



Anyone who believes in Jesus is a citizen of heaven. Our loyalty is to Jesus, our King. We will serve no other. And He has amazing blessings in store for all of His citizens. If we are sure that heaven is real, we will live our life here differently.

Day #1: Rule Maker

Have you ever played the game of Monopoly? Who do you think made up the rules for the game? It was Charles Darrow who invented the game (in 1934), so Charles made up the rules. Would it make sense for someone else to sit down to play and just start making up his own way to play? Of course not. The creator knows the intent of the game, and he knows the right way to play it.

So, who do you think makes the rules of the world we live in?

Genesis 1 tells us that God made the heavens and the earth. He made land and seas, the sun, moon and stars, every animal, bird, and sea creature. And—saving the best for last—He created people. Since God created us and the world we live in, He knows best how everything works. He gets to decide the principles that we all live by.

Paul told his friends:



Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. - Philippians 1:27a NLT

When Paul tells us to live as citizens of heaven, he is telling us to follow the guidelines that our King, the Creator of heaven and earth, has given us in His word. All of His rules are good because He is good and wants only the best for each of His citizens.



Can you name 10 things that God created? Thank Him for those things and for the fact that He knows BEST how everything works - in heaven and on earth.

Day #2: Take Aim

C.S. Lewis, author of many Christian books including the Narnia series, once said:

Day #2 continued:

“Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.”

What do you think this means?

As believers in Jesus, we belong to heaven. Our amazing God has the best rules and the highest standards. His laws are far better than the laws that we are given by our state or nation.

For example, we have laws in our country that say you can't hit someone (battery). That's a really good law. But God's law is better. God says not only are you not allowed to hit anyone, but you must not hate anyone (Matthew 5:22). Also, the law of our land says that you must not steal from anyone. That's a great law. But God's law is better. It says, not only can you not steal, but you should even give to those who want to take from you (Matthew 5:40). God's law also says to love, forgive, help, and pray for others. There is no human law that demands we do these good things.

So, if we are only trying to follow the law of our country or state, we will fall short of God's awesome standard. Then our life on earth won't be nearly as full and joyful as God intends it to be. On the other hand, if our goal is to follow God's laws, with the help of His Holy Spirit, we will have the most amazing life on earth, *and* we'll have a life that has rewards in heaven!



But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. - Matthew 5:19b



What kind of life do you want to live? One that only meets the laws of this land, or a kingdom-focused life that is all God wants it to be? Pray now and ask God to give you the wisdom to live according to His will and His ways.

Day #3: Life Is...

Have you ever lost anything that was really important to you? What was it, and how did losing it make you feel? Sometimes we can lose more than just an object. Have you ever lost a friend because they moved away? Or maybe you lost the opportunity to play a sport because you broke your leg.

Day #3 continued:

It's really important that you don't base your life on something you can lose. It's great to play sports, hang out with friends, try to make good grades, and do different hobbies. But be certain, none of these things should be the center of your life. The center should be Jesus. He's the One thing we can never lose.



I give them eternal life, and they will never die. No one can steal them out of my hand. - John 10:28

So Paul centered his life on Jesus:

For to me, living means living for Christ... - Philippians 1:21a

Jesus was the most important thing in Paul's life. He traveled, met people, worked as a tent maker, hung out with friends, and many other things. But all of those things were secondary to loving Jesus and telling the world about Him.



How would you finish this statement?

"For me, living means _____."

Is this something you can lose? If there's anything more important in your life than living for Jesus, things are not as they should be. Ask Jesus to be the center of your life.

Day #4: Heaven Bound

(For extra-sensory fun, eat a piece of fruit while you read through this FIT day.)

What is your favorite fruit? Can you name another? Can you name 12 kinds of fruit?

Listen to what the Bible tells us about heaven:



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life – water as clear as crystal – pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations. - Revelation 22:1-2 NET

Can you imagine a tree like that? Doesn't that sound amazing? Heaven will be full of things that we have never imagined! Just listen to this description:

Now God makes His home with people. He will live with them. They will be His people. And God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or sadness. There will be no more

Day #4 continued:

crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be. - Revelation 21:3-4

Paul was not afraid of dying at all. He was absolutely certain that heaven is real, and that it is better our wildest imagination! In fact, he truly believed that life in heaven would be *better* than life on earth (Philippians 1:21). But Paul was willing to stay alive on earth as long as God could use him to help others, teach others about the joy of following Jesus, and grow God's kingdom.



What do you think the best part of heaven will be? Can you thank God for preparing such an awesome place? Ask God to make every single minute of your life on earth as fruitful as Paul's was!

Day #5: No Fear

Can you make a scared face? What about a courageous face or a bold face? Keep those faces in mind.

God gave Paul the amazing and wonderful job of telling people all over the world about Jesus. So many people came to believe in Jesus because of Paul's faithful witness. But along the way, he also faced many people who did not want the message of Jesus to spread. People lied about him, beat him, and even threw him in jail on several occasions. Let's hear what Paul said about these people. He gave this advice to his friends:



So don't be afraid in any way of those who oppose you. - Philippians 1:28a

He went on to say that God would save the believers from their enemies. Paul had gone through so much, and yet he was not afraid. He knew that God always comes through. And he knew that God's bold Holy Spirit lived inside of him.

But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. - 1 John 4:4

Paul kept his mind on the promises of God. God told Paul that he would tell many people—including kings—about Jesus (Acts 9:15). God promised Paul that He would be with him. And God promised that one day He would end all evil—all lying, beating, and chains on innocent people. Paul's faith in God and the promise of heaven kept him bold at all times, and brought peace and joy to his heart.



What is your favorite promise in the Bible? Keep your focus on that. God ALWAYS keeps His promises!