

October 7 Read Mark 10:43-45. The Bible says you were created in the image of God. YOU! You are made to be like Him. If you truly embrace that, then you'll realize you were made to serve, help, and be there for other people. If you call yourself a Christian, that means you want to live like Jesus. And if you look at the life of Jesus, it was all about other people. He was always helping people, healing people, teaching people, serving people, loving people—the list goes on and on. If you want to be like Jesus and truly live a Christian life, that means you do the same. Live like you believe you were created in the image of God. Serve others like you're living out the life of Jesus. Challenge yourself every day to look for opportunities—big or small—to serve, help, love, and be there for other people. When you do this, you'll be living the way God created you to live.

October 8 Read 1 John 4:7-21, Psalms 51:10. Have you ever watched a small child play with their toys? Have you ever tried to play with that kid's toys? What typically happens? They see you playing with their toy, run up to you, snatch the toy out of your hand, and yell, "Mine!" The reality is you were that little kid at one point. We all were. We were born selfish, wanting what's ours, and as we get older, that doesn't necessarily change. Living a selfless life doesn't come naturally; it comes supernaturally. It comes from God. We should experience God's love in such a real way that it motivates us and moves us to love others in the same way. We can't live an others-first kind of life on our own. We need to get it from God and allow Him to change us from the inside, which produces outward action. Pray that you will understand and experience God's love in such a real way that it causes you to love others in the same way.

October 9 Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Hebrews 10:24-25, Genesis 2:18. One of the first things God ever said about humans (found in Genesis 2:18) was that it's not good for man to be alone. We weren't created to live this life on our own. That's why God gave us each other. Think about the friends you have. Do you just have fun together, or are you there to help each other when life gets hard? Here's the thing about good friends—they should be there for each other through thick and thin, through the good times and the bad times. Friends exist to do life together. That means they have fun together, but it also means that when life gets hard, they are there for each other and go through it together. We need each other to go through the good and bad times together.

October 10 Read Proverbs 27:17. Things that are made of iron, like a knife or a sword, can sharpen each other. You can take two knives made of iron, rub them together, and they'll sharpen each other without the other one dulling out. That should be true with our friendships. We should hang around people who have the same values as us. That way, we can continually build each other up. Those kinds of friendships will help you and your friends grow each other, challenge each other, encourage each other, and strengthen each other to be who God intended you to be. So go and be iron to one another and become who God made you to be.

October 11 Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. God's love for us is unconditional. What that means is that He loves us no matter what, and He doesn't expect anything in return. It doesn't matter what we've done, what we've been through, or who we are; He won't love us any less. His love is perfect, unending, and doesn't expect anything. Living an others-first kind of life requires loving people without expecting anything in return. It can be so easy to get caught up in only putting others first if we get something out of it—if they're nice to us or treat us right. The hard thing to do is help people, be there for them, and love them when you know you won't get anything from it or even when they aren't the nicest to you. Pray that you will learn to love people and help people without expecting anything because that, after all, is unconditional love.

October 12: Today, we'll read a verse about Jesus dying for us. He sacrificed Himself for our sake. There is no greater act of love than sacrificing for someone. Now, this doesn't mean that you need to go and die for your friend to show them how much you really care about them. You don't need to push them out of the way of a speeding train or jump in front of a bullet for them. But what this does mean is you need to die to your selfish wants. Living an others-first kind of life means you will give up things you love for things you love even more. Good friends will be willing to give up things that are important to them for what they know is better for their friend. Pray that you will discover what it looks like to live an others-first kind of life and put others' needs before your own. Read John 15:12-13.