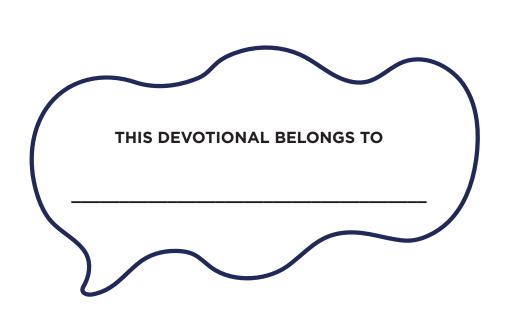


A 14-DAY KIDS' DEVOTIONAL

Loving gracious



TIPS FOR PRAYER TIME

- 1. Find a Special Place to Pray Choose a quiet spot in your home that's free from distractions where you can talk to God. Think of a place where your whole family will fit. It could be your living room (as long as the TV is off!) or your dining room table.
- 2. Choose a Time to Pray Since the goal is to pray with your family, talk to your parents, siblings, or even grandparents about what time would work for everyone in your family to sit down and pray together.
- 3. Look at the Prayer Activity Ahead of Time Before you start, take a peek at what the activity of the day is. Some days you might draw a picture, write a prayer, go outside, or read a Bible verse. Knowing what to expect will help you and your family plan your prayer time.
- **4. Get Your Supplies Ready** Make sure you have everything you need for your prayer activity. This might include crayons, markers, stickers, or a pencil. Gather your supplies before you begin the day's devotional so you don't have to stop in the middle of your prayer time.
- 5. Bring Your Bible Each day will have a verse that goes with it. All the verses are written in this journal, but having your Bible with you will allow you to look at the verse yourself as well. If you're not sure where to find something, ask a grown-up for help!

DAY 1: CREATOR

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

GENESIS 1:1

Do you ever like to just be by yourself, close your eyes, and sit in silence? When you do that, even though you can't see anything, you can usually still hear or smell something. Something is still around you.

Can you imagine "in the beginning" when it was totally empty? There was nothing. Before there was the sun and the moon, people, plants, animals, water, land, or even the sky, there was God. No one created Him. He is the Creator! He was there in the beginning and will be forever.

Are you amazed by all the things He created and how they work together in only a way He could design? The story of creation is one to cherish and shows how much God cares about all He created. Some of our favorite days are days six and seven.

Day 6: God not only created animals, but also us—people—His most treasured creation of all!

People are so important to God that He created you in His very image. His breath brought you to life! He blessed us and wanted us to watch over all His other creatures.

When we sit with God in awe of all His creation, it can bring new life to us! You can see God when you watch the leaves change colors, baby animals be born and grow, sunsets change colors, flowers bloom, and so many more things in nature. God knows how many stars are in the sky and how many hairs are on your head. He loves us all so much, including you!

When God finished creating the heavens and the earth, He was happy and He said it was good!

Day 7: God blessed it and made it holy, and on the seventh day God rested from his work.

He reminds us it's okay to rest. After you've finished something that you've worked hard on and are happy with, it's time to tell yourself *good job* and then rest for the next big thing! Have you ever made something that took so long, that you were so proud of, that you took the time to enjoy sitting back and looking at it? Did you think to yourself, "This is really good," or, "I'm happy with this"?

We praise God because He is the Creator. He made everything you can see, taste, touch, hear, and smell. He made you and everyone on the earth!

PRAYER

Parents, pray this with your child(ren):

"God, thank you for creating the heavens and the earth! Thank you for creating the world and everything in it, especially my family, my friends, and me. Help us to know you more and love you more. Show us how you made us to work in your story for your glory! Amen."

ACTION

As a family, take a walk outside to admire God's wonderful creation! Talk about some of your favorite things God created. Why do you think God created YOU?

DAY 2: FAITHFUL

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

If someone is faithful, it means they are going to do what they say they will do, and they keep their promises. It's like when that one friend is always there for you, or when the school bus shows up right on time every day. The problem is that sometimes, people or things can let us down. Sometimes a friend can't keep their promise and lets you down, and sometimes the bus breaks down or is late to pick you up.

But guess what? God is the most faithful friend we could ever have. He never breaks His promises. Since the beginning of time, He has been showing us how faithful He is!

He promised to rescue the Israelites from Egypt and He did! (Exodus 1-24) He said there would be a flood and there was! (Genesis 6-9) He even sent an angel to tell Mary she'd have a special baby who would save the world and she did! (Luke 1 -2)

God promises to love us, protect us, forgive us when we ask, and be with us no matter what. And you know what? He always keeps His word! He listens when we talk to Him and He's always there for us.

We praise God because He is faithful!

PRAYER

As a family, thank God for being faithful: "God, thank you for the truth that we can always count on you because you never break your promises. Help us trust you more and more every day. Amen."

Let's celebrate God's faithfulness! With your family.

ACTION

take some time to talk about all the ways you've seen God keep his promises in your life. He's always there, just like He said he would be! Write some of the things you talk about below.

DAY 3: WORTHY

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.

REVELATION 4:11

Have you ever been on a big adventure to find hidden treasure? Maybe you've seen a movie where brave explorers go on daring quests to uncover valuable gems or ancient artifacts. (Indiana Jones anyone?!) Well, guess what? We're going on a treasure hunt today, but our treasure is something even more amazing than gold or jewels!

When we talk about something being "worthy," it means it's really special and deserving of our attention and respect. Think about it like this: If you have a super cool toy or a favorite book, you know it's worth taking care of and spending time with, right? Well, God is way more valuable than anything we can imagine! He created everything in the whole world, including you!

The best part is that God isn't just any old king or ruler. He's the King of kings, the ultimate boss of the universe! Only Jesus, God's own Son, lived a perfect life without sin. And when Jesus died on the cross, He showed His power over all the bad stuff in the world, like sin and even death itself. Talk about a hero!

That's why God is our ultimate treasure. He's where our hope comes from, and He's been taking care of us since the very beginning of the world. So, just like people search high and low for hidden treasure, let's remember that God is worthy of our time, our love, and

our praise because He's the greatest treasure of all. And even better, we don't have go searching for Him because he is always with us!

We praise God because He is worthy!

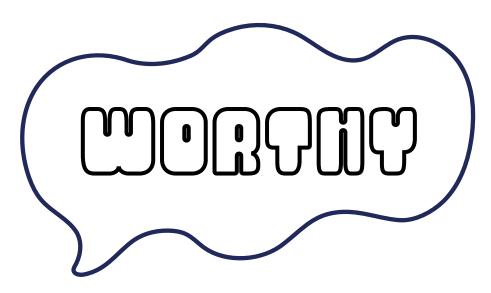
PRAYER

As a family, pray and tell God that he is worthy of all our praise and worship:

"Dear God, Thank you for dying on the cross to save us! You are in control of the world and have been faithful from the beginning of time! Help me to spend more time being in awe of your presence, because you are worthy of it all! Amen"

ACTION

As a family, take a walk outside and go on your own treasure hunt. While you're out, take time to notice all the things God created and gather some of your favorite "treasures" along the way. Maybe you'll find enough flowers to make a bouquet!



DAY 4: GOOD

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

PSALM 27:13

Have you ever experienced something bad or hard? Maybe your brother or sister or someone at school was mean to you. How did that make you feel when they were mean to you? When people are mean to you it can make you feel sad, angry, upset, and hurt.

Thankfully, we can know for certain that God is not a mean God. Unlike those friends or people who may have been mean to you or have done something bad to you, God will never do that to you. God is a GOOD God and He loves you so much!

The Bible tells us that we can be confident we will see God's goodness. How can we know for sure that God is good? One way we can know this for sure is because God sent His only son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sins because He loves you!

You may wonder if you will still see God's goodness and love even when you make a mistake. Have you ever messed up and your parents got upset with you? Did your parents still tell you they love you after you messed up? Just like your parents still love you even when you mess up, God will always love you no matter what. We can see God's goodness through His love.

What are other ways you can see God's goodness in your life? We can see His goodness through His presence, His love, His compassion, His grace, and His faithfulness.

We praise God because He is good!

PRAYER

Parents, ask your child one way they have seen God's goodness today and then pray this together:

"God, thank you for showing me your goodness today through ______. Thank you for loving me every day and always showing me your goodness, even when I go through something hard. Help us to remember that we can always see goodness in our life because of you. We love you so much. Amen."

ACTION

Take a piece of paper and have each member of your family write down three to five ways you've seen God's goodness in your life this week. You can also get some colors and draw these things instead. Share what you wrote/drew and talk about these things together as a family.



DAY 5: GRACIOUS

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

PSALM 145:8-9

Have you ever had someone show you unexpected kindness? Maybe they helped you with your homework or gave you the toy that you really wanted. Maybe someone was super nice to you when you were nervous or upset about something. Think about the person who did the kind thing. Now think about how God has been even *more* kind to us!

God being gracious means that He gives us things even when we don't deserve it. The greatest gift He has ever sent was sending His son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our forgiveness. This was something we never could have earned and yet God freely gave it to us. God is so good that even though He already gave us the best gift, His gifts don't stop there!

God is gracious to us by showing us compassion. That means when we're sad, upset, or nervous, He knows how we feel and can comfort us.

God is gracious to us by being slow to anger. When we mess up or do something we know we shouldn't, God gifts us with forgiveness rather than anger.

God is gracious to us by loving us. He doesn't just love us like how we love our favorite food. He deeply loves us, even when we mess up. He loves us more than we could ever understand! No matter what great gift you receive in this life, like a toy, treat, or friend, God has given us the best gift— His grace!

We praise and thank God because He is gracious!

PRAYER

Parents, ask your child for one thing that God gave them or did for them that day because He is gracious. Then pray this prayer:

"Lord, we thank you for the gift of _____. Thank you for giving me gifts when I do not deserve them. Thank you for loving me and forgiving me and sending the best gift of all, Jesus! You are the best and we love you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

ACTION

Take a piece of paper and draw a large heart on it. Inside the heart write gifts that God has given you. It can be things He's done, things that describe Him, or people He's sent to be in your life. Parents, remind your child that God sends good gifts because He is gracious and loves them.



DAY 6: LOVING

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

PSALM 103:8

When one of our staff members was eight years old, she did an experiment with her phone that ended up ruining her phone. She was so scared to tell her mom. She knew that it was going to cost a lot of money for them to fix the problem, so she lied to her mom about what happened. She was scared to tell her she made a mistake and was worried her mom wouldn't love her as much. For weeks, she felt yucky. Trying to hide the truth made her feel worse and worse each day.

She finally told her mom the truth. She told her she was the one that ruined the phone. Her mom talked with her and gave her consequences—consequences for ruining my phone and consequences for lying. After all of that, her mom hugged her and told her how much she loved her. Her mom explained to her that even when she makes mistakes, she still loves her.

God's love is more gracious and even bigger than how much our families and friends love us. He loves us when we do a great job with something. He loves us when we do a not-so-great job at something. He loves us when we feel happy and helpful. He loves us when we feel sad, alone, or angry. God will always be there for you with a loving Spirit that makes you feel safe.

We praise God because He is loving! We can be honest with Him knowing that nothing we tell Him will change His love for us.

PRAYER

Pray this prayer together as a family:

"God, thank you for your love. Thank you for helping me feel safe and loved when I make mistakes. Thank you for loving me when I am doing my best. I pray that I always feel the safety and comfort of your love. Amen."

ACTION

Everyone has times where they struggle, make mistakes, or feel lonely. As a family, have a conversation about a time when you were fearful, felt lonely, or made a mistake. How did you get through that time with the abounding love of God? Write your thoughts and discussion below.

DAY 7: MERCIFUL

You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

MICAH 7:18

Have you ever made a bad decision, not listened to your mom or dad, or hurt someone's feelings? Has there ever been a time you were given a second chance instead of a punishment that you deserved?

"Mercy" is the forgiveness of a punishment that you should have received. Because of our relationship with Jesus, God will always give us mercy and forgive us when we don't listen to Him or go against what He says. God does not give us His mercy because He has to, but because He "delights" in giving us second chances. He has so much love for us as His children and His creation. Even though He is sad when we don't follow Him, He will always forgive us when we run to Him for forgiveness.

The biggest way we can see God's mercy is that He sent His son to die on the cross for our sins! (John 3:16) Even though we deserve punishment for our sins, we receive mercy from God because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Because God gives us His mercy, we should also give mercy to other people. Is there someone you need to forgive and give a second chance? Maybe your brother or sister, or a friend at school?

We praise God because He is merciful!

PRAYER

Parents, pray this with your child:

"Dear God, thank you for your mercy even when I don't deserve it. I praise you for always giving me a second chance and for welcoming me back into your arms. I pray you would give me the strength to love others in the same way that you do. Amen."

As a family, take some time to think about and share

ACTION

someone, or a time when you gave someone else a second chance! Write anything you want to remember in the space below.

DAY 8: OMNIPOTENT

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

REVELATION 1:8

What's something you think of as powerful? For some, one of the first things they think of are the mountains. Maybe when you think of power you think of power tools or a power drink, or a superhero with super powers, or maybe even an athlete!

There are so many things in this world that are powerful, but all those things at some point lose their power. Mountains crumble. Power drinks and power tools only last for so long. Superheroes can be defeated by villains. Athletes get injured.

There truly is only one thing that is *all powerful*, and that's God!

God is omnipotent, which means He is all powerful, and that there's nothing that can limit His power. He is unstoppable!

We can see glimpses of His mighty power all throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. We see it through the miracles He performed and the way He appeared to people. And in Revelation, the last book of the Bible, God gave the apostle John a glimpse of His ultimate power and glory. In Revelation 1:8 God says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Nothing was before God, and nothing is after God. There is nothing that can compete with His power! As Christians we can live in hope because God is always with us and uses His power to protect us, comfort us, and draw us closer to Him.

We praise God because He is omnipotent!

PRAYER Parents, pray this over your kids: "God we lift up to you today. We pray they will see and know that you are all powerful and that they can rely on you in all situations. We praise you for your mighty power and for all the ways you have shown that in the life of our family. Amen."
ACTION Kids, make a list of five items that you think are powerful. Then with your parents make another list of how those items lose their power. Remember that God is all powerful and He will never lose His power!
1
2
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DAY 9: OMNIPRESENT

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

PSALM 139:7-8

If you could have any super power, what would it be? Would you want to have the power to fly? Or maybe you would want to be able to read people's minds. Did you know that God actually has some really special qualities that seem like super powers? One of these is His omnipresence!

Omnipresence means that God's presence is everywhere. There is nowhere that we can go to hide from Him because everywhere we go, He is already there. We will never be alone because He is always with us! There's not a place we can go or thought we can think that makes God love us any less. Even though we can't see Him, we can know that He is with us in every single moment, through every high or low.

One time, when one of our interns was in elementary school, she was shopping at the store with her dad. One moment he was right beside her, and the next she turned around and he was gone. Immediately she became afraid because she was alone and lost in a place she didn't recognize. But soon after she realized she didn't know where her dad was, she heard him calling out her name. He came running after her and comforted her in his arms.

In the same way, our heavenly Father will always call after us when we try to turn the other way. When we

feel lost, alone, or afraid, we can find comfort in the God who never leaves our side.

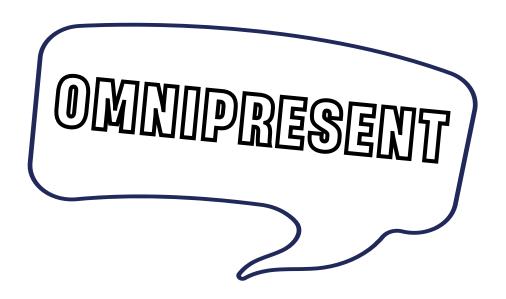
We praise God because He is always with us and we will never be alone!

PRAYER

Parents, pray this with your child(ren) today: "Dear God, thank you that you are always with me. Thank you for loving me even when I run from you. Help me to remember that even when I feel alone, you will never leave my side. In Jesus' name, Amen."

ACTION

Kids and parents, talk together about some ways you can see that God is always near you. Then draw or write these on a piece of paper and put it in a place where you'll be reminded every day that God is with you!



DAY 10: OMNISCIENT

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

PSALM 147:5

Do you have a best friend? A friend who seems to know everything about you? Someone who knows your favorite color, your favorite snack, your favorite animal, your favorite sports team? Maybe your best friend is even your mom or your dad!

We feel seen and loved when people in our lives remember things that are important to us. But sometimes people can be forgetful. Have you ever had a friend forget it was your birthday? It can be really hurtful when people close to us forget things that are important to us.

The good news is that we all have someone in our lives who really does know *everything* about us: God! God is omniscient, which means he is *all knowing*. Like we read in Psalm 147:5, His understanding has no limit!

In Psalm 139:1-3 we read: "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down, you are familiar with all my ways."

Even better than a friend who knows all of your favorite things, God truly knows every detail about you and your life. You can turn to Him in prayer about anything and everything and He won't be surprised. He knows you so well!

We praise God because He is all-knowing. He is omniscient!

PRAYER

Families, pray this prayer together today:

"Dear God, we are grateful that you are all-knowing and always with us! Thank you for always being available to us through prayer. Help us remember that we really can come to you with anything. We can share our thoughts, feelings, and worries with you. You already know what we are going through. We love you and are grateful for you. In Jesus' name, amen."

ACTION

Let's see how well you know each other! Each family member take a piece of paper and write down your favorite color, favorite snack, favorite animal, and favorite sports team. Fold the papers up and place them in a bowl. Take turns drawing a paper and reading the favorites out loud. Try to guess whose favorites they are!



DAY 11: RIGHTEOUS

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

PSALM 145:17

Have you ever played a game with someone who changes the rules while you play? You think you understand the game, but the rules keep changing, and somehow the change always helps the other person get ahead! You find yourself saying, "This isn't fair!" It can be really frustrating to try to play like that. Or maybe you've been tempted to change the rules of a game to help you win. It's okay to admit that—none of us are perfect!

While we will experience unfair moments with people in our lives, we can always trust that "the Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does."

God is righteous. This means He is always just, He is always fair, He is always honest. He doesn't change the rules on us to make things harder as we go. Not only is God righteous and faithful in His ways, but He wants to show us the way, too!

Through His word in the Bible, we can read God's plan for all of us! When we spend time with God reading our Bible and talking with him in prayer, we can gain a better understanding of who He is and who we can be with Him in our lives.

In our Kids Camp memory verse, Acts 2:28, we read, "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." When we follow God we can experience JOY in His presence!

We praise God because He is righteous!

PRAYER

Families, pray this prayer together today: "Dear God, thank you for the example you set for us. You are always just, always fair, always honest. Thank you for being faithful and righteous and guiding us as we choose to follow you. And thank you for the JOY we receive from you! In Jesus' name, amen."

ACTION

Praise God together by reading Psalm 145 out loud, then pick out your favorite board game and play together as a family.



DAY 12: SOVEREIGN

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

For many (especially for grown ups!), one of the first things they do when they wake up is make a mental list of everything they have going on that day, and then make plans so that it all goes exactly how they want it to. But the truth is, no matter how hard we might plan, sometimes things happen within our day that are out of our control. It starts raining when you're outside, your mom or dad get stuck in traffic, someone says something hurtful to you, your friend decides at the last minute to not hang out...

Maybe you've faced a day too where it felt like nothing was working out and you didn't have any control. When days like that happen, it can be really easy to feel down and discouraged.

But we can have hope, even on our worst days because God is sovereign—He is in control! When we read the Bible, we see true stories of others who were facing difficult things, and yet God was still in control. He used those situations for good or to help draw people closer to Him. And in Romans 8:28 we read that "God works for the good of those who love him..."

No matter what challenges we face we can be encouraged that God is still in control! He has always been in control since the very beginning, and He will forever remain in control.

We praise God because He is in control!

PRAYER

As a family, say this prayer together:

"God, we praise you because you are in control of everything! Thank you for looking out for us and helping us when we face hard things. Help us to remember that even on bad days and when we face hard things, you are still with us, working everything out for good. Amen!"

ACTION

Think of someone you know who is facing a hard time and do something kind for them as a family. Draw them a card, write them a letter, drop off a care package on their front porch. Do something kind to encourage them and remind them God loves them!



DAY 13: UNCHANGING

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

JAMES 1:17

Have you ever heard someone say, "Nobody is perfect"? It's true! No human is perfect, but God is! And since He's perfect, God has no reason to change. He will always stay the same. He will always tell the truth, protect us, keep His promises, know everything, and love you no matter what! We can ask God to help us to be honest, keep our promises, and love like Him.

Can you imagine something not changing? What are some things that have changed for you lately? Did you get a new teacher, new friends, maybe tried a new sport? Some changes are good changes, and some are hard. A haircut can be a good change, or maybe one you don't really like it at first. New shoes can be fun, or maybe they give you a blister!

What are some things that you think to stay the same more than change? How about your family? Your parents will love you no matter what you do or say. God's love never changes. Even when so many other things change, we can know and trust God is still there!

Have you ever had a favorite of something that you love more than all the others—maybe a favorite blanket or shoes or a book? It's so nice at first, but the more you have it and the longer it's there, it gets worn and sometimes you have to get a new one. The good news is God's love never gets old or wears out!

Hebrews 1:11-12 says, "They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

We praise God because He is unchanging. Thanks be to God for always staying the same!

PRAYER

As a family, pray this prayer together:

"God, thank you for never changing. We can always count on you and know your love never changes! No matter what we do or how we change, you still love us. Lord help us to grow closer to you every day and to trust in your promises. In your heavenly name we pray, amen."

ACTION

Give each child a piece of paper and something to draw with. Encourage kids to quickly draw three pictures of themselves. 1) What they were like as a baby, 2) What they're like now and 3) What they think they'll be like when they're a grown up. Talk about how people change, but God stays the same. He's always the same God!



DAY 14: WISE

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

JAMES 1:5

One afternoon one of our staff's daughters came home from school feeling discouraged and carrying a huge burden. When her mom asked her what was wrong, she explained that her friends wanted to play a trick on her teacher. She felt in her heart that it was a bad decision, but her friends really wanted her to join them. She didn't want to go against what her friends were doing because she didn't want to upset them or feel left out.

Her mom told her that we should pray about it because God hears and answers prayers. God knows all things and He is full of wisdom. James 1:5 says, "Do any of you need wisdom? Ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. So, he will give you wisdom." That's exactly what her daughter needed in that moment—wisdom to make the right decision!

After they prayed, she knew that playing a trick on her teacher was not something that would be honoring to God. Her mom was very proud of her for asking God for wisdom during that decision. Sometimes it's hard when we feel peer pressure from our friends to do something that we know is not right. In those moments, we can invite God in and ask Him for wisdom to help us make the right decision.

Proverbs 3:5 says, "With every step you take, think about what he wants, and he will help you go the right way." When we pray, read our Bible, and memorize Bible verses, it helps us grow to closer to God and He can help us apply His wisdom to every situation.

We praise God because he gives us wisdom!

PRAYER

As a family, pray this prayer together:

"God, thank you for always being with us! You are a God who loves us and who we can depend on to give us wisdom in hard situations. Help us remember to turn to you first in every situation, knowing that you will always guide us toward the right path. Amen."

Kids, write James 1:5 on a sticky note and put it in a place you can see every day to help you memorize the

ACTION

verse. P	ractice v	writing	it below	<i>/</i> .	

