

DAY 6

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Romans 15:5 NLT

Your friends who are kind, helpful, and always willing to be there for you? Well, those friends are easy to love and support! But the people who can be harsh, or never listen, or always cause a lot of drama? Well, they're not as easy to encourage, are they? Here, Paul's words remind us that it is God who gives us all the patience we need to get along with and encourage each other. When we want to give up on people in our lives, we can look back to God for the patience we need to be encouraging, supportive friends to everyone in our lives.

Today, think of someone in your life you're tempted to give up on. Ask God for patience to stick with them and even encourage them along the way.

DAY 7

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18 NIV

The Bible is God's Word, written specifically for us. It's a way for us to learn about and connect with God anytime and anywhere. When we memorize Scripture, it gives us access to God's truth at all times, and that is something we need if we want to be resilient in this life!

To help you memorize this verse, try to say it out loud to yourself every single night before bed. Do it while you brush your teeth, wash your face, or just before you close your eyes to sleep. Each time you do it, try to say more and more of it by memory.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

NEVER GIVE UP / WEEK 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:4 NLT

It can be easy to focus only on ourselves. If we're being honest, we'd all probably admit that taking our eyes off our own challenges and circumstances isn't that simple. But here, Paul reminds us how important it is to focus on others, too. God wants us to grow and develop in our own faith, but God also wants us to encourage those around us to do the same. While we never want to give up on our own ability to grow, we also don't want to give up on the potential others have to do the same!

Take time today to think about a person in your life who could use some encouragement. Take a step this week to focus on building them up instead of just focusing on yourself.

DAY 2

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. Hebrews 10:24 NLT

A little encouragement can go a long way, can't it? When you're struggling to keep going, facing a challenge in life, or just feeling discouraged, even the tiniest bit of encouragement can help you get through the day. Well, believe it or not, that's exactly how Jesus designed it to be! Jesus is our source of love, hope, and freedom. And in Jesus, we find all the encouragement we need to push forward and keep going. But not just that, Jesus makes it possible for us to extend that same kind of encouragement to others. With His help, none of us ever has to give up!

Today, write a little encouragement for someone on a sticky note and leave it to share Jesus' love, hope, and freedom with them.

DAY 3

So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord! Psalm 31:24 NLT

It's so easy to want to quit when we fail at something. Whether it's getting a bad grade on a test, or not getting asked to the dance by someone you really wanted to ask you, or not making the team, there are things that make us all want to give up and not try again. When that happens, we can find the strength and courage we need to keep back up and push past any failure, big or small, by placing our hope in God.

Spend time in prayer today, talking to God about something that makes you want to quit. Ask God to show you ways you can find the courage and strength you need to push forward with God's help.

DAY 4

We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. Romans 15:2 NLT

Have you ever had a friend encourage you to do what's right? Maybe they pushed you to be kind to someone, or helped you get a good grade on a test without cheating, or invited you to small group. Whatever it was, you know you couldn't have done it without their help to go in the right direction. Their encouragement made all the difference! Now, imagine if you did the same for someone else. What would it look like for you to encourage someone in your life toward what's right? To help them, support them, and cheer them on toward good things? As Paul reminds us in this verse, it's something we as followers of Jesus should do for each other.

So today, do just that! Write down 5 ways you can help others do what's right. Then, choose just one of those ways to focus on this week.

DAY 5

"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NLT

Written by Bella, age 17, from Cumming, Georgia, USA

When was the last time someone really encouraged you? It's a great feeling, right?! In the mornings when I was a little girl, I would wake up early and walk downstairs to see what my parents were doing. As I walked down the stairs, my mom was always sitting in the same spot. She would be in her prayer room reading her Bible and praying. When she realized I was there, she would hug me and tell me three things: you are smart, you are special, and you are kind. Her words were so loving, kind, and encouraging to me. They really built me up before I started each day!

Paul, the writer of this verse, reminds us to encourage others and build each other up, just like my mom did for me through her words every morning. Her words helped me to understand why it's so important to encourage other people too! Because it's when we en-

courage others that they will be able to see God in us through our words and our actions, just like I was able to see God through her.

So today, think about how you can encourage or build someone else up. Maybe it's reminding someone that they are important to you, or that they're kind, or that you're grateful for them. Then, do it!