



Influence

Every day we are being influenced – by adverts on the bus, by posts on social media, by television, by conversations. We are also a massive influence on those around us!

God wants to be an influence in our lives, for us to look to him with every aspect of who we are – it's pretty amazing that we can chat with God whenever we want, about anything and everything! He also wants us to share his love with those around us, through how we respond, act and share in our everyday lives.





Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

Matthew 22:37-40 (MSG)

Of all the things God asks of those who follow him, Jesus said the most important is to love God with all our passion and to love one another!

How can you strive to make God your biggest passion in life?

.....Pray.....



Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

1 John 5:21 (NLT)

The thing is, there's so much stuff out there that can seem more attractive than God: clothes, money, a big house, being popular, having the latest thing. Or maybe academic achievement, a sports team or affirmation from a parent can seem more important than God. God isn't saying to avoid these things completely, he just knows that when we put that stuff first, rather than him, we aren't living our best life.

What are the things in your life that might be creeping in front of God in your heart? Ask God to help you put him first...

....Pray....



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Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world – wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important – has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out – but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

1 John 2:15–17 (MSG)

Bits of the Bible like this can make people think that following God is just a load of rules and religion. It's not. Following God is trusting and knowing what he says is in our best interest.

You see, we could just strive to get what we want in our lives, and put God on a shelf, working stuff out on our own. But these things can fade away or let us down.

God's love will never fade. He will never give up on us and we don't ever have to be anyone other than who he has created us to be!

Write down what is on your mind when you read the words on the previous page... if you're struggling, then chat with God about it.

...pray....



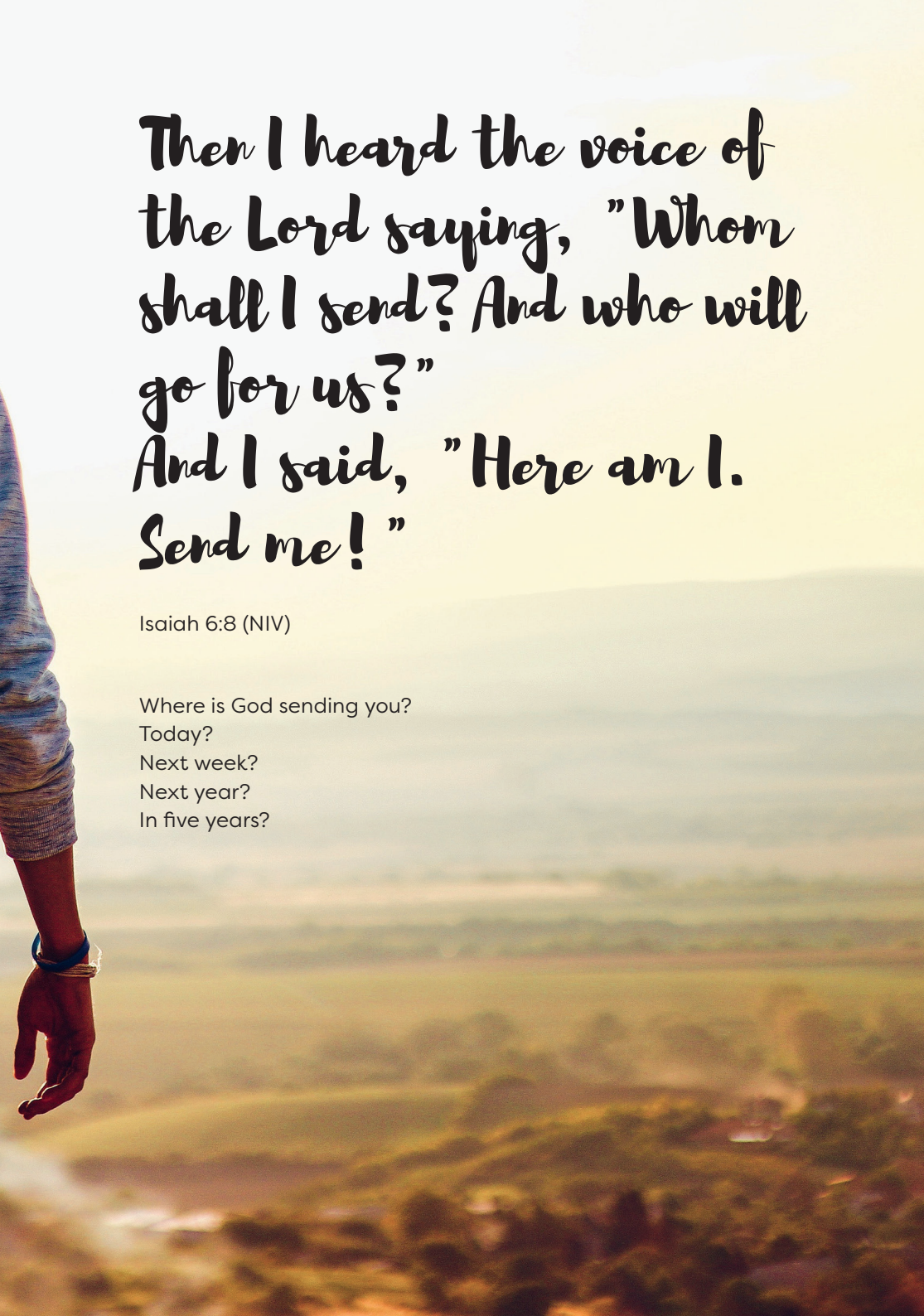
Be on guard. Stand firm in
the faith. Be courageous.
Be strong. And do
everything with love.

1 Corinthians 16:13,14 (NLT)

When choosing to live life a bit
differently from how the world
says we should, it's natural
to face opposition. Is there
a situation in your life
where you need to be
strong and courageous?

.....Pray.....



A person's arm and hand are visible on the left side of the frame, reaching out towards the right. The hand is open, with fingers slightly curled. The person is wearing a blue and white patterned sleeve and a blue wristband. The background is a vast, hazy landscape with rolling hills and a body of water in the distance. The sky is a warm, golden color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

Then I heard the voice of
the Lord saying, "Whom
shall I send? And who will
go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I.
Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

Where is God sending you?

Today?

Next week?

Next year?





In five years?

Reflect on what God has put on your heart. Is there something you are passionate about? Do you feel challenged to make a difference in your school or community? Ask God what he's thinking, and dream together.



...pray....





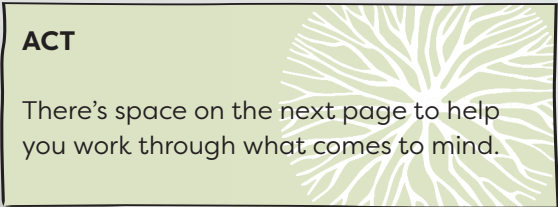
Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

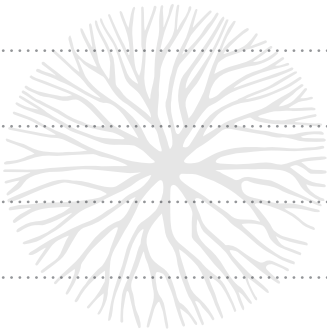
1 Peter 4:9-11 (NIV)

Do you have any ideas about what gifts you have? If you don't, chat to a Rooted leader or someone you trust and pray about it together.

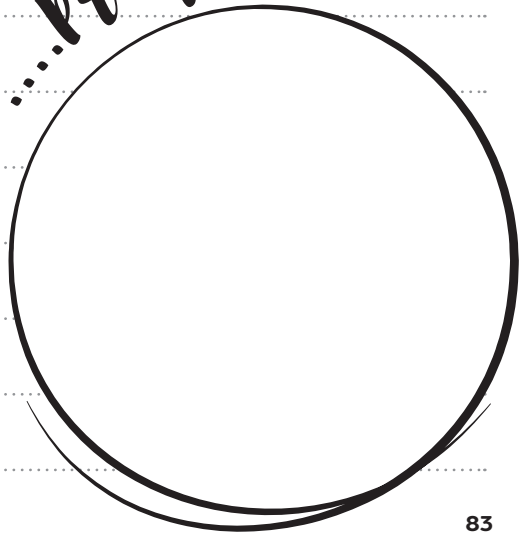
ACT

There's space on the next page to help you work through what comes to mind.





....pray....



And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words

Romans 8:26 (NLT)

If you don't know how to pray or what to pray for or what words to say to express your thoughts, know that the Holy Spirit prays for us.

ACT

Take two minutes to sit in stillness, in the presence of God.

....Pray....

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:22,23 (NLT)

How can we ensure we are living out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in our lives?

ACT

Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to produce fruit in your life. You could think through some specific situations that you might face and ask him to intervene. For example: When someone does something to annoy me, how can I be patient? When my sibling breaks a possession of mine, how forgiving am I?

...pray...

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other.

Colossians 3:12-15 (MSG)

Imagine how different life would be if everyone lived by this. Today, allow peace to rule over your heart and see what difference it makes.

.....Pray.....

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong ... Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long.

Ephesians 6:10,13-17 (MSG)

If we want to influence those around us in a positive way, and make sure that it's God who is influencing us, then this says it in a nutshell: Ask the Holy Spirit for help, read God's Word and talk to him.

...Pray....



Response...

Response...



Response...