

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Christmas Break / Week 1

WEEK 1

YOU CAN CELEBRATE, EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T FEEL GREAT.

Every good and
perfect gift
IS FROM ABOVE.

JAMES 1:17a

DAY 1

HEAR // Sometimes the holidays cause stress and tension. Whether it's from spending countless hours shopping, playing board games with your family, or in a car traveling—it can feel overwhelming. A guy named James (who was actually the brother of Jesus!) encourages us to be thankful for the “good gifts” in our lives. The problem is, this can be hard—especially this time of year. But what if you were surrounded by more good gifts than you ever realized? Take time to think about the good in your life right now. How do those things make your life better? (If it's hard to think of something, don't give up!) Write down a few of the things that came to mind, and then thank God for those things.



They found him in
the temple courts,
sitting among the
teachers, listening
to them and asking
them questions.

LUKE 2:46b

DAY 2

TALK // We don't gain wisdom by accident. To be wise, we've got to go after it, and sometimes that means having people in our lives farther along in their faith who we can talk to. Even Jesus practiced this! In this verse we see Jesus asking questions to the adults and teachers around Him, learning from others while He was still young. This week, determine who you can learn from and who you want to grow to be more like. Then, reach out and have a conversation with them! Be honest and discuss something going on in your life where you could really use some guidance. God didn't intend for us to live life alone. He created us to learn from each other as we become more and more like Him.



"In this world you
will have trouble.
But take heart! I have

**OVERCOME
THE WORLD."**

JOHN 16:33b

DAY 3

LIVE // When life is difficult, the first thing we want is for it to get better. Which is what makes the first part of this verse hard to read. Because Jesus promises trouble in our lives. That's the bad news. The good news? Jesus has overcome it. Meaning, the difficulty we're facing doesn't necessarily go away, but Jesus is bigger and greater than it. During this Christmas season, when there's a lot to celebrate but also hard stuff to deal with, let this verse remind you of this: Hard circumstances don't mean God's given up on you. Troubles don't get the final word, God does.



But he said to
me, "My grace is
sufficient for you, for
**MY POWER IS MADE
PERFECT IN WEAKNESS."**

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9a

DAY 4

LIVE // The perfect Christmas doesn't exist. Is that great news? No. But hopefully it's relieving news! Things will go wrong or disappoint us this season, and that's normal. But in this verse, we're reminded that in those imperfect moments, Jesus' grace is there for us and fills in the gaps. His love is enough to take care of us. His love is enough to handle our imperfections. Even when we feel disappointed or things seem out of our control, God cares for you. Don't underestimate the power of His mercy. In times of weakness, ask God to help you remember and believe that His grace is sufficient for you. Pray that it's enough to get you through a tough time or tough season.



So we say with confidence,
"THE LORD IS MY HELPER;
I will not be afraid."

HEBREWS 13:6a

DAY 5

PRAY // God is on our side. God is your biggest fan. He isn't out to catch you misbehaving or make your life miserable. And like the writer of Hebrews says here, He is also your helper. And that means you don't have to worry when life doesn't always go the way you want. Now, imagine how believing that could change the way you see difficult circumstances! Today, try looking at what's going on in your life—at school as you wrap up the semester or at home with lots of time with family coming up—with confidence that God is looking out for you. Ask Him to give you confidence that He is for you and willing to help, no matter what you're facing this week.

