

# DAY 6

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18 NIV)

Do you ever hear the saying, “Life is tough?” Life can feel pretty hard sometimes, anything from just having a bad day, drama with friends, or even tragedy. When these moments happen, we can feel angry, sad, stressed and even just numb to it all. The only thing harder than going through challenges is going through them alone. Something we can trust is that God promises to always be with us. God is always nearby. So, no matter what you’re going through, you can call out to God for help. You can trust that God is with you in the middle of your circumstances.

**Today, do just that! Find a moment to pray and talk to God about a difficult situation you’re facing in your life or family. Ask for regular reminders that God is near.**

God is with you. And because of that, you are never all alone.

# DAY 7

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35 NIV)

Has someone ever hurt your feelings, and you just weren’t sure how to respond? Do you avoid them, or try to make them happy, or just yell? It can be hard to know how to respond with all these emotions swirling around. While it is not always easy, having Scripture memorized can help us remember other ways to respond instead of just reacting with anger or spite.

**Commit this verse to memory to help you love others well this week.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
everyday faith.

THICKER THAN WATER / WEEK 2

## DAY 1

His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22b-23a ESV)

Do you ever feel like you’re struggling to get it right? Like you constantly mess up— even when you know better? Look, we’ve all been there and know that feeling. The good news is, God’s grace never runs out and never comes to an end. And even though we get tired of messing up and frustrated for doing it, God doesn’t get tired of forgiving us. Every day is a new chance to make wise decisions, invest in our relationships, and experience God’s grace. Remind yourself of that today when you feel overwhelmed and like you’re falling short. For all of us, new mercies every day is really good news.

## DAY 2

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. (Psalm 23:1 NIV)

Have you ever felt like someone else’s family seems better than yours? They live in a bigger house, they don’t argue as much, they order food from all your favorite places, go on better vacations, have better phones, and more gaming systems. Nothing can make us feel more like we are lacking, than looking around at what others have. This is why this Psalm, written by David, is so helpful. With God as our shepherd, with God looking out for us, we lack nothing. Sure, we may not always have what we want or as much as other families have, but this verse reminds us that we have God. And God will take care of us.

**Today, take a minute to think about the strengths of your family and what you might be grateful for. Maybe it is a tradition you have or a way your family sticks by you even when you are going through a challenging circumstance. Today, talk to someone in your family to tell them why you are grateful to have them as a part of the family God has given you.**

## DAY 3

**Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (James 1:22 NIV)**

Do you ever wish there were more hours in the day? Between school, work, sports, band, friends, chores, and sleep, how do we find the time to make it all happen? As important as all those things are, James draws our attention to the most important thing we can do with our time: act. Not just any kind of action, but action that God's Word encourages us to do. It isn't enough to just know what God's Word says, but our actions should reflect what God says is best.

To follow God, we need to follow the example of God's Son, Jesus. We live like He lived and do what He said is best. There is no better place to practice the example of Jesus than in our family.

**Today, let's look for an opportunity to do what God says is best with the people in our family.**

## DAY 4

**Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12 NIV)**

Have you ever had to learn a new skill? Maybe it was something at school, or for sports, or at home. Chances are, you didn't crush it on your first try. You kept trying and practicing and learning. That's called perseverance. Persevering is to keep going, even when it takes longer than we think, and longer than we want, and it isn't very easy. Family relationships can be hard, and we all know that they are so different than other relationships. It is important to persevere with our family, even when it is challenging.

James says the people who don't give up are "blessed." Meaning, they discover something, learn something, get something when they don't quit.

**Today, pray for perseverance when it comes to your family and how you can keep showing up, even when it might be tough.**

## DAY 5

**"This is a time to celebrate before the Lord your God at the designated place of worship he will choose for his name to be honored. Celebrate with your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites from your towns, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows who live among you." (Deuteronomy 16:11 NLT)**

*Written by Rebekah, age 19, from Rich Hill, Missouri*

*I absolutely love the picture this verse paints. The Israelites were instructed here to celebrate God's goodness with those around them. I imagine families coming together, eating together, singing and dancing together, and enjoying hanging out with one another. This time of celebration reminds me of one big family holiday celebration. Any time we stop to remember and celebrate God's many great blessings.*

*God invites us, just as God called the Israelites, to celebrate with each other. Whether that is celebrating a birthday of a loved one, a good test score, or a sports team win, we can give thanks*

*to God in all of it. God's great love and blessings can be seen in every area of our lives. What better way to thank God than to celebrate God's goodness with our loved ones?*

**As you go through your day, be on the lookout for God's goodness in all your activities. Then go tell someone what you are thankful for and celebrate with them. The more you do this, the more you experience God's joy and can share that joy with others.**

*May you be aware of God's goodness all around you and the fact that you're invited to celebrate that goodness with those around you.*

