



teens:

# Empowered for Impact

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

*devotion*  
**Go Ahead:  
Live Life!**

As teens, we often think we are invincible, that nothing could ever happen to us. We spend our time on things like being cool, playing games, and endless texting and tweeting. God's Word tells us, however, that a life based on people, things, or popularity is worthless. Psalm 90:12 says: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

We often do not know the way to true joy and heavenly peace. In John 14:6, Jesus tells us that *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* His words show that the way to peace, joy, and eternal life is only through our faith in Him.

God reminds us to live each day with heaven in mind because our Redeemer has already prepared the way for us and our eternal life has already begun in Him. Each day we can live life as God taught and be full of joy in the Lord.

Go ahead! Have fun hanging out, playing games, texting, or tweeting. God wants us to enjoy life, but remember that through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we can enjoy life with true heavenly peace and joy focused on our Savior.

## Empowered Through Compassion



Sixteen miles east of Onida, a town of 750 in a very rural part of central South Dakota, stands a cemetery in the middle of a field. Abandoned for many years, the graveyard had been reserved for people, mostly young children, who had died of diphtheria.

Encouraged by their pastor, Rev. Brian Lemcke of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Onida, the teens rallied 'round to manage the upkeep of the cemetery. Each summer they loaded up lawn mowers and weed wackers and headed out to the cemetery, where they would spend the day mowing, picking weeds, extracting rocks, and filling holes in the ground.

As time went on, the teens decided it would be fitting to provide grave markers for those who had been laid to rest in the cemetery. After holding fundraisers, the teens had enough money to purchase supplies necessary to make grave markers. Even though they thought that it was unlikely that anyone else would ever visit the graves, the project gave the teens an opportunity to serve others and demonstrate compassion in the name of Jesus.