DAILY DEVOTIONAL

It's Personal / Week 5

For the Lord is the Spirit, and **wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 NLT

DAY 1

If you were to ask a random person if they consider Christians to live in freedom, what do you think their response would be? Typically, people associate Christians with the Ten Commandments and a bunch of rules, which doesn't sound very free at all. But when the apostle Paul talks about freedom, he means spiritual freedom from the brokenness of sin.

Now we also have the freedom to choose not to follow what Jesus asked of us; but, in a counter-cultural way, being obedient to what God asks us doesn't take away our freedom. In fact, it actually keeps us away from the thing that hurts us the most, our sin, so we are able to live in freedom after all!

Ask a trusted adult what it means to them to be free in Christ.

And those who are **peacemakers will plant seeds of peace** and reap a harvest of righteousness.

JAMES 3:18 NLT

DAY 2

What do you think it means to be a peacemaker? It might be helpful to ask, what's the opposite of a peacemaker? Maybe an instigator or an agitator? Which do you think you tend towards?

To be honest, it's usually easier to fight, rebel, and add fuel to the fire than to take the high road and be a peacemaker, especially when emotions are elevated. Do you think our world today needs more agitators or peacemakers?

Look up historical peacemakers and read a little bit about their philosophies and why they chose to promote peace. How can you be a peacemaker in your world today?

Hatred stirs up quarrels, but **love makes up for all offenses**.

PROVERBS 10:12 NLT

DAY 3

Do you have siblings? If so, you probably grew up quarreling, bickering or fighting with your sister or brother for one reason or another. Or maybe you have a cousin or really close friend that you spend a lot of time with, and inevitably, you end up arguing about something insignificant. Why is it so easy to fight with the people around us?

This proverb tells us that hatred brings quarrels, but love forgives and covers offenses. I'm not saying that you hate your siblings or friends, but instead of allowing quarrels to rise up, how can we choose to love and forgive?

Today, **choose love and offer forgiveness to someone who hurt you, or ask for forgiveness from someone that you may have hurt**.

THIS DEVOTIONAL CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE YOUVERSION BIBLE APP BY SEARCHING FOR THE PLAN TITLED "IT'S PERSONAL".

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, **so that we could be made right with God through Christ.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 NLT

DAY 4

From the very time that Adam and Eve sinned, God has been working towards redeeming the relationship that was broken by sin. Jesus died for your sins so that you can have a healed relationship with God, and experience eternal life. Two thousand years ago, Jesus willingly came to earth and died because he wanted a relationship with you. Even back then, He knew the potential of your life, and wanted to walk with you. What an incredible gift!

Spend time thinking about the fact that God sent his Son to live a perfect life in this broken world only to die a painful death, just so that He could have a relationship with you. Praise and thank God for seeing potential in you.

For **God is working in you**, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NLT

DAY 5

Have you ever practiced something over and over again until you got better? Maybe it was dribbling a soccer ball or shooting a free throw. Maybe it was Spanish vocabulary or doing a new dance move a hundred times in the mirror. Thankfully, those same principles apply to our Christian lives as well. Loving God, being obedient to His will, and doing the right thing all follow the same pattern – the more you do it, the easier it gets.

Look up and read Romans 12:1-2. Paul writes that God will transform your mind so you can discern His will, and later says in Philippians that God is changing your heart to desire to do what pleases God. Maybe you don't see that change yet, but keep practicing…it gets easier as you go.

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the **Kingdom of his dear Son,**

COLOSSIANS 1:13 NLT

DAY 6

When the Bible talks about the kingdom of darkness, one scene comes to mind. In the second movie in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, *The Two Towers*, (spoiler alert) King Theoden is released from the spell of Saruman in a powerful scene (if you haven't seen it, look it up for a great visual). There's an immediate change in his appearance and demeanor as darkness is erased from the throne. Colossians says that God rescues us from darkness, and we are transferred into the Kingdom of His Son.

Look up the kingdom of darkness, the Kingdom of heaven or the Kingdom of God in a Bible concordance or online. How are the opposite kingdoms described?

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

LUKE 19:10 NLT

DAY 7

Write the verse on an index card or a small piece of paper and flip over repeatedly until you can say the whole verse by heart.