

**GO DEEPER**

**BOTTOM LINE**

**DISCIPLES TRUST GOD EVEN WHEN HARD THINGS HAPPEN**

**MEMORY VERSE**

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." **Luke 9:23 (NLT)**

**DAILY DEVOTIONS**

**DAY 1: LET GOD LEAD**

*READ - Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 3:5-6*

When things are hard, do you want to know how everything's going to work out? When you face a struggle, are you ever tempted to take matters into your own hands? If you try to handle everything on your own, you will experience struggle and confusion. But there is a better way. God wants you to let Him lead. Do you believe God knows what's best for you? If you do, then you can follow Him, even if the way He is leading you doesn't make sense to you or may feel hard or scary. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

**DAY 2: STEPHEN'S EXAMPLE**

*READ - Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-57*

Stephen had to go through some really hard things. He could have tried to run away to save his own life, but he didn't. He kept following Jesus because he trusted God, and God was with him. Stephen was filled with God's Holy Spirit, and it was the Holy Spirit that gave him courage and faith to keep trusting and obeying God, even when hard things were happening. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

**DAY 3: FAITH OVER FEAR**

*READ - Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 118:6*

Stephen was filled with the Spirit and the love for his Savior, so he just had to share about Jesus. When the people became angry, was Stephen afraid? We can't know for sure how Stephen was feeling, but if he was afraid his faith in God was bigger than his fear. Stephen knew man has no power compared to God. People can try to hurt you, but if you are a child of God, no one can separate you from Him! That is a reason to trust Him, even when things are hard. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

**DAY 4: PEACE**

*READ - Psalm 34:18, John 14:27, John 16:33, James 1:2-3*

Did you know God offers you His peace? When you try to do things in your own strength and leave God out, you will likely become tired and frustrated. But when you fully trust God, He gives you His peace. When you stop trying to figure everything out, you give God room to lead your life. He is fighting for you as you go through the challenges in your life. He loves you and is close to you even when you're hurting most. **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**

**DAY 5: LOVING OTHERS WHEN ITS HARD**

*READ - Acts 7:54-60*

Even when facing hard things, Stephen showed others God's love. Stephen didn't stop sharing the truth of Jesus being the Savior of the world. He wanted everyone to believe and choose to follow Jesus. Not only did Stephen show love by sharing the Gospel, but he also forgave those who lied about him and even those who were killing him! Wow! Talk about extreme love and trust. Where in your life can you trust God and love others, even when it's hard? **Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen!**



## PERSONALIZED PROMISES

*Materials: Bible, paper, pens*

When you are having a hard time do you turn to God's Word? God's Word can help remind you of God's truth and bring peace to your heart and mind. When you read promises from God's Word, did you know you can make it personal by putting your own name in it! God's promises are for you! Check out John 16:33

"I have told \_\_\_\_\_ these things, so that in me \_\_\_\_\_ may have peace. In this world \_\_\_\_\_ will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Copy this verse on a piece of paper and everywhere there is a blank write your name. How does it make you feel to know that God loves you and wants to help you grow even in the hard times.

**Remember: Disciples Trust God Even When Hard Things Happen**



## ALL THE TIME

*Materials: paper, scissors, marker/pen*

Think about a time something hard has happened in your life. Did you remember God was with you? If so, how did that help you? If not, how does knowing He was there help you now as you think back on that time?

Use the paper to create a watch as a reminder that you can trust God all the time. Even when hard things happen! Use markers to decorate your watch. Somewhere on your watch, write, "I can trust God all the time!"

Is there something hard in your life right now? Ask God to help you trust Him all the time. On days that feel easy and on days that seem hard!



## STONE REMINDERS

*Materials: paper stone or real stone, markers, scissors*

The message that Stephen preached is still true today! We need to hear the good news that Jesus loves us and forgives our sins when we ask for forgiveness. Memorizing scripture helps keep us ready to share this good news with others.

"Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23 (NLT)

Create a paper stone or go outside and find a large smooth stone. Write Luke 9:23 on your stone. Ask God to help you follow and trust Him even when hard things happen. Then, take time and pray for the other Christ Followers around the world today who may be facing hard things because of sharing their faith.