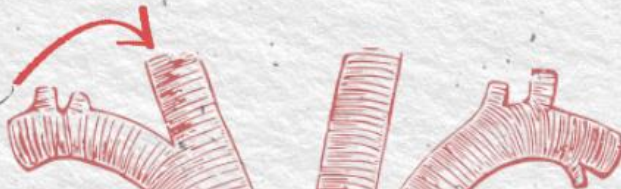


*out of the overflow  
of the heart*



*everything you do flows from*



**ahimsa  
all  
else**

*(guard your heart)*



Welcome reader!!! Whoever you may be, whatever you've gone/going through, we want to welcome you and invite you to journey with us through scripture. We challenge you to dive into this 6-day devotional as we look at the heart of Christ and as we learn to love as he loved us.

Above all else.

This daily devotion will unpack what Christ says about compassion, empathy and love. Through this series we will journey together and unpack some well-known Biblical verses and learn exactly what they mean and what they are trying to remind us in our world today. But we won't stop there! We'll look at ways that we can apply these verses and these teachings into our lives, and you'll have the opportunity to reflect on your current situation and be able to reflect on where God has brought you and where he is trying to take you. Together we'll grow, we'll learn, and we'll apply.

We hope that you enjoy what we have prepared for you. Thank you for choosing to study with us and we hope that we are able to enrich your relationship with Christ.

Blessings,

The Collective Leadership Team

**THE COLLECTIVE**



**DAY 1** — Psalms 143:8

**DAY 2** — Romans 12:9 – 10

**DAY 3** — Colossians 3:12-14

**DAY 4** — Proverbs 3:3.

**DAY 5** — 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4 - 7

**DAY 6** — Galatians 5:13 – 14



# DAY 1

## Psalms 143:8

<sup>8</sup> Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

(NIV Version)



# DAY 1

The reading begins with the phrase “Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love”, a timely reminder that every day when we wake up, God greets us with his love. His love is unconditional and it doesn’t ever stop. Some mornings when we wake up, we may feel a bit groggy, maybe even a bit tired. But this verse reminds us that no matter how we’re feeling God’s love is still there to greet us. It continues, and mentions how we put our lives in the hands of God and how we trust in him. For people who don’t regard themselves as ‘Christians’ this may be confusing, but a cool way to think about this from a non-Christian perspective is to look at the classroom. When you were young you entrusted your teacher. In primary school, you saw your teacher as the fountain of knowledge. Now as you got older and went to high school you began thinking for yourself a little bit. You still saw your teachers as mentors and you still trusted them, but now you were also able to research and learn for yourself. Our walk with Christ is similar. In fact, Jesus was referred to as Rabbi in the Bible which actually translates to Teacher. As Christians, we place our trust in Jesus and we rely on Him. As we grow, our thinking evolves and changes, but our trust and hope continues to stay on Jesus.



# DAY 1

1. The verse mentions placing your trust in Christ. What are some areas in your life currently that you can place your trust in Christ?
2. Your friend who has no interest in Religion at all is struggling through depression and confides in you. As a Christian you have experienced the love that Christ bestows and believe that Christ can comfort your friend. How would you go about revealing God's love to them?

Or

As someone who doesn't regard themselves as a Christian or someone who is new to faith, do you think that it is important to place your trust in a higher power? Why, why not?

3. An important factor in growing or establishing your trust in Christ is through prayer. We encourage you to think of the areas in your life that need prayer, they can be anything. I was once told that there is no prayer that God won't listen to. With this in mind, after you've figured out the areas in your life that you want to pray for, we encourage you to spend some time now in prayer. If this is your first time praying, just remember prayer is simply a conversation with God. Don't complicate it and don't be afraid. God loves you and wants to spend time with you.



We hope you enjoyed our first day together, as the week goes on, we'll slowly explore more verses, but we felt as though this was a good warm up for our first devotional together. If you have any questions about what you've read today or if you want to get in touch with someone here are some key contacts:

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# DAY 2

Romans 12:9 – 10

<sup>9</sup> Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.

(NIV Version)





# DAY 2

The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul as a letter to the Romans. From the verses 9-10 we're able to see what Paul is asking the Romans to value. He says "Love must be SINCERE." In other words, it must come from the heart. "Hate what is EVIL." We all know right from wrong. We all know what we should do and when we do things that we know are wrong, we get a weird feeling in our stomach. What Paul is saying is that we need to identify the wrong things in life and steer clear of it. "CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD." There are certain things in your life that make you happy and help you feel connected to God. It may be listening to music, being active, or reading your Bible. Paul's words here are so applicable to our lives today. He is saying that in all the chaos and in all the uncertainty, stick to what you know is good and what makes you happy. Paul goes on to say, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." Paul is telling us that we need to take care of our own. Support each other in the faith, and you will find that your own faith will be strengthened. Our communities around us need Jesus and our families need him too. Paul's reminder is for us to be intentional with the people around us and to love them and to be the light that Jesus is to the people in our daily lives.



# DAY 2

1. Do you think that God is a God of Love? Why? What would be two characteristics that you would associate with God?
2. What are your personal ways that you can connect with God, and the people around you?
3. Have you ever had a conversation about God with a non-Christian? If so, how did it go?

Or

Has a non-Christian has someone ever approached you about God? How did it make you feel?

4. How can you show the love of Jesus to the people around you?



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# DAY 3

## Colossians 3:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

(NIV Version)



# DAY 3

This verse is once again written by the Apostle Paul, and the book of Colossians is his letter to the church of Colossae. This is Paul reminding the Colossian church what to value and what to hold dear. He calls us “God’s chosen people,” meaning that we all have purpose and that he designed us for a reason. The verse goes on to list all these amazing qualities which are good to have, but if you read them carefully, they’re all the important qualities to have when socialising with other people. It reminds us to forgive each other and to work with each other in any situation. We all know how hard it is to forgive each other but Paul is telling us that we need to forgive each other and then uses God as an example of how to forgive people.

He then states arguably the most important bit, which is; “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”. This is Paul reminding us that out of everything that’s going on in our lives we must always have love for each other, and we must place that above everything else. This can be the hardest thing ever! I know personally it can be very hard to love people. But what Paul is telling us is that if God sees what we do every day and he knows what we think and still continues to love us unconditionally then we can do the same to the people around us.



# DAY 3

1. What is the worst thing that someone has ever done to you, or something that happened to someone you know? Explain your feeling toward this person
2. Who loves you the most in your life? How does their love makes you feel?
3. If our goal is to love each other more, how can you remind yourself to be more loving to those around you?
4. Think about someone in your life that needs your love. How can you impact their lives for the better?



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# DAY 4

## Proverbs 3:3

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck, ...

(NIV Version)





# DAY 4

When I was young, I wore a set of dog tags around my neck. I don't know why, and I don't know why no one stopped me. I was about 8 years old and I thought I was the coolest kid ever. I made sure that everyone could see them, I thought I was a fashion icon. I wore the dog tags around my neck because they were important to me, so I wanted everyone to see them. We have a habit as humans to show everyone what's important to us, it may be new clothing, a new pet or even a child. Regardless, we want to showcase it for the world to see. This verse is telling us that we need to make Love and Faithfulness important to us, so we can then showcase it to the world.



# DAY 4

1. What are the leading traits you look for in a friend e.g. kindness, humour, loyalty?
2. Is love something that you're able to display to others around you? If not, what holds you back?
3. Imagine that you had never met yourself. From how you act and treat other people, what would you say are the values that you display?
4. What are some characteristics that you want to develop? How could you try to develop these characteristics?



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# DAY 5

## 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4 – 7

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(NIV Version)



# DAY 5

Welcome to day 5! Up until now in this section, we've unpacked the verses and then talked about what the verses are trying to tell us. For today and for the rest of the week we encourage you to read the verse and then try to digest for yourself what it's trying to say. We recommend that you get some paper or maybe use the notes app on your phone and write down the areas that surprise you about the verses or the areas that you believe are important. We want to journey through the Bible with you, but we also want you to be able to think for yourself.

1. What is new to us? 2. What surprises us? 3. What do we not understand? 4. What will we each obey this week? 5. Who will we share with – and what will we share, this week?

Join us on the next page for some application questions.



# DAY 5

1. When you think of the word love what is the first thing that appears in your mind??
2. If someone were to see you, and they were to follow you for a whole day, would they know that you were Christian?
3. Go through your notes or your interpretation of the Bible verse above. What's the main takeaway from it that you can apply to your life?



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# DAY 6

## Galatians 5:13 – 14

<sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

(NIV Version)





# DAY 6

Welcome to day 6! Up until now in this section, we've unpacked the verses and then talked about what the verses are trying to tell us. For today and for the rest of the week we encourage you to read the verse and then try to digest for yourself what it's trying to say. We recommend that you get some paper or maybe use the notes app on your phone and write down the areas that surprise you about the verses or the areas that you believe are important. We want to journey through the Bible with you, but we also want you to be able to think for yourself. Join us on the next page for some application questions.



# DAY 6

1. From this passage, what do you believe is the greatest quality that you can have as follower of Christ?
2. What are some areas in which you would like to grow and develop?
3. How can you share/apply what you've learned this week?
4. Why are you a Christian? Think about how God has blessed you and how you can share that blessing with the people around you?

Or

If you're not a Christian, what are some questions about Christianity that you have? If you would like to ask these questions, the next page has some key contacts for you to reach out to.



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# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, please don't be afraid to reach out to us and let us hear your thoughts! We would love to engage with you on a more personal level.

We want to thank you for coming on this journey with us this week. We hope you've learned something along the way, and we would love to have you along on our devotions in the future!

