

REBELLIOUS / WEEK 2

DAY 1

And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people to grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 NLT

Think about it, as a society the world is connected now more than ever before. From gaming to social media to YouTube and every other streaming platform, the internet has made it easy to have friends and know stories not just from our immediate communities, but from around the world! The writer of Thessalonians prays not just that Jesus' followers love all people, but that Jesus himself will make our love both grow and overflow. Talk about living a life of generous, unconditional love. This week, start by praying for people all over the world, especially those who may be experiencing a difficult time right now. Pray that people who don't know God's love– whether in your community or beyond-would come to know and experience God's love.

DAY 2

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JOHN 13:34 NIV

Which message do you seem to hear more often on social media or on TV? "Secure the bag," "Look out for yourself because no one is going to do it for you." Or, "The people with the most will be at the top" or "Serve others," "There is more than enough to go around so share generously" "Put others first." I have a feeling one of these messages is more common than the other. The same has been true since the beginning of time – that's why Jesus' command to "love one another" was a "new" or better way of thinking for people. So how do you make sure you're showing love to your parents, your siblings, or your friends? Ask them what makes them feel loved! **Take the time to talk to those who are closest to you and those outside your circles. Ask them what's one small thing you can do to show them that you love and care for them. Then, make a point to try to do at least one of the things they shared with you as an act of love this week.**

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HIGH SCHOOL

DAY 3

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

1 JOHN 5:1 NLT

Do you have brothers and sisters? What about friends who are so close that they feel like siblings? Whether you do or not, you can probably imagine how great it can be to have someone that close to you. Part of our faith as Christians is knowing that through our faith, we are all connected. If you're a believer in Jesus, then you're part of a family of people who love and believe in God. If you love God then that means God challenges you to also love everyone He's created. Is there someone new in you student ministry or Small Group? How can you welcome them into your part of the family of God this week?

DAY 4

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.

MARK 12:30 NLT

Take some time to think about someone you really love and value. Maybe it's a parent, a sibling, a best friend, or even someone in your Small Group. What are some things that you do to show you care about them? How do you show them that they're important to you? In the same way that you show your love to those people, God wants you to show your love to Him. Because He loves you so much, He wants you to give your relationship with Him everything that you've got—your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength. It's a way to show Him that His love is valuable and important to you. **Spend some time today thanking God for His love. Ask Him to help you show your love for Him with everything you have.**

DAY	5
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Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13 NIV

Many of us want to experience great love in our lives. Part of loving others sometimes involves sacrifice or giving up something we want for the good of the other person. Christ modeled this for us when He sacrificed His life for us. That's how great His love is! **Take some time this week to consider how you can sacrifice your time, your resources, or your talent to show someone that same kind of love**.

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DAY 6

Written by Cherish, age 17, from Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

JAMES 1:27 ESV

Let's be completely honest. Serving anywhere is not always fun. It can be hard and thankless. If you are serving at church, most times you wake up early, are required to be on your feet for long periods of time, and some days you have to act unnaturally happy. Although serving is not always enjoyable, there is a reason God tell us to serve. Think about the people in your life who point you to Jesus. Maybe it is a small group leader who encourages you, or a coach. Sometimes even friends help us grow in our faith. Whoever it might be, they use whatever they have to serve God, which connects you to Him. Now, God wants to use you to reach others. When we serve others, when it is fun and when it is hard, when it is early or in the afternoon, when it is convenient or when the sacrifice is hard, we are showing God's kindness to others. Serving gives people a real-life example of God's love for them. So next time you are tempted to quit serving, press snooze one too many times instead of serving, or just feel discouraged and want to quit, remember you are serving to show others God's care and love.

And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

MATTHEW 25:40 NLT

DAY 7

Memorizing this verse can help us remember that when we are helping others, we are also serving Jesus. Try writing the verse down three times to help you memorize it.

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