

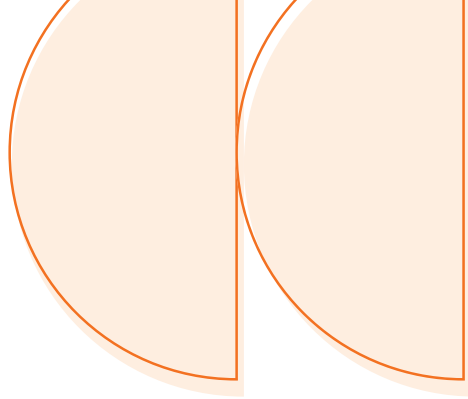
# DAY 7

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28:18 NLT

Some of us have great authority figures in our lives. And, unfortunately, others of us are dealing with authority who has been unkind, hurtful, or worse. Either way, we can sometimes find ourselves wondering what real, good authority should be like. When we memorize verses like this one, it reminds us of Jesus, who is the ultimate example of authority, and it shows us how to use our own authority with love and kindness like He did.

To keep this truth in your mind, memorize this verse this week. Ask your friends to do it with you as a challenge. The first one to be able to say it from memory wins!



Horizontal lines for writing notes.

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN everyday faith.

In Charge / Week 3

MIDDLE SCHOOL

## DAY 1

So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

Romans 14:19 NLT

Have you ever had a conversation with a friend that left you feeling sad or upset? Or have you ever been the friend that left someone else feeling sad or upset? Our words have the potential to encourage the people in our lives, but they also have the power to be incredibly hurtful to those around us. It's our job to use our words well—to use the authority we have to speak to others wisely. After all, don't we all want to be people who build each other up?

This week, find a way to use the authority you have over your words well. Send an encouraging text, write a note, or just offer a compliment to someone in your life to build them up.

## DAY 2

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

Matthew 7:12a NLT

As middle schoolers, it's can be easy to believe that you don't have a lot of authority right now. It feels like there is not much you can actually be in charge of in your day-to-day life. But here's the thing: You have so much more authority than you think! You're in charge of the way you treat people. You're in charge of the way you speak to people. You're in charge of the way you choose to live and interact with others. And if you want to use that authority wisely, you can follow Jesus' guidance here by using your authority to treat others the way you want to be treated.

Memorize this verse today as a reminder of how you can use your authority in good, healthy ways.

## DAY 3

**I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So, I sacrifice my life for the sheep.**

**John 10:14-15 NLT**

One of the hardest things about dealing with people in authority is that it requires a lot of trust. The good news is that when it comes to God's authority, we can feel comfortable to trust it completely. God knows who you are and what you need. And more than that, God loves you and has plans to fill your future with hope. Just like a shepherd's job is to feed, protect, and guide their sheep, God uses authority to do the same for us. When you struggle with trusting God, remember what God's promised to do: protect, provide, and guide you in the best way.

**Take a moment to jot down three ways God helps take care of you. Then, thank God for what you've written.**

## DAY 4

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16 NLT**

God has a lot of authority and can do anything in the world with it! But ultimately, God used it to give one pretty amazing thing to us: Jesus. God sent Jesus to live, walk, and lead among us. To die for our sins and take the punishment for us. To rise from the dead and make a way for us to be close to God forever. God, who has the authority do absolutely anything, ultimately gave us the biggest gift. What an example of what it means to lead with love!

**Who in your life might be encouraged by this truth? Write down their names and then make an effort to share more about God's love with them this week.**

## DAY 5

**Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.**

**1 Peter 5:2 NLT**

What regular responsibilities do you have? The things we end up having to do regularly aren't always the most fun. In fact, they often end up feeling like chores. But what if there was a different way to see our responsibilities? A way that made them feel more important? This week, try seeing them as the things that you have been given authority over. They are things that you have been trusted to do.

**Think about one of your regular responsibilities. What if you changed your perspective and thought about that thing as a responsibility God has given you as a leader? You might find yourself stepping up to handle your responsibilities with a new attitude!**

## DAY 6

**Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:35 NLT**

*Written by Bella, age 16 from Sugar Hill, Georgia, USA*

One late Friday night, my school and I had just finished our second showing of the play, *Fiddler on the Roof*. I was all packed up, tired, and ready to go home. Suddenly, I realized I did not have my water bottle, which was my grandad's water bottle. After ten minutes of looking for it with some parents, I began to cry (at school in front of the whole cast). Just as I was going to give up, three of my friends came rushing into my dressing room asking where I had seen it last. We decided it must be in the trash. I was prepared to have to go home without it, but my friends, teachers, and directors were not. Not even twenty minutes after I asked someone to look for it with me, there were ten people outside diving into the school's dumpster to look for a little glass bottle. This is one of my favorite stories because it was one of the moments in my life that helped me understand more of the way Jesus loves me, too. It reminded me that we can show others more of who Jesus is by loving the people around us. The way my friends and teachers showed me they loved me by literally jumping into a dumpster helped me experience this kind of love! Maybe for you, showing love to others won't mean jumping into a dumpster to find a missing water bottle! It can look like a lot of different things. **What's one way you can show someone else you love them today?**