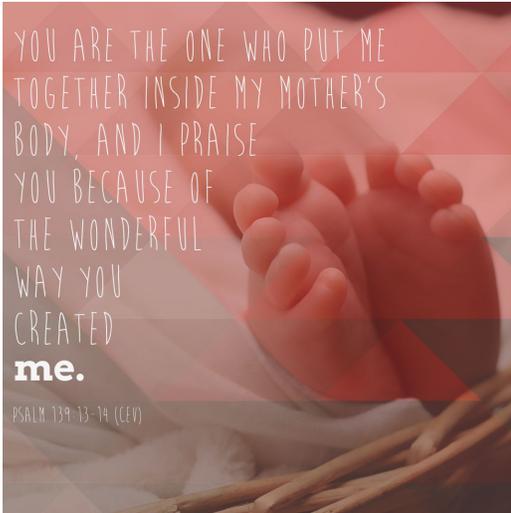


ME TIME

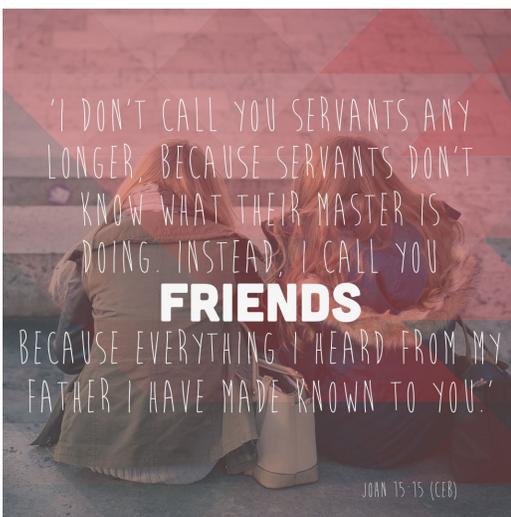
September 24-29, 2018



Monday September 24

"You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me." (Psalm 139:13-14 CEV)

Pray to God // Have you ever wondered what the difference is between thanking God and praising God? One helpful way to think about it is that we say thanks for what God *does* and we praise God for who God *is*. When David thought about the way that God handcrafted him, he gave God praise. In other words, he saw what God had done and that taught him something about who God is. What about the way you were made tells you something about who God is or what God is like? Turn that into a simple prayer by saying, "Creator God, I praise you because . . ."



Tuesday September 25

"I don't call you servants any longer, because servants don't know what their master is doing. Instead, I call you friends, because everything I heard from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15 CEB)

Hear from God // We know that God created us and thinks we are "good," but does God *like* us? Jesus gives his disciples a clear answer on that one: we are friends of Jesus and that makes us friends of God. It's easy to think about God as a creator, but through Jesus we know that God thinks we're pretty cool. Have you ever dreamt that a favorite musician or athlete would notice you and want to be your friend? We have that with the creator of the *universe* and that's pretty amazing.



Wednesday September 26

"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." (Hebrews 13:7 ESV)

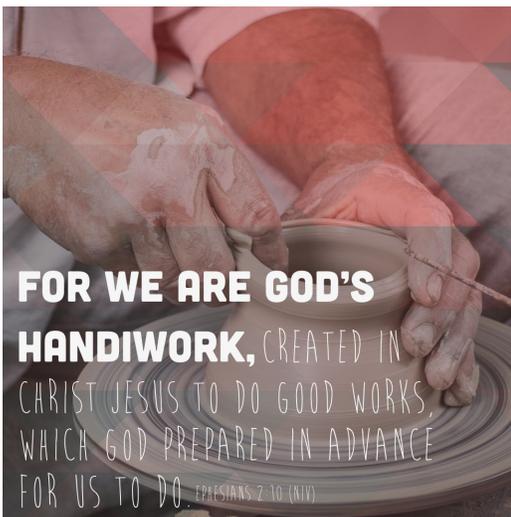
Talk about God // If we want to learn a sport, we find a coach. If we need help in school, we go to a tutor. But where do you go when you want to grow in your faith? Thankfully you have lots of options here: your Small Group Leaders, pastors, and parents are all possibilities! The writer of the letter to the Hebrews suggests that we take a look at the lives of our leaders and imitate those who are living out their faith. Who is an adult in your life you would like to imitate? Once you have thought of someone, find a way to get in touch with them and let them know that they are providing an example you would like to follow and know more about.



Thursday September 27

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17 NIV)

Live for God // Inviting mentors to speak affirmation and challenge into our lives is definitely good for us, but it is also good for the mentor! As the Proverb tells us, iron sharpens iron and that is a beautiful thing. As you build your team of adult mentors, ask them how you can be affirming and challenging them too. They are just like you: made and loved by God with the potential to live even more into that image of God. The more we see our relationships as two way streets and opportunities to receive *and* give, the more they will strengthen us to love God / love others / love life.



Friday September 28

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Hear God's Call // Most of the stuff we own either falls into one category: it was either built for form (to be beautiful) or function (to be useful). Get this: you were created for form *and* function. You are God's beautiful creation and you were built to point others to the Creator who created you. But you're also unique: the way you were built to do this is going to be different from everyone else. Through trying new things, prayer, and guidance from mentors you can find your sweet spot: that place where your talents, passions, and gifts line up with what the world around you needs: to know the love of God and the hope of Christ.



Saturday September 29

"Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows" (Isaiah 1:17 NLT)

Seek God's Justice // In this verse Isaiah the prophet records God's commands for Israel and, in those commands, we see God's special concern for people who are often overlooked and invisible: the oppressed, orphans, and widows. These are people who, because of what they lack, may feel or may be told that they are worth less than others. When we affirm the oppressed and orphans and widows as being seen and known and loved by God, we are caring for those who God cares a lot about.