

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Like Me / Week 2

Therefore, as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved, clothe
yourselves with **compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and
patience.**

COLOSSIANS 3:12 NIV

DAY 1

It's nice to feel like you are chosen. Whether someone asks you to sit with them at lunch, someone asks you out on a date, or makes you the team captain, that feeling is pretty good, isn't it? But not being chosen? Well, that's not so great.

In this letter to the Colossians, the apostle Paul tells us we are all chosen to be part of God's family. In fact, God calls us His sons and daughters. When you are facing rejection of any kind—at home, at school, with friends, on a team—remember the truth that you are chosen by God. **The next time you feel like you don't fit in because you don't measure up, remember you always have a place with Him.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
the new creation has come: **the old
has gone, the new is here.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NIV

DAY 2

A fresh start is always nice. A new school year, a new look or a new after school hangout spot can give you a chance to do things differently than you have before. In this verse, the apostle Paul tells us that when we believe that Jesus is who He says He is and He'll do what He promises to do—we are more than just forgiven of our sins. We become new. We are changed. We can do things differently than we have before.

Sometimes the biggest thing keeping us from experiencing the "new" God offers us is ourselves. **Do you believe and live as though you have been given a fresh start and a new chance? If not, maybe today is the day you make the change and thank God for making you new.**

He will take delight in you with
gladness. . . **He will rejoice over
you with joyful songs.**

ZEPHANIAH 3:17B NLT

DAY 3

Isn't it a great feeling when someone makes a big deal about getting to see you? Maybe you were out sick for a few days, went out of town, or you missed seeing a friend over the weekend. No matter where you were, when you came back, it was probably nice to know that you were missed. It's always nice to feel noticed and appreciated.

This verse tells us that's exactly how God feels about us. Not just when we come back after being away from Him, but all the time! When it feels like no one else notices, God sees you, He cares, and delights in you. **Do you know someone who needs to hear that truth today? Reach out to a friend and remind them that not only do you care about them, but God does, too.**

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, **you live under the freedom of God's grace.**

ROMANS 6:14 NLT

DAY 4

Maybe you've heard a church leader talk about the idea that sin or our mistakes distance us from God. Not only that, but sin creates a gap between us and the people it hurts. God is never satisfied with anything that keeps us apart from Him. That's why He offers freedom from sin. That doesn't mean we have to be perfect, it means we don't let sin get the last word. Instead, we lean into God's grace and forgiveness—and that's where freedom comes.

What's creating distance between you and God? Is something keeping you from experiencing the freedom God offers? Whatever it is, admit it to Him today, asking for the freedom that will allow you to go forward with Him and with others.

Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly father feeds them. And **aren't you far more valuable than they are?**

MATTHEW 6:26 NLT

DAY 5

God invites us to call Him our "Heavenly Father." It's much more personal than calling Him "Lord" or "God." This can be difficult if our experience with a father figure hasn't been positive. No matter what we think of when we think about a father, God promises to be the kind of Father who looks out for us, takes care of us, and has our best interest at heart.

When you feel lost, not good enough, or like you can't get anything right, your heavenly Father knows you, loves you, and is taking care of you. He is the good Father who values and loves you no matter what. **Read over this verse and spend some time thinking about how it can help you see God as your Heavenly Father.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

Psalms 147:5 NIV

DAY 6

It's been said that knowledge is power. The largest library in the world is the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.. It holds over 168 million different books, journals, articles, and legal documents. That is a lot of knowledge and power contained in one place.

Imagine sitting down and reading each item in that library and understanding what it all means. God's wisdom is even more vast than that. His understanding has no limit: He knows more than what is contained in any library. God knows what is written in the story of your life. **Today, think about how God knows everything about you and what that means for your life.**

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

Do you ever wonder how you remember every word from a song you haven't heard in years? It's likely because you played it over and over until you knew it so well, you sang it perfectly when it played years later. Just like with remembering lyrics to a song by listening to it over and over again, we can memorize Scripture by listening to it. There are many ways that you can listen to this verse. One way is to use the YouVersion app, click on this verse, and click the play button. Try this as you memorize this verse.