

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



BEFORE I GO | APRIL 19-25, 2023
BE REAL WITH GOD.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

>> APRIL 19

As a follower of Jesus, it can sometimes be difficult to explain why we believe what we believe. Even if we know what's true when it comes to our faith, putting words around it isn't always easy. That's where Scripture can help! It helps us not only better understand what we believe, but it gives us words to share it with others!

This week, make memorizing this verse the goal. And of course, make it fun! Grab some of your favorite candy—a piece for each word in this verse. Write the verse down and place a piece of candy over each word. Then, see how many of the words you know! Each time you get a word right, you get to eat the piece of candy covering it!

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

James 5:13 NIV

>> APRIL 20

Have you ever seen an animal that always seems happy? Maybe it's your pet or a dog you've seen on TikTok. Sometimes we might wish we were always that happy, but for many of us, life can feel like a roller coaster. James gives us a great reminder that whatever life looks like, there are different ways we can go to God. Our prayers and worship don't always have to sound or feel the same. Instead, we can go to God with whatever we are feeling at any given moment.

Today, pick a number between 1-9. Remember it, and every time you check the clock and see that number in the current time, share with God what you are feeling at that moment.

But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

Psalms 13:5 NLT

>> APRIL 21

Part of trusting God means that we can share everything with God in prayer. While we may feel tempted to hide how we really feel from others, we never need to hide from God. We can trust God with all of it—the good, the bad, and everything in between.

Because God's love for us is unconditional and unfailing. It meets us right where we are!

Spend time in prayer this week, telling God how you feel. Don't hold back! As you pray, trust God with everything going on in your life.

*Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so
that we may receive
mercy and find grace
to help us in our time
of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 NIV

>> APRIL 22

Have you ever felt like you have to act perfectly with certain people? Maybe they seem like they have it all together, or you're afraid of what they would think if they really knew you. Trying to paint a pretty picture for people can be exhausting. It can be tempting to do this with God, but the truth is that we don't have to.

The author of Hebrews tells us that we can come to God boldly, and share with God how we actually feel. When we do, God shows us mercy and grace.

*The Lord is my
strength and shield.
I trust him with all
my heart.
He helps me, and my
heart is filled with joy.
I burst out in songs
of thanksgiving.*

Psalms 28:7 NLT

>> APRIL 23

It's good to know that you have someone on your side, isn't it? When life feels tough and we're tempted to give into despair, having a friend who understands and supports us makes all the difference in the world! Jesus is a friend like that. He not only provides understanding and support, but He also brings joy when we need it the most. His death and resurrection demonstrated His love for us! Now that is a friend we can count on!

Is there a friend in your life who could use a little understanding or support? Think about the example of Jesus as a friend. Then, reach out to them and be a friend who fills their heart with joy.

*Don't worry
about anything;
instead, pray about
everything. Tell God
what you need, and
thank him for all he
has done. Then you
will experience God's
peace.*
Philippians 4:6-7a NLT

>> APRIL 24

No matter what, in everything, you can be honest with God. When you are honest with God, even during the scariest times, God can give you peace.

So today, start by being honest with God about how you feel. Tell God what's worrying you right now. If you don't know what to pray, start with something like this:

"God, thank you for who you are. Right now, I need You to help me. I am worried about _____. Please give me peace to get through this. Amen."

*Trust in the Lord with
all your heart;
do not depend
on your own
understanding.*

Proverbs 3:5 NLT

>> APRIL 25

It's easy to think we know more than we do. At some point, haven't we all thought that we knew better than our teachers, our parents, our coaches, and sometimes, even God?

Even though deep down we know we can't handle it all on our own, we all want to try and handle things our own way. But the truth is we'll never know enough to depend on our own understanding. We're always going to need help from someone who simply knows more than we know. And because God knows everything, we can trust God with anything.