><i>“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”</i></p> <p>Ephesians 4:3 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>This verse isn’t calling us to have unity with the people we like. It isn’t asking us to stay close to those we get along with or who are close to us. No, it’s asking us to choose peace and unity with <i>everyone!</i> That means looking for opportunities to get to know and understand other people. It means standing up for others when we see someone being wronged. It means apologizing when we’ve hurt someone. Choosing peace and unity with everyone isn’t always easy, but making it our goal is a step in the direction of showing others Jesus’ love. Think of someone you may need to work toward having peace and unity with. What’s one step you can take toward that this week?</p>
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<p><i>“Evil people don’t understand justice, but those who follow the Lord understand completely.”</i></p> <p>Proverbs 28:5 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>We may never understand injustices that we see or hear about happening to others. But we can understand what this verse reminds us. God cares about and is working toward justice. And He is asking us to follow His lead and do the same! Even when we don’t know how to feel or what to do, as long as we follow Jesus, He will guide us to the best next step! Maybe it starts with the way you treat your family members or the new students at school. Maybe it’s learning to forgive or speak up for someone else. Whatever it is for you, ask God to help you work toward justice for those around you this week.</p>
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<p><i>“All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.”</i></p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Scripture doesn’t just encourage us; it encourages those around us! When we have God’s Word memorized, we can share it with others when they need to be reminded of what’s true. This week, work on memorizing this verse, and ask a friend or family member for help. Have them quiz you on it, asking you to say it again and again until you get the whole thing down! Then, go out and share it with a friend you know could use the encouragement.</p>
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