

YM360

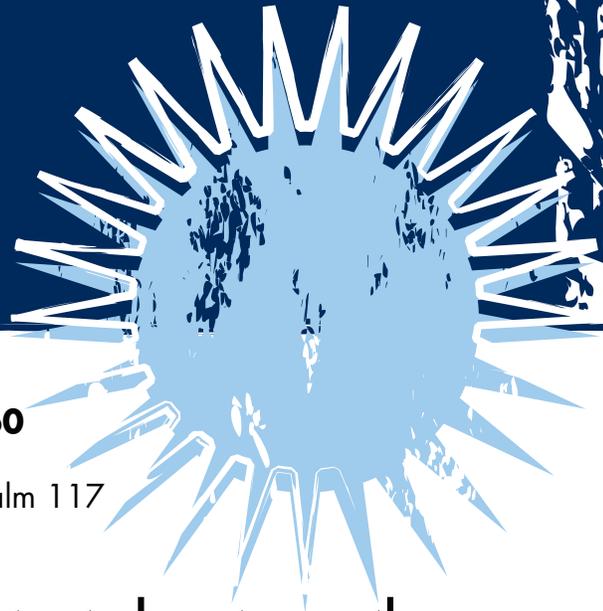


7-Day Discipleship Journal For Youth

**A selection of daily devotionals from 12-Month
Student Discipleship Journal by Joel Lusz**

Joel Lusz

Day 1



There are **929** chapters in the Old Testament. There are **260** chapters in the New Testament. This gives a total of **1,189** chapters. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. Psalm 117 is also the very middle chapter of the Bible, chapter 595!

So, let's read Psalm 117, the shortest chapter in the entire Bible.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness
of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.

In this psalm, we can see what we can call God's "lovingkindness." In *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, author Sally Lloyd Jones defines lovingkindness as "God's Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love."¹

Take a second to underline the third line above: "For great is his love toward us."

The Truth:

This is God's love for you. Think about that for a second. God loves you. He has always loved you. He will never stop loving you. Always. Forever. Never stopping.

Take a few moments to pray and thank God for this amazing love he has for you.

¹ Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

Day 2



Good morning! Read Psalm 9:1

There are three parts to this psalm. What are they?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

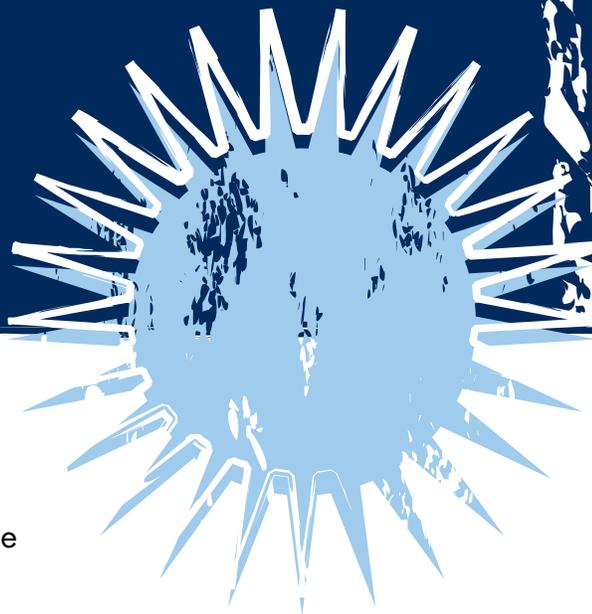
Quick question. The psalmist writes, "I will tell of your wonderful deeds." How often do you tell your friends of the wonderful things God is doing in your life?

The Truth:

We talk a lot! But do we talk about what God is doing in our lives?

Take a few moments to reflect on what God has been doing in your life, in big or small ways. What do you have to be thankful for? Where have you felt loved or cared for? Where have you been challenged? Talk with God about all of this.

Day 3



Read Psalm 27:1

What are you afraid of? Spiders? Snakes? Heights? List three things that scare you:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Bible talks a lot about being afraid. There is certainly a lot to fear in this world. But one of the clear messages of the Bible is that we do not have to be afraid. We do not have to fear.

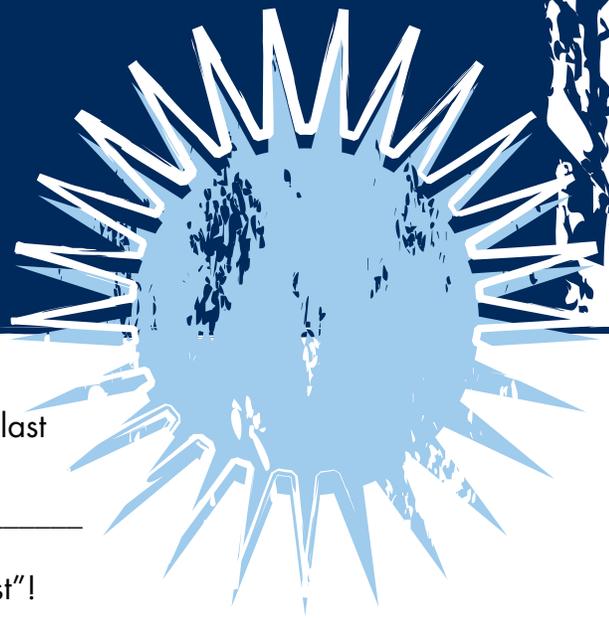
The Truth:

Overcoming fear is really about trust. When we trust, we lose fear. When we trust ourselves, or trust our parents, or trust our teachers, or our friends, we become less afraid. We can relax because we know someone else has got it. We can lean on them.

So, think for a second: How can you become more trusting of Jesus? What do you fear, and what would it be like to give some of that to God? Take a minute and write down a few thoughts.

Take a few moments and pray.

Day 4



Quick, look back at Day 3 and remind yourself of what the last entry addressed. In one word, what was it about?

I will give you credit if you wrote down either "fear" or "trust"!

Now read Psalm 84:12

I love this verse. This is another verse that's all about trusting the Lord.

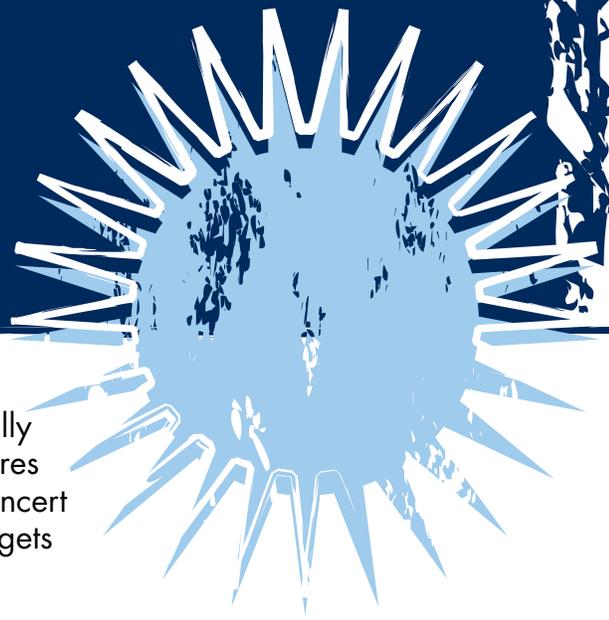
Take a moment and write down what you think it means to trust Jesus.

The Truth:

God wants us to totally trust him. And we can do that! But it may take some time. Many of us need more practice trusting others, and that includes God. It's okay. Hang in there. Practice trusting God with small things. Practice looking back on your day or your week and asking yourself how the things you feared turned out. Ask yourself where you saw God with you in the midst of your worries or concerns.

Spend a few moments now talking with God.

Day 5



Do you ever get so pumped about something that you actually shout out loud? Like at a sporting event when your team scores the winning point? Or maybe when you get tickets to the concert you thought was sold out? The psalmist of our next reading gets this way, too.

Read Psalm 100:1-5

In this passage we can feel the writer's excitement when he enters God's "gates and courts." In other words, when he gets a chance to go to church (or any place where he is with friends worshipping and thanking God), the psalmist does so with thanksgiving and praise!

Let me ask you this: What is your attitude when you come to church? The thing I hear most of all on Sunday mornings is, "I am so tired!" I rarely hear people talk about being excited about church on those early mornings.

So, what could you do to have a better Sunday morning experience? Write your thoughts below:

The Truth:

Like this psalmist, God loves it when we enter his church with thanksgiving, joy, openness, and excitement. Sometimes we need a paradigm shift—a "re-thinking" about our Sunday morning experience. Having an excited, praising, encouraging, thankful heart on Sunday mornings will change everything!

Thank God that you have the opportunity to worship him together with friends on Sunday mornings, and ask him to make it great for you!

Day 6



Read Psalm 8:1-9

This is a beautiful psalm of praise and thanksgiving acknowledging who God is. It is God—or as it's written in this psalm, God's name—that is to be praised above all else. Take a few moments this morning and set aside all the things that cause you to worry—your school work, drama with friends, grades, dates, etc.—and focus on who God is and how good he has been to you.

What's something you want to focus on less today so that you can notice God's presence and generosity more? Write it down:

The Truth:

The psalmist writes, "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9). There is no name above the name of our Lord.

Thank him in your prayer.

Day 7



Do you ever wonder about your future? Of course you do.

The great news of the Bible is that we have a God who knows us and will be with us always. We can trust him with our future.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6

Wow. Recognize this verse? We read it earlier. It's so important that we came back to it. Basically, this proverb encourages us to trust God with EVERYTHING in our lives, including our future. "Trust" God with all your heart. And then give him all that you are ("submit to him"). And he will take care of your future ("make your paths straight").

The Truth:

It is good news that we can trust God with everything we are and everything we will be. It's not like he shows us everything in advance, though. It's more like having a flashlight in the pitch-black dark. You can't really see what is around you, but you can see what's in front of you, for a short distance. You can't see miles down the road. The good news is you can see enough to keep moving forward.

Pray and thank God for being so trustworthy.