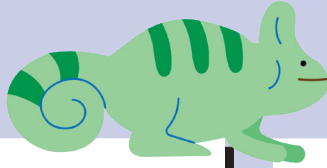


# Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

## DAY 1



### Read Matthew 22:36-37

This month is all about responsibility, which is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. One of the first things teachers go over each year is the rules—that way their students know what's expected of them so they can have a successful year.

What if your teacher had over 600 classroom rules?

When Jesus lived on earth, that's how many rules Jews had to follow! When this religious leader asked, "What's the most important commandment?," it was intended to be a trick question. But Jesus didn't fall for his trap. Jesus simply replied: Love God. Love others.

Jesus was saying, If you want to know what your responsibility is, it's to put God first. Because when you do that, you won't need 600 other rules.

Now fill in the blanks to personalize this prayer and read it out loud to God:

"Dear God, I love You for so many reasons, especially ..... and ....."

I want to put You first in my life, so please help me to make choices that show my love for You, today and every day. In Jesus' Name, I pray.

Amen."

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 22:39-40

When Jesus answered the religious leader's question about the most important commandment, He didn't stop with "love God." He quickly added the second, equally important part: love others.

When you think about it, loving God and loving others are like two sides of a coin. You can't really say you love God and then turn around and be unkind to your brother or the kid that bugs you at school. And you can't really love your brother or the kid at school without loving God. Why? Because God *is* love. The only reason you know HOW to love is because God loved you first.

### Coin of Responsibility

Grab a coin and cover it with masking tape. Write "God" on one side and "Others" on the other. Carry that coin in your pocket this week to remind yourself of your most important responsibilities. Ask God to help you take that responsibility seriously—that you would love others each day.



DAY 3

### Read Colossians 3:23

Have you ever received a standing ovation at a performance, or heard the roar of the crowd after scoring a goal? Or have you ever received a thank you note from someone?

It's awesome to be recognized for the things you do, but most of the time, the things you do day in and day out won't receive applause or special recognition. That's the nature of responsibility. Sometimes, you just have to do what you have to do.

However, there IS someone who sees and knows all. Every time you choose to be responsible, God sees it. When you're tempted to throw in the towel thinking no one cares about the things you do, remember the ONE that you should ultimately be doing it for loves you more than anyone. When you work with all your heart, it NEVER goes unnoticed.

Were any of the things you've taken responsibility for this week noticed by anyone else? If not, stop and thank God for being there to see it.

DAY 4

### Read James 4:7

We show God our love and trust with our obedience. And how do we know what God wants us to do? By reading God's Word.

Part of what you're doing right now as you read this is showing how special God is to you. By completing this devotional today, you are spending time reading God's Word and listening to what God has to say. When you apply what you've read, when you live it out, you're showing you trust God to know what's best for you.

There is someone who wants to distract you from obeying God. As you read in the James verse, sometimes you have to stand up to the devil who doesn't want you to take responsibility for loving God and loving others well. How do you do that? The good news is, when you choose to obey God, that enemy doesn't stand a chance!

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#### Coin Check

Have you been carrying your coin around this week to remind you to love God and love others? Hold your coin as you pray and thank God for helping you show responsibility each day.



Love God and  
love others.