# Living for Jesus, Not Likes



A 7-day study guiding teens to live for Jesus above approval, focusing on identity, purpose, and faithfulness.





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#### Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey designed specifically for teens who want to live authentically for Jesus, not for the approval or likes of others. In a world dominated by social media, instant gratification, and peer pressure, it can be incredibly challenging to hold onto your faith and live according to God's truth. This study will help you explore what it means to find your worth in Jesus alone and discover how to walk confidently in His purpose for your life.

Every day we'll dive into Scripture, learn powerful truths, and reflect together on how these apply to your everyday life. You'll be encouraged to evaluate where your heart is, move past the need for popularity, and instead embrace the eternal approval of God.

Not only will you gain practical tools, but you'll also be inspired to stand firm in your faith even when it feels like the world is pushing back. Each day will help you replace insecurity with confidence rooted in Christ's love. You will find joy in serving Him rather than pleasing people.

Get ready to grow, deepen your relationship with Jesus, and transform your mindset about what truly matters in life. Remember, living for Jesus isn't always the popular choice, but it's the most rewarding journey you can take. Let's dive in and learn what freedom and fulfillment look like when your life focuses on Him, not on likes or approval!







## Day 1: 🗱 Your True Identity in Christ









Day 1: 🗱 Your True Identity in Christ

#### Your Verse

Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Psalm 139:14 "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
- 1 Peter 2:9 "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood."







Day 1: 💥 Your True Identity in Christ

#### Devotional: Finding Your Identity Beyond Approval

Many teens struggle with self-worth, often comparing themselves to others or seeking acceptance through social media. But the Bible reminds us that our worth isn't determined by likes, followers, or temporary praise—it is defined by who God says we are. In *Galatians 2:20*, Paul tells us that we have died to our old selves and now Christ lives in us. This means our identity is rooted in Jesus, not in the fleeting approval of the world around us.

When you understand this, it changes everything. You no longer have to chase after the empty validation of others because your value is stable, eternal, and secure in Christ. Psalm 139 tells us God made you wonderfully and with intentional design. You are precious and purposefully created.

This truth gives freedom from fear and insecurity. Your life has a deeper meaning than just fitting in or gaining likes. You are chosen, beloved, and empowered to shine for Him in the world. Let this be the foundation for your week.







Day 1: 🎇 Your True Identity in Christ

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you currently define your self-worth?
	What changes when you see yourself as God's child instead of through the world's eyes?
	In what ways can you remind yourself daily of your true identity in Christ?







Day 1: 🎇 Your True Identity in Christ

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a time when you felt pressured to act a certain way to fit in.
2.	List qualities God says you have that make you valuable.
3.	Describe how knowing Christ lives in you changes your view of yourself.







Day 1: 💥 Your True Identity in Christ

#### Prayer for Today

**Dear Jesus,** thank You for loving me unconditionally and for giving me a new identity in You. Help me to remember that my worth comes from being Your child and not from what others say or think about me. Strengthen me to live confidently in who You've made me to be. Guard my heart against the need for approval and help me find joy in serving You. Fill me with Your peace and courage as I walk this path.

In Your name I pray, Amen. 😊 🙏 💙 🦴

















Day 2: <a>E</a> Living Beyond the Screen

#### Your Verse

Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Colossians 3:2 "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."
- Matthew 6:33 "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness."







Day 2: <a>E</a> Living Beyond the Screen

#### Devotional: Choosing Transformation Over Conformity

Social media and online life can easily shape your thoughts and influence your values without you even realizing it. Romans 12:2 challenges us to live differently—not to fit the world's mold but to be transformed through God's renewing power. This begins with protecting your mind from negative or harmful influences and setting your focus on eternal things.

When every scroll or like starts to shape how you feel about yourself, it's time to shift your perspective. Colossians encourages us to seek things above, reminding us that what truly matters is God's kingdom and righteousness. Matthew 6:33 supports this by promising that when we prioritize God first, everything else falls into place.

This means choosing what you feed your mind and heart. It may require limits on screen time, carefully choosing online content, or taking breaks to focus on prayer and reading God's Word. Replacing world-focused thinking with heavenly-mindedness sets you free to live for Jesus, not likes.







Day 2: 📱 Living Beyond the Screen

## Reflect and Apply

1.	How does social media influence your thoughts and feelings?
2.	What patterns in your thinking need renewing according to God's Word?
	What practical steps can you take to focus more on God and less on the world?







Day 2: 📱 Living Beyond the Screen

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about how you feel after spending time on social media.
2.	List actions you can take to renew your mind daily.
3.	Describe what it looks like to seek God's kingdom first in your day.







Day 2: <a>E</a> Living Beyond the Screen

#### Prayer for Today

**Jesus,** help me to not be shaped by the world's values but by Your truth. Teach me to renew my mind daily through Your Word and to set my focus on things above. Guard me from the lies I see online, and help me to live fully for Your kingdom purpose. Thank You for Your transforming power. I trust You to guide my heart and mind.











## Day 3: V Standing Firm in Faith









Day 3: **(**) Standing Firm in Faith

#### Your Verse

Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- James 1:12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial."
- 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith."







Day 3: **(**) Standing Firm in Faith

#### Devotional: Equipped to Stand Strong in Faith

**Living for Jesus means facing challenges and sometimes opposition for your faith, especially as a teen in today's world.** Ephesians 6:11 calls us to put on God's full armor — a spiritual protection that enables us to stand strong and resist temptations or attacks from the enemy.

James 1:12 encourages perseverance, reminding us that staying faithful through trials comes with blessings. And 1 Corinthians 16:13 urges vigilance and steadiness in belief, underscoring the importance of being prepared and steadfast.

Standing firm isn't passive; it's an active choice to trust God, resist pressures, and live boldly for Him. You're not alone in this battle—God equips you with strength, truth, righteousness, and peace so you can stand secure. Remember that by relying on Him, you can overcome the challenges that try to pull you away from your commitment to Jesus.







Day 3:  $\P$  Standing Firm in Faith

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What challenges do you face that test your faith as a teen?
2.	How can you use God's armor to protect yourself spiritually?
3.	What does standing firm in faith look like in your daily life?







Day 3: **(**) Standing Firm in Faith

## **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a time you felt challenged to live for Jesus and how you responded.
	List the pieces of God's armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 and what each means to you.
3.	Describe a way you can stand firm in faith this week.







Day 3: V Standing Firm in Faith

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord God,** thank You for equipping me with Your armor to stand firm against anything that tries to pull me away from You. Help me to recognize the spiritual battles and to rely on Your strength and protection. Give me courage and perseverance to live boldly for You even when it's hard. Strengthen my faith each day and remind me that I am never alone in this fight.



















#### Your Verse

Matthew 22:37 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 14:15 "If you love me, keep my commands."
- 1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."







#### Devotional: Choosing God's Love Above All Else

Our love for God should be the foundation and motivation behind all that we do, replacing the desire for human approval. Jesus clearly teaches in Matthew 22:37 that loving God completely is the greatest commandment. When our hearts are focused on loving Him, we naturally want to obey and live according to His ways.

John 14:15 reminds us that love for Jesus is shown through obedience. This isn't about earning God's love — He loves us first and always, as 1 John 4:19 celebrates — but it is about responding with a love that produces action.

If your heart is devoted to God above all else, the pull for likes, attention, or approval from the world loses power. Your decisions and actions become about glorifying God and following His will. This love creates joy and peace deeper than any digital popularity can provide.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What does loving God with all your heart look like for you today?
2.	How does focusing on God's love change how you respond to peer pressure?
3.	In what ways can obedience be an expression of your love for Jesus?







#### **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about times when choosing God's approval was difficult but rewarding.
2.	List ways you can express love to God this week through your actions.
3.	Describe what it feels like to be loved by God first.







#### Prayer for Today

**Dear Jesus,** teach me to love You with all my heart, soul, and mind above every other desire. Help me to choose Your approval over the fleeting praise of people. Inspire me to obey Your commands as a response to Your great love for me. Fill my heart with joy and peace that comes from living close to You. Let Your love transform my life.



















Day 5: OPURPOSE Over Popularity

#### Your Verse

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."
- Ephesians 2:10 "We are God's handiwork, created for good works."







Day 5: OPURPOSE Over Popularity

#### Devotional: Embracing God's Purpose Over Popularity

Teens often struggle with wanting to be popular or liked by their peers, but God's purpose for your life is far greater. Jeremiah 29:11 assures us that God has good plans for each of us — plans filled with hope and a future. These plans are designed for your well-being and success, not just popularity.

Proverbs encourages us to trust God wholeheartedly and not to rely on our limited understanding of what's best. When you choose to trust Him, you will be led down a path that fulfills His perfect purpose for your life.

God created you uniquely and specially for good works. Ephesians 2:10 reminds you that you are His masterpiece, equipped and designed to do amazing things that glorify Him. When you focus on living purposefully for Jesus, you'll find your identity grounded in serving Him — which is far more meaningful than temporary popularity.







Day 5: Over Popularity

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What does God's purpose for your life look like compared to peer approval?
2.	How can trusting God's plans help you resist the pressure to conform?
3.	What good works do you feel God is calling you to do?







Day 5: OPurpose Over Popularity

### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about your hopes and dreams and how God's plan fits into them.
2.	List steps you can take to trust God more in uncertain moments.
3.	Describe how you can use your talents to serve God and others.







Day 5: Over Popularity

#### Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You that You have good plans for me that bring hope and a bright future. Help me to trust You fully and to lean on Your understanding when I face choices that challenge me. Show me the purpose You have for my life and empower me to walk in the good works You've prepared. Help me to focus on Your plan rather than the fleeting approval of others.



















Day 6: True Friendships in Christ

#### Your Verse

Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."
- John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."







Day 6: True Friendships in Christ

#### Devotional: Building God-Centered Friendships

Friendships are vital in your teens, but not all friendships truly reflect God's love or encourage you to live for Jesus. Proverbs 17:17 highlights that a real friend loves unconditionally, even when circumstances are difficult.

Ecclesiastes reminds us of the strength found in unity; friends support and pick each other up when life is hard. Jesus sets the ultimate example in John 15 by showing the greatest love through self-sacrifice.

Having true friends grounded in Christ will help you stay strong and live authentically. These friends encourage you to seek God's kingdom first, resist peer pressure, and grow in your faith. It is important to treasure these relationships, invest in them, and also be that kind of friend to others.







Day 6: Ծ True Friendships in Christ

## Reflect and Apply

1.	What qualities do you value most in a friend?
2.	How can your friendships help you grow closer to Jesus?
3.	Are there relationships influencing you away from God? How can you handle these?







Day 6: Ծ True Friendships in Christ

## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a friendship that encourages you spiritually.
2.	List ways you can be a better friend to others in Christ.
2	Deflect on any fit of delices that already on the second of the second o
	Reflect on any friendships that challenge your faith and how to address them.







Day 6: True Friendships in Christ

#### Prayer for Today

**Lord,** thank You for the gift of friendships. Help me to find and nurture friendships that honor You and encourage me in faith. Give me the wisdom to recognize true friends and the courage to distance myself from negative influences. Teach me to love others as You love me and to be a friend who supports and uplifts. Strengthen these bonds for Your glory.



















#### Your Verse

Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Nehemiah 8:10 "The joy of the Lord is your strength."
- Psalm 16:11 "In your presence there is fullness of joy."







#### Devotional: Joy as Strength in Your Journey

As this study concludes, one of the most powerful ways to live for Jesus is with joy. Philippians 4:4 commands us to rejoice always, a reminder that joy is not dependent on circumstances but on our relationship with the Lord.

Nehemiah 8:10 calls the joy of the Lord your strength, showing that joy empowers you to face life with hope and resilience. Psalm 16:11 promises fullness of joy in God's presence, an unshakable joy that comes from intimacy with Him.

Choosing joy means focusing on what Jesus has done and trusting His love in every season. When you live joyfully for Jesus rather than chasing likes or approval, your life becomes a testimony that draws others to Him. Let your joy be your strength and your witness to the world.







## Reflect and Apply

1.	What brings you true joy in your life?
2.	How can rejoicing in the Lord shape your daily perspective?
3.	In what ways can your joy impact others around you?







## **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about moments when you felt God's joy in hard situations.
2.	List ways you can choose to rejoice even when life is challenging.
3.	Describe how your joy can be a light to your friends and family.







#### **Prayer for Today**

**Father God,** thank You for the joy You give that surpasses all circumstances. Teach me to rejoice always in Your presence and to let Your joy be my strength. Help me to live each day with a heart full of gladness and hope, shining Your light to those around me. May my life reflect the joy of Jesus and bring glory to Your name.









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