

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## Goals

### WEEK 4

THE GOAL IS TO LOVE PEOPLE, NOT JUDGE PEOPLE.

"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil."

PROVERBS 4:25-27 NIV

#### DAY 1

It's easy to compare ourselves to others, isn't it? We can barely look around a room without catching ourselves thinking about how we measure up next to the people around us. But all that comparison really does is threaten to distract us from what is true. Instead of looking at what someone else is doing, this Proverb reminds us to look forward and firmly at God. When our eyes are fixed on Him, we'll be able to focus on the path in front of us instead of what's going on around us. Write this verse down and put it up somewhere you'll see it often this week. Every time you see it, take a second to fix your eyes on it and read it as a reminder of where God wants our focus to be.

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."

COLOSSIANS 3:12 NLT

#### DAY 2

What kinds of words do you want people to use when they describe you? I don't know about you, but I'd choose just about any of the words Paul gave to the Colossians! Tenderhearted, merciful, kind, humble, gentle, patient—those are all things we can be when we walk with God. And those qualities will not only change your life, but they'll change the way you interact with others, too. Imagine if everywhere you went people knew you were a Christian simply because you demonstrated qualities like compassion, forgiveness, and quiet strength. Pretty cool, right? Pick just one of the things Paul listed here and ask God to help you live out that quality this week.

"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly."

ROMANS 12:8 NLT

### DAY 3

It's cool to see how God has created each of us so differently. No two people are exactly the same! Remember, the gifts and talents you have were given to you uniquely by God. And the same is true for the rest of the world. As we start to get to know the people around us, we get a chance to see how God has gifted them uniquely, too. And the more we celebrate the way He has created someone, the less likely we are to judge them for the things we don't understand. Celebration helps destroy judgment, so let's focus on celebrating others this week! Pick one person in your life who may be different than you. Find a way to encourage and build them up this week!

"Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised."

HEBREWS 10:36 NLT

### DAY 4

Whenever you start a project or a game, there's energy around it. But over time, that excitement can begin to fade. Maybe you've played a sport that was exciting in the beginning, but now just feels like more work than fun. Or you started attending church and loved it, but now it feels boring. No matter what it is, remember that you can't experience the joy of whatever it is you've started if you don't have the endurance to keep going, even when you don't feel like it! When we ask God for it, He'll give us the patience and the willingness to see things through. If it's the right thing for us to do, God will help us to keep going! Talk to a friend or a family member about an area of your life where you are working to have more endurance to keep going. Ask them to encourage you to press on even when it isn't fun or easy to do.

"A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people."

2 TIMOTHY 2:24 NLT

### DAY 5

It's important to remember that even when a person doesn't treat us the way we'd like to be treated, God calls us to a higher standard. He calls us to kindness, and patience, and love, no matter what! How would it change us if we decided to treat people the way God calls us to? Instead of reacting or matching the behavior of a difficult person, we can love them and show them kindness. You never know how God will use you to impact that person's life! Who is someone you are struggling to show patience or kindness to right now? Pray for that person. Then, pray that God would give you what you need to treat them the way He's called you to.