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# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Love/Hate

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## WEEK 3

LET LOVE FILL IN THE BLANK.

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Whatever you do,  
work at it with all your  
heart, as working  
for the Lord, not for  
human masters.

COLOSSIANS 3:23A, NIV

### DAY 1

Have you ever had a chance to see the world through a pair of different colored sunglasses? That simple switch has the power to change your entire perspective on the world around you! The same can be true when it comes to our faith. Perspective, or how we see things, matters. Our lives are full of demands put on us by school, work, and family. And it's easy to see those things as keeping us from doing what we were made to do or want to do.

In this letter to the Colossians, Paul encourages us to see ALL the work before us as part of God's call on our lives. And when we do this, our perspective shifts. We suddenly see even the "have-to's" in our lives with more purpose, love, and meaning. **This week, pray that God would help you see the world through His filter. Ask Him to change your perspective so that you are motivated by Him rather than the world.**

When Jesus landed  
and saw a large crowd,  
he had compassion on  
them and healed their  
sick.

MATTHEW 14:14, NIV

### DAY 2

Scripture tells us that Jesus was an incredible miracle worker who had the power to heal those in need. When we read stories of the things He did, it's easy to get caught up in those dramatic moments. But just as important as the physical healings Jesus performed, was the compassion He showed for people who were the socially outcast, lonely, and in need of belonging. And that's something we can participate in here and now.

When you choose to be a friend to someone who's lonely, or offer a kind word to someone who is hurting, or speak up for someone who doesn't have a voice, or help someone in need—that's compassion, and it's a kind of healing too. Healing isn't always a matter of making sick people well; sometimes it's about using what you have to offer—the love and peace of God—in the midst of brokenness. **Today, identify a way that you can bring peace, help, and healing into the life of someone you know who's in need.**

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**Love does no wrong  
to others.**

ROMANS 13:10A, NLT

### DAY 3

All of us have people in our lives we struggle to get along with. And whoever that person is for you, when it comes to showing love to others, they fall extremely low on our priority list. After all, why would we make the effort to show love to someone who wrongs us or annoys us over and over and over again?

In this letter to the Roman church, Paul tells us that love does no wrong to anybody. Even the most difficult people in our lives. Sometimes love for the people it's hard to love isn't big and dramatic. Sometimes it's as simple as making the decision to do no wrong to them in return. To choose peace, and honor, and respect over hate. It won't always be easy, but with God, it certainly is possible. **This week, ask a trusted mentor or Small Group Leader how you can work to choose love with the difficult people in your life.**

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**Rejoice with those  
who rejoice; mourn  
with those who mourn.**

ROMANS 12:15, NIV

### DAY 4

When was the last time you felt left out, on your own, or just plain lonely? Now what about the last time you felt complete and total joy, excitement, or happiness? Either way, isn't it true that the presence of a friend makes the moment better? What's difficult feels a little more manageable, and what's amazing, feels even better.

That's because, as Paul reminds us here, one of the best things we can do for the people in our lives is to show up with and for them in all seasons. Whether things are good or bad, it's our job to be present in the lives of those we love. In the best circumstances, our presence can add to the celebration. And in the worst, our presence can offer much needed encouragement. So, ask yourself: Whether they are in good or bad circumstances, **who is one person you know is in need of a friend right now? What's one thing you can do to show up for them this week?**

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**When the Lord saw  
her, his heart went  
out to her and he said,  
"Don't cry".**

LUKE 7:13, NIV

### DAY 5

One of the most amazing things about Jesus is that He never ignored or dismissed a person in need. During His ministry on Earth, Jesus took time to truly see the pain of other people—whether it was physical, emotional, or mental. Here, when Jesus saw this woman's suffering, He stopped to empathize with her. He cared for her and comforted her. What's so great about moments like these from Jesus' life is that they remind us not only of how we should notice and care for others, but how Jesus notices and cares for us as well.

Before we can care for others, it's important to recognize how deeply Jesus cares for us. **Take a moment to write down the things that are weighing you down today. As you do, remember that God cares about what you care about.** When you are hurting, God is paying attention. Take comfort in that today.