

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Awkward / Week 2

"Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word."

Psalm 119:37 NLT

DAY 1

It's hard not to focus on the things directly in front of us all the time—our phones, our schoolwork, our friendships. Sometimes it's even harder not to let these things become the only thing we pay attention to! In other words, it's hard not to let them become an obsession. The problem with obsession is that it eventually takes all your time, energy, and attention away from other things—things that are just as or maybe even more important! But as the Psalmist reminds us, with God's help we can shift our focus. So, when you find yourself obsessed by something, ask God to help you. Pray that He'll give you wisdom to see an obsession and the courage to turn your attention to something better.

"Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek him."

1 Chronicles 16:11 NLT

DAY 2

What does it really mean to seek the Lord? Think of it like a friendship. The more you spend time with someone you are friends with, the more you get to know them. And the more you get to know about them, the more you (hopefully!) want to spend time with them. The same is true when it comes to God. The more time you spend seeking Him—praying, reading His Word, spending time with Him, learning about Him—the more you'll know about Him. And the more you know about Him, the more you'll *want* to know! That's what seeking really means. This week, find one new way you can get to know God a little better.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me."

Psalm 51:10 NLT

DAY 3

Who do you want to be? What kind of person do you hope to become? While you can probably answer that question in a lot of different ways, God wants us to remember that becoming the kind of person we want to be begins in our hearts. Before we can change anything else, we have to first let God change our hearts. So, think about this question: Who do you want to be? As you answer that question, think about this verse. Then, use it as a prayer this week, asking God to begin changing your heart so that you can become the kind of person you truly want to be.

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

DAY 4

Temptation is hard. Sometimes we're pulled toward things we know are bad for us. When we're being tempted by something like that, we fight to say no. Other times we're tempted with things that don't seem all that bad for us. Those things can be even harder to resist! No matter what tempts us, we have to remember that turning away from it is for our good. And the best news? We don't have to do it alone! God is faithful, will guide us away from temptation, and will help us stay strong to say no. When you find yourself tempted by something you know isn't good for you, say to yourself, "God is faithful." Let this simple statement be a reminder that God is there to help you.

"So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves."

Galatians 5:16 NLT

DAY 5

Wouldn't it be nice if life came with some kind of instruction manual? If you had a road map telling you exactly what step to take next? I think we'd all love that! While a step-by-step guidebook for life isn't exactly available, we do have access to a God who wants to guide us and walk with us through our lives. All we have to do is ask for His help! If you're looking for wisdom in making the best choices for your life, look no further than God Himself. He's here to help you no matter what. This week, pray that God would guide you. Ask a trusted friend or Small Group Leader to help you look for God's wisdom and guidance in your life.

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

DAY 6

When we begin following God, we are given His Spirit—the Holy Spirit. This verse tells us that when that happens, we are also given things like power, love, and self-discipline. If we're honest, the self-discipline part sounds a little difficult! But really, it's so important. The world throws so many negative things at us, and if we're not careful, those things can distract or even take over our minds. That's why we need self-discipline! It helps us practice turning away from what tries to control us and instead, turn toward God who wants things that are good for us. Is there an area of your life where you need more self-discipline? Take time to think about the ways that, with God's help, you can work on that this week!

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Romans 12:2 NLT

DAY 7

When you're tempted to do something or give into something you know isn't God's best for you, Scripture is a great tool to use. It can help remind you of what's true and encourage you to make a different choice. To work on memorizing this verse, find a chalk board, dry erase board, or a pencil and paper. Write the verse down and erase one word. Then, read the verse out loud and see if you can remember the word you erased. Continue erasing one word at a time until you can recite the whole verse from memory!