

9TH-10TH GRADE

I AM 3RD



Basketball



CENTENARY
lexchurch.com

Memory Verse for the 3rd-6th grade: Romans 12:9-13

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?

I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our hearts, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Week 2: Love must be sincere

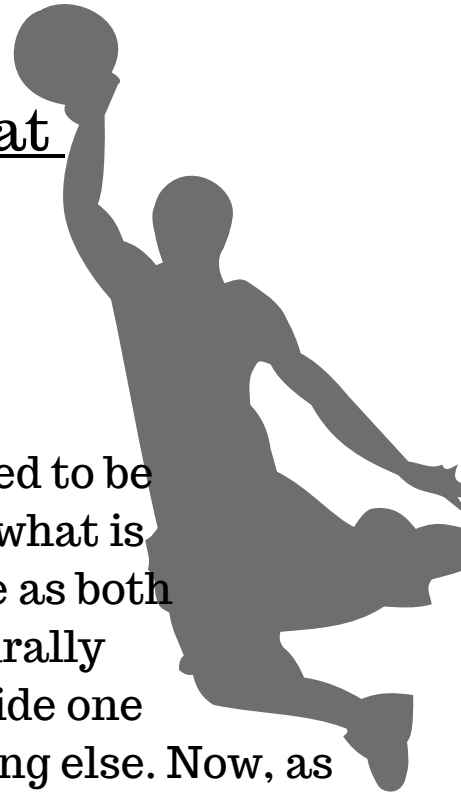
This basketball season, we will be spending our devotional time memorizing Romans 12:9-13. This is a very important passage for us to remember because it tells us how God has asked us to follow His example in the way that we share experiences with other people. The first part we will memorize together is “Love must be sincere.” God asks us to show a sincere love to others because He has shown a sincere love to us! Jesus came down to earth for us, and has shown us the deepest love possible by making such a great sacrifice.

- What does it mean to be sincere?
- What would sincere love look like?

Verse: “Love must be sincere.”



Week 3: Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.



Last week, we talked about how our love is supposed to be sincere. Today we are looking at the phrase “Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Let's look at this phrase as both parts together. If we pursue one thing, we will naturally cast aside it's opposite. And if we choose to cast aside one thing, we will naturally gravitate towards something else. Now, as humans, we are not perfect, but we are supposed to be pursuing these things that are good. We ought to chase after the good. And cling to it. Sinfulness is often attractive, it tries to draw us in by making us feel good for a short time, or giving us an adrenaline rush. But at the end of the day, those sinful behaviors are what this phrase is talking about. When we are truly clinging to the good and pure, then when those temptations come along, our attention is harder to get. When we cling to the good, we lock our eyes on it and pursue it wholeheartedly. This is what God is calling us to do!

- Can you think of examples of evil? Or sinfulness?
- What would it really look like to cling to the good? Can you think of examples of good?
- How does the evil in the world try to draw our attention away from the good?

Verse: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”



Week 4: Be devoted to one another in love.

Last week, we talked about how we are supposed to cling to the good. Today we are looking at the phrase “Be devoted to one another in love” This is very similar to what we talked about Week 2. The difference is the devotion. To be devoted to one another means to really stick together in both the good times and the bad. Being a Christian can be really difficult. It can be really hard to stand firm in your faith when you are surrounded by people who don't share the same beliefs as you. This is why it is so important to have a community of other believers (like minded people) that you can lean on. We all need people who can challenge us and help us grow. That is what we are supposed to be for each other. With deep love and deep care, walking through the good and the bad together, as a community, devoted to one another.

- Do you have a group of people in your life that you would describe as your community?
- What does devotion look like in a community?

Verse: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love.”

Week 5: Honor one another above yourselves

Last week, we talked about how we are supposed to love one another. Today we are looking at the phrase “Honor one another above yourselves.” We live in a world that is very focused on ourselves. To a certain degree, this is good. It is healthy (and necessary!) to take care of yourself and speak up for your needs. For many of us, though, we end up spending so much time thinking about ourselves and our wants, that we often don't even realize that we haven't been thinking about other people. Honoring one another truly means choosing to be selfless and putting their wants and needs above your own wants. This selflessness is hard, but we are called to serve one another. If we are truly going to be a devoted community like we talked about last week, the way that you really maintain that devotion is to spend time serving each other and choosing to be selfless with one another.

- Can you think of anyone in your life who models selflessness in a healthy way?
- What are some practical ways we can honor other people above ourselves?

Verse: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”



Week 6: Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Last week, we talked about how we are called to be selfless. Today we are looking at the phrase “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” Just like we are supposed to take time to serve one another, we are also called to serve God.

Zeal and fervor aren't words that we tend to use, but they both mean passion and excitement. Service doesn't tend to be something we associate with excitement, but that is how we are called to serve God. He doesn't want us to be following Him just because we are supposed to, He truly wants a relationship with us. He wants us to be excited about spending time with Him. He wants us to be passionate about the things He is passionate about. He wants us to be able to bring our whole selves before Him, and be eager about spending time in His presence.

-It's strange to think about serving God when He already has everything. When the Bible asks us to serve the Lord, what are some ways we can do that? What do you think He is asking of us?

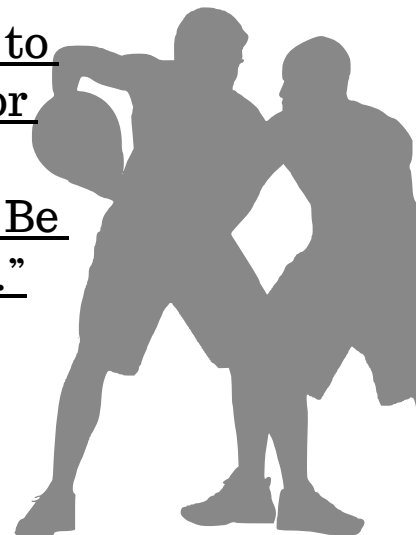
Verse: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”

Week 7: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer,

Last week, we talked about how we are called to serve God. Today we are looking at the phrase “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” In order for one to need hope, the circumstance probably isn't great. Affliction (trial or sickness) isn't exactly comfortable. We can (and should) pray in all times, but often the prayers of faithfulness come from places of deep hurt, reaching out and trusting that God is who He says He is. Following Christ isn't always going to be easy, even when we have a community of people around us. The wonderful thing, however, is that God has always prepared a way for us. God is always looking out for us. Now, that doesn't always look the way that we think it will, but God truly takes the broken parts of our lives and of our world, and He is constantly redeeming them and turning them into something wonderful. When we are in relationship with God, we can trust that He will redeem those broken pieces.

- What does it mean to be joyful in hope?
- What does it mean to be patient in affliction?
- What does it mean to be faithful in prayer?
- Which of these 3 do you have the hardest time with?

Verse: “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”



Week 8: Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Last week, we talked about how we are supposed to be joyful, patient, and faithful. Today we are finishing the passage with the phrase "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." When you have experienced true community, you cannot help but want everyone else to experience that too. When you have experienced love, devotion, service, joy, and faithfulness, you naturally want other people to experience those things. We are called to share. This can mean possessions, this can mean time, or this can also mean welcoming people into community with us. Some of us might be reading this and don't know what that community really looks like. Hopefully, this season, you have found community as a team, but we also challenge you to find a community in your schools, churches, and/or jobs. God intentionally placed us on earth with other people. God created us to need one another and to do life together. It's not always easy, but it truly is a beautiful thing that God invited us into.

- As a high-school student, are there practical ways that you can share with others? Possessions? Time? Community? Making spaces more hospitable?
- Do you have a community that you can lean on? If you don't, where are some place or who are some people you can look to start to find that community?

Verse: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."



Week 9: Season Reflection and Review

Take a few minutes to reflect on this season.

Questions:

What are some memories you made? What will you take away from the devotional time this season?





**CARING FOR COMMUNITY AND CREATING
BEAUTIFUL SMILES FOR 30 YEARS!**



wgmortho.com

