

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS | DECEMBER 2-8, 2020

BOTTOM LINE: You're invited to go see for yourself.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

>> DECEMBER 2

Have you ever hoped for something to go one way, but then it didn't? Perhaps it was that time you didn't get the promotion, make the team, or get the role you wanted in the school play. Whenever life doesn't go as planned, we are faced with a choice: We can put our hope in our plans, or we can trust God's plans for our lives. That's one great thing we can remember and celebrate at Christmas. God showed us thousands of years ago that God has a plan for us, and that is still true today! It's something we can always trust in. Pray today that God will show you that you can trust and hope in God's plan for your life.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- Romans 15:13 NIV

>> DECEMBER 3

Christmas is a season that can be jam-packed with stuff. From big dinners and work/class parties to church services and over-packed schedules, it's often the busiest season of the year! And while all of those things are good and fun, when we fill our time with too many of them, we miss the chance to focus on what makes Christmas the best thing ever. We miss the chance to focus on Jesus! During this Christmas season, make an effort to make room for Jesus. Look at your schedule every week and find the time to spend with Him. Maybe journaling, praying, listening to Christmas music, or reading the bible. Whatever it is for you, give yourself time to remember what Christmas is all about this year.

"The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love."

- Psalm 147:11 NIV

>> DECEMBER 4

One of the reasons that Christmas is so special is that it shows us just how much God loves us. As this verse reminds us, God delights in us. God's love is unfailing. And to show us that love, God sent Jesus to Earth to rescue us. His life is the ultimate example of God's unfailing love for us, and it's certainly something we can remember and celebrate at Christmas. To remind yourself of how much God loves you and to remember what Christmas is all about, read a little more about the very first Christmas in the Bible this week. Check it out in Luke 2:1-20. Even better, ask your whole family to read it with you!

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

- Hebrews 11:1 NIV

>> DECEMBER 5

There may be moments when it is hard to put your faith in a God you can't actually see. And that's a very real feeling! But the good news is, God gives us so many ways to see God in our lives. Christmas is a great reminder of just that! In the lyrics of the songs we sing, in the love we feel from the people around us, in the generous gifts we receive, in the time we celebrate together at church, and in the Son that God sent to save us—all these things and more show us God at work around us. This Christmas, make a list of ways you see God in your life.

“Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.”

- Psalm 25:5 NLT

>> DECEMBER 6

Think about the best teacher or coach you've ever had. What qualities did he or she display? Was he smart? Was she kind? Maybe he was patient when you had questions. Or maybe she was a really great listener. Just as you have learned from a great teacher or coach, God wants to be your guide—the one you run to when you need advice or assurance. Is there a place in your life you need that help this season? Ask God for it! If not, maybe there is someone in your life who needs that hope or encouragement. Send them a text and let them know that they can turn to God. Remind them of the hope you have this Christmas season and throughout the year in Jesus.

“The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”

- Luke 2:11 NLT

>> DECEMBER 7

Do you know anybody who recently had a baby? If you do, then you know just how exciting that time can be for a family. Now, think about what that excitement must've been like at Christmas when Jesus was born. Just imagine what it was like for Mary and Joseph. They brought into the world the baby who would save the world. And that is something worth celebrating. As you move through the Christmas season, think about ways you can really celebrate what the birth of Jesus means for you! Talk with your family about how you plan to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas.

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

- Luke 2:19 NIV

>> DECEMBER 8

The Christmas season can be full of joy and also full of heaviness. Can you imagine being Mary? Fourteen years old, just gave birth to the long-awaited King, just got married, and is now living in a barn.

Today, you are invited to ponder; to think on all of the things and all of the feelings surrounding your life this Christmas. Gather up your family and have a real discussion about what you're feeling this Christmas. Take turns naming at least three emotions you are experiencing. Joy? Sadness? Longing? Exhaustion? Whatever you're feeling, remember that God can handle it!