

Day 1

February 10



Pray | For strength to show love at all times

LET LOVE LEAD YOUR REACTION TO CIRCUMSTANCES.

Did you have a favorite superhero when you were growing up? If you think back to how they would respond to the villain, chances are it was out of love for others. When the villain was wreaking havoc and causing pain and destruction, the hero always thought first of those being hurt and the need to protect them. Their initial response was love and compassion, not the need to retaliate against those causing the pain.

We are called to show love to others in the same way our favorite heroes do. When we are hurt by others, instead of trying to hurt them back, we should respond in love. Perhaps they are hurting and seeking compassion without realizing they have that need. Your loving response could be all that is needed to turn them around in that moment.



Read | Matthew 5:38-39



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Reflect on how you responded when you felt hurt by another person. Was it reflective of the love and grace we receive from God? Were you able to ‘turn the other cheek’ as Matthew 5:39 states we should?

Identify a bible verse that reminds you of the love God showers on us even when we do not deserve it. Try to memorize it or put it someplace you will see it daily. The next time that you are confronted with a person who may be difficult to love, lean on that verse to help you respond in kind.

The verses today are one example of how Jesus calls Christians to respond differently. Pray that God would show you areas of your life that align with the cultures surrounding us instead of being set apart.

Day 2

February 11



Pray | For a charitable heart

GIVE MORE OF YOURSELF THAN IS EXPECTED.

It is tempting to allow convenience to dictate when we are charitable. There are only so many hours in the day, limited resources, and other financial priorities that can inhibit us from giving or even just shift our focus to our own needs. If we look too much to the reasons we can't do something, it will quickly seem insurmountable. But if we look for all the reasons and ways we can help others, there will be endless opportunities.

The act of generosity can feel stifled, though, when it starts out as an obligation. The verses today illustrate that even in obligation, we should serve others with a happy heart and do more than the bare minimum to help set us apart and share our joy.



Read | Matthew 5:40-41



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

In Matthew 5:41, Jesus states, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." Can you recall a time when someone went the extra mile for you? How did you feel to have another person show such generosity?

The idea of serving others is recurrent in Jesus' teachings. What are some other examples he gave us in reference to serving others?

Take a few minutes today to serve someone else. Complete a small task for them without seeking any accolades.

Day 3

February 12



Pray | To be humble

RECOGNIZE THE COURAGE OF BEING HUMBLE.

It can be very difficult to admit when we need help. It could be assistance to complete a project; help financially; support emotionally; or a different kind of aid altogether. Regardless of the type of help, we may struggle with pride that keeps us from admitting those needs to others. The pride we hold inside will hold us from being humble.

That same pride can keep us from acknowledging the great courage it takes for others to humble themselves. If a neighbor is in need of relief and requesting support, we should show compassion and love. They are trusting us with their vulnerabilities and setting aside their pride. Our response should be of reassurance and caring for them as our abilities allow. It is admirable to be humble and admit when we need help.



Read | Matthew 5:42; James 4:10; Proverbs 16:18



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

How often do you encounter someone who is asking for help? What are your initial thoughts towards that person or request? After reading Matthew 5:42, reflect on how Jesus would call you to respond.

James 4:10 states, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.” Pray that God would help you to see areas of your life where you are prideful and ask that he help you to be humble.

Boldly ask God for an opening to help a neighbor, friend, family member etc. It could be running an errand for them, preparing a meal, shoveling their sidewalk, or whatever God places on your heart.

Day 4
February 13



Pray | For wisdom to nurture the good & righteous parts of our lives

WE MAY ALL FLOURISH WITH WHAT GOD PROVIDES.

God loves us all the same in spite of our reverence and affection towards him. He does not care only for those who proclaim to be Christians or go to church on Sunday or say their prayers every night. He pursues each of us where we are and as we are right now. In that same way, we should pray for opportunities to share our joy with others (including our enemies).

Like the sun and rain are given as provision for plants to grow, he provides us all with the prospect of growing and blooming in his love. We are each capable of flourishing through the righteousness and grace of God.



Read | Matthew 5:43-45



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

The idea of praying for those who are persecuting us seems counterintuitive. Yet Jesus declared that we should do just that in Matthew 5:44. What other ways has Jesus prescribed that we be contrary to the popular culture?

Contemplate how the sun rising each morning is not only for you but for your enemies as well. While each day is not promised, each day is a chance for God's kingdom to grow. What can you do today to cultivate an opening to share your faith with another?

Pray today for someone who you perceive to be your enemy or that seems far from God. Pray specifically that God would offer an opportunity for you to share your joy.

Day 5

February 14



Pray | To be a vessel overflowing with love

LOVE EVERYONE AS GOD LOVES EVERYONE.

The love of God is a gift readily available for everyone. It's not just on special occasions or only for those seeking out his love. We could have been running and hiding from his love, but it is always there. Even when we feel repulsed by ourselves and unworthy of love and grace, unequivocally, God accepts us and seeks to share his love with us.

As Christians, we are called to be an extension of God's love and understanding. We should be steadfast in the face of difficulty and not turn away from those who need love. By demonstrating love for everyone, we are helping to spread the joy and hope that comes only from our eternal Savior.



Read | Matthew 5:46-48, 1 John 4:11-12



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Matthew 5:47 refers to greeting your 'own people'. Consider who would be in the group of your own people. What actions could you take to expand that group?

Reflect on a time that you felt unworthy of love. How were you able to move past those self-doubts? What have you put in place to prevent feeling that way again?

Smile at a stranger today and pray that God uses your smile to remind them they are loved.

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