

READ 1 JOHN 4:19

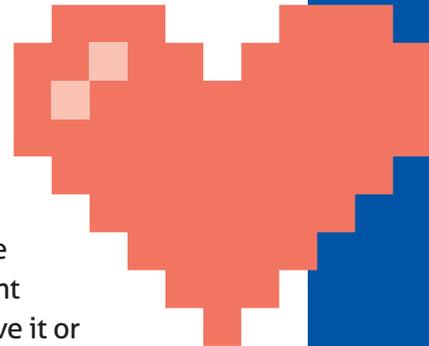
DAY 1

This week, we'll focus on how God can help us LOVE others the way He does. Sometimes it can be easy to show love to the people around you and other times, it's not. What about the bully at school or when your sister says something unkind?

The truth is, loving others should never be about what they've done. Loving others is about what God has done for us. He sent His only son, Jesus. You don't love others because they deserve it or because you feel like loving them. You love others because God loves you.

To help you remember this, write today's verse on your bathroom mirror. As you brush your teeth twice a day, read it and remember to love others because God loved you first.

THANK God for loving you first.



READ 1 JOHN 4:10-11

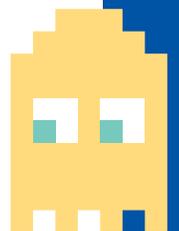
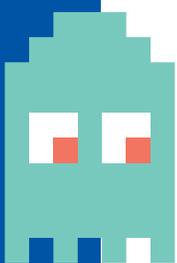
DAY 2

God loves you. How do you know? Check out today's verse. To prove His love for you and me, God did something. He didn't just say, "I love you." He showed His love by sending His one and only Son, Jesus. Jesus left heaven, came to earth as a baby, grew up just like you're growing up, and then ultimately gave His life so that we could be forgiven. It was the biggest act of love in history.

God loves you. He proved that love by sending Jesus. You don't ever have to wonder if you're loved. You can love others because God loves you.

So here's the challenge for this week. When you find it hard to love this week, stop and remember that God loves you. Show love to others because God loves you.

ASK God to help you love others the way He loves you.



READ PROVERBS 17:17

DAY 3

Proverbs 17:17 tells us that a friend loves when? At all times. Write down one way you can show love at each of these times of the day.

LOOK for ways to love others at all times this week.

Getting ready for school:

On the bus:

At lunch:

In the hallway:

At recess:



Love others
because God
loves you.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8A

DAY 4

Have you ever tried something and failed?

MAYBE YOU . . .

- Failed the quiz
- Failed to make the team
- Fail to finish your homework
- Failed to land that back hand spring
- Failed to get your folder signed

The truth is, we all fail at things. But, there is something you can try that will work 100% of the time. Love never fails. It always works. In every situation, the answer is to simply choose to love.

When you choose to love, even if the others don't respond the way you want them to, you still haven't failed. In 1 Corinthians, we read that love is the greatest thing you can do. There is nothing more important. Your responsibility, with God's help, is to simply love. No matter what. Love others because God loves you.

KNOW that love never fails.

READ JAMES 1:2

DAY 1

This week is all about joy! When we have a relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit will help us have joy no matter what happens.

Now, you might be thinking, joy? No matter what? How can I be happy when hard stuff happens? It requires a change in your thinking. Most people see hard stuff as well . . . hard. But what if you thought about it as today's verse instructs us to? What if instead of being sad or frustrated about the trouble in front you, what if you looked at it like this . . .

With God, **TROUBLE = JOY!**

This week, when you face a hard or frustrating situation, instead of trying to figure it out on your own, why not ask God to help you? Why not bow your head or even say a few words with your eyes open asking God to show you how to face the tough stuff and even find joy? Because no matter what you face, God is still in control. He loves you. And He will help you choose joy no matter what's going on.

THANK God for the joy He gives, no matter happens.

READ HABAKKUK 3:17-18

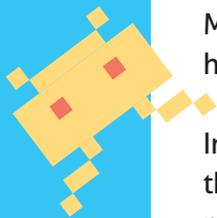
DAY 2

Have you ever had a really bad day? Maybe everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. Maybe that day was today. In today's verses, we find a list of some things that might happen to make for the worst day ever.

In the space below, write your own version of these verses based on some not so awesome things that might happen to you. (For example, "My friends might leave me out" or "I might make a "C" on my test.")

The truth is, you will face things that are hard or frustrating. It's just life. But God can help you find joy. He loves you. He proved that by sending His only Son, Jesus. And nothing that happens today or a week from now can separate you from His love. So, even if everything on this list actually happens, remember to rely on God so you can choose joy no matter what's going on.

ASK God to help you choose joy no matter what.



READ PROVERBS 17:22

DAY 3

Head to the kitchen, grab a glass and fill it up halfway with water. Now stand in front of the glass and answer the following question. Is the glass half full or is it half empty?

How you answer this question says a lot about how you view the things that happen to you. You can either say, "Oh man, half of my water is gone!" Or you can say, "Look, I still have a half a glass of water!"

Looking at things with a half full view helps you have a cheerful heart—like our verse today talks about. But constantly treating every hard thing that happens as if it's "the worst thing ever" can have the opposite effect. It's like seeing every situation as half empty. When you trust Jesus as Savior, you should always be able to find the bright side with a cheerful heart.

LOOK for ways to view the hard stuff with joy.

Choose joy no
matter what's
going on.

READ PHILIPPIANS 4:4

DAY 4

Today's verse sums up exactly why you can find joy in every situation. According to Philippians 4:4, why should we "always be joyful?"

Yes! Because you belong to God. And what does Paul, who wrote these words in a letter to the church in Philippi, say a second time?

Be joyful! To make it very clear, he says it twice. No matter what happens, you can choose joy because you belong to God. So let's say it again, "Be joyful!" Draw a line from the scenarios below to the words "Be Joyful" as a reminder that you can be joyful always.

BE JOYFUL

When a friend is kind.

When someone hurts you.

When you get straight "A's".

When you don't make the team.

When life is awesome.

When you have the worst day ever.

KNOW that you can have joy because you belong to God.

READ MATTHEW 6:26

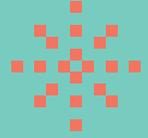
DAY 1

Grab a piece of paper and a pencil along with your Bible and this card and head outside. See if you can spot a bird on the fence line or in your yard. Watch the bird for a few minutes and then write down the things you observe. You can also draw a simple sketch of the bird if you'd like.

Have you ever observed a bird before? God made that bird you've been watching. Do you think that bird worries about where her next meal will come from? Nope. God provides the things birds need to survive. You are worth so much more than that little bird. Why? Because you were made in God's image. Of all the things God made, including that little bird, you are most like Him.

So the next time you start to worry about something, pause and think about that bird. Remember that God loves you and that He will provide everything you need. Ask Him to replace that worry with peace. Remember, you can have peace because God is in control.

THANK God for the reminder that we can find peace because He is in control.



READ PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

DAY 2

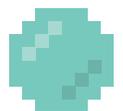
What things do you worry about? Write them in the space to the left.

According to today's verse, what should you do with the worries you've listed? Yes, tell God about them. Ask, pray and thank Him for being in control. Then you will find peace. Because when you trust in Jesus, God will cover you with His peace. It might not make sense. Especially if the thing you're worried about actually happens or something doesn't turn out the way you want it to. God promises to give you His peace, even when it doesn't make sense.

So the next time something happens and you start to worry, bow your head and talk to God about it. Ask Him to help you trust Him more. When you pray, you're acknowledging the fact that you are

not in control, God is. And He will give you peace, no matter what. You can have peace because God is in control.

ASK God to give you His peace no matter what.



READ JOHN 16:33

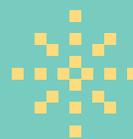
DAY 3

Do you play a sport or cheer for a favorite team? What if right before the game, you found out your team would win? Would you cheer differently? Would you act differently during the game? Absolutely! You wouldn't worry if your team suddenly fell behind on the scoreboard because of the promise of a certain win at the end.

What if you thought about life and all the crazy stuff that happens to you like a winning game? The truth is, when you put your trust in Jesus, when you're on God's team, you've chosen the winning side. How do we know that? Because God proved He is bigger than anything—even death—when He sent Jesus. There is nothing bigger, or stronger, or more powerful than God.

You can have peace because God is in control. With God, you win. Create a cheer or rap using the words from today's verse to help you remember that you can have peace because God is in control.

LISTEN to the promise that God wins in the end, so you can have peace.



You can have
peace because
God is in control.



READ ROMANS 15:13

DAY 4

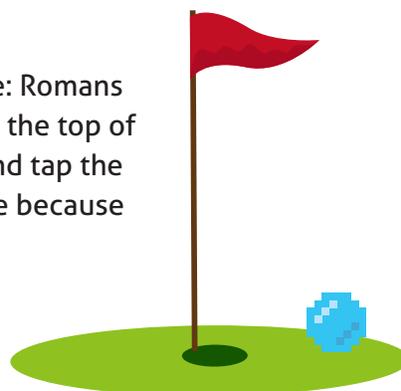
Have you ever scored 100% on a test? Ever pitched a perfect game? Ever hit a hole in one at mini-golf? Perfect is possible in some circumstances. But perfect isn't a guarantee. Or is it?

What if you could have perfect peace, 100% of the time? Even if you face the worst day, the kind that Alexander would label as a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day kind of day?

When you trust in Jesus and what He did for you on the cross, God gives you His Holy Spirit to guide and help you. You can experience perfect peace when you trust in the One who made you and loves you more than you could ever imagine.

Grab an index card and write "100% Perfect Peace Guarantee: Romans 15:13" on the front. Ask an adult to help you tape this card to the top of your doorframe. As you leave your room each day, jump up and tap the card to remind you that you can have peace 100% of the time because God is in control.

KNOW that God promises perfect peace when you put your trust in Him.



READ PROVERBS 14:29

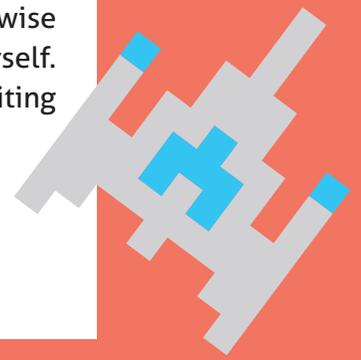
DAY 1

Would you rather be known as someone who is wise or someone who is foolish?

Think about the last time you lost your cool. Maybe you yelled at your little brother or slammed the door to your room when you were frustrated. Do you know that the Bible says about that kind of reaction? Getting angry quickly makes you foolish. But anyone who chooses patience is wise with great understanding.

So how do you want to be remembered? Do you want people to see you as wise or foolish? The next time you're tempted to lose your patience, stop yourself. Ask God to help you make the wise choice instead of the foolish one. Waiting will always be a part of life. But you can make the wise choice instead of the foolish one. When you need to wait, ask God for patience.

THANK God for His Holy Spirit who will help you respond wisely with patience.



READ EPHESIANS 4:2

DAY 2

Match the times you have to wait with the times of day below.

Before school

You have to wait for dinner to be ready

At lunch

You have to wait for your turn on the swing

At recess

You have to wait for the bus

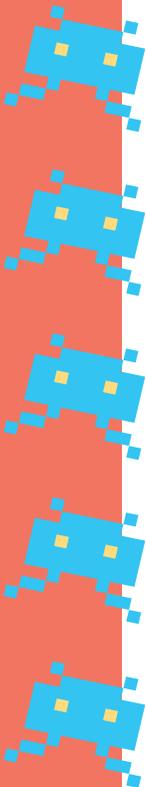
At the table

You have to wait in line

Waiting can be so frustrating. But learning to be patient in the waiting is important. In each of the situations above, you probably weren't alone. You were surrounded by classmates or friends or family members.

The way you respond to waiting affects the people around you. When you have to wait, don't be proud, as if you're too important to wait. Don't stomp your foot or force your way to the front. Be gentle. Take a deep breath and find something else to do while you wait. Instead of focusing on your own wait, focus on the people around you. And remember that when you ask, God will help you be patient.

ASK God to help you show patience when you have to wait.



READ GALATIANS 6:9

DAY 3

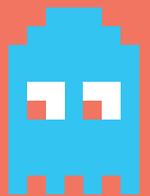
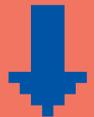
Do you play an instrument? What about a sport like gymnastics? Can you remember what it was like before you started? Maybe you saw someone play the piano or watched a gymnast at the Olympics and thought, "They make it look so easy. It can't be that hard." But playing an instrument or mastering a sport requires hard work and determination. It takes practice, consistently over time.

Patience is like that, too. We have to rely on God and ask Him to help us. In every situation, when we're tempted to push our way to the front, or get what we want the moment we want it, or to be the one in charge, we must stop and think of others first. It's the opposite of what we feel like doing. But, if we keep responding with patience, we will see results. Patience, practiced over time, leads to more patience.

Here's the challenge this week. Look for opportunities to practice patience. The more you practice, the more patience you'll find. But remember, you're not alone. God's Holy Spirit will help you.

LOOK for opportunities to practice patience this week.

When you need
to wait, ask God
for patience.



READ PROVERBS 16:32

DAY 4

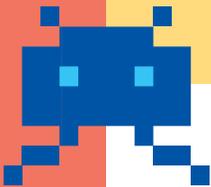
When was the last time you got into a fight with someone close to you, like your brother or sister? This morning? Five minutes ago?

No matter how hard you try, sometimes being patient with the people closest to us is harder than being patient with complete strangers! Why? Well, for one thing, you spend more time with your family so there are more opportunities for your patience to be tested.

Today's verse reminds us that there are better ways to solve our disagreements. Because fighting never solves things. It just makes things worse. The next time your family is together for a meal, read today's verse out loud and then discuss the following questions.

1. When was the last time you were impatient with someone at this table?
2. Did you fight or control your temper? What happened?
3. Why do you think that patience is better than fighting?
4. The next time you have a disagreement or become frustrated, what could you do to stop the fight so you can respond in patience?

KNOW that patience is always better than fighting.



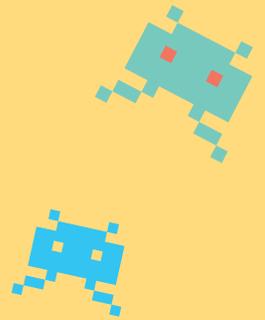
READ ROMANS 12:10

DAY 1

Today's verse reminds us to love others and put them first. That starts with kindness. So here's a little kindness challenge for this week. Grab a piece of paper and tear it into twenty pieces. On each piece of paper, write down one random act of kindness. It can be anything to make someone else's day like taking out the trash, reading a book to a younger sibling, or telling someone a joke.

Once you've come up with 20 things, fold each piece of paper in half and place in a jar. Shake up the jar and place it in your room. Challenge yourself to complete all your random acts of kindness this week. How many can you complete in one day? Remember, every small act of kindness matters. So be kind to everyone.

THANK God for His kindness towards you so that you can show kindness to others.



READ ZECHARIAH 7:9

DAY 2

Write the words "Justice" and "Mercy" at the top of a piece of paper. Try to ask three people (friends or family) what they think these words mean and write down their definitions. Make sure you complete this task before you read the rest.

COMPARE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE ONES BELOW:

Justice: the quality of being fair or reasonable

Mercy: compassion or love shown in a real way



Think about this past week. When was it hard to treat someone else with fairness? Treating others justly is hard! When someone is unkind, it's natural to want to respond in the same way. Mercy is more than a feeling. Mercy is about action. God is merciful towards us. He proved His love and compassion by sending Jesus.

The next time you're tempted to respond in anger or say something that is unkind, remember the justice and mercy God has shown to you. Choose kindness because God loves and cares for you. And remember, God's Holy Spirit is there to help you be kind to everyone.

ASK God to help you treat others with justice and mercy in order to be kind to everyone.

READ EPHESIANS 4:32

DAY 3

Forgiveness. It's hard isn't it? When someone hurts you, it's natural to want to hurt them back. Does God treat us this way? Nope. Think about it. Every time you sin, every time you're dishonest, unkind or selfish, you hurt God. Sin is a big deal because it separates us from the God who made us and loves us.

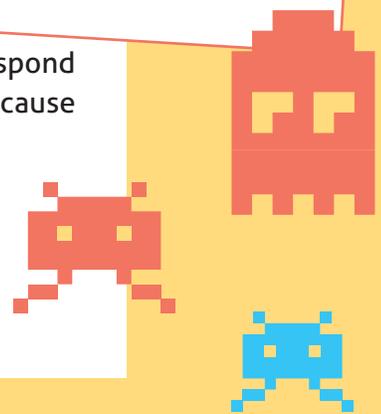
Thankfully, God did something about that separation. He sent Jesus, His only Son, so that we could be forgiven for every wrong thing we've done in the past and every wrong thing we'll do in the future. Jesus gave His life for everyone as the ultimate act of kindness.

Knowing that God loves you and that He's forgiven you should cause you to respond to others in the same way. We should choose kindness and forgiveness because we've been shown kindness and forgiveness, too.

Fill in all the missing verbs (or action words) in the verse to the right.

LOOK for ways to show kindness and forgiveness to others this week.

"Be _____ and _____ to one another. _____ one another, just as God _____ you because of what Christ has done." Ephesians 4:32, NIV



READ PROVERBS 11:17

DAY 4

How is your kindness challenge going? Have you completed all 20 yet? Which one was the most difficult to complete? How did it make you feel to show kindness to others?

Grab your jar of random acts of kindness. Shake it up and toss those pieces of paper around like confetti. Now, look around at all the places where your pieces of paper have landed. When you choose to be kind, it touches everyone around you. Think about spreading kindness like confetti. Because kindness is contagious.

Just because you've completed this challenge doesn't mean the kindness has to stop. After all, as today's verse reminds us, kindness doesn't just benefit the person on the other side. It benefits you too! So let's spread kindness to everyone and watch how your simple acts change the world around you.



KNOW that kindness is like confetti—it touches everyone we meet!



Be kind to everyone.