

IT'S PERSONAL | NOVEMBER 17-23, 2021

BOTTOM LINE: IT'S PERSONAL BECAUSE JESUS LOVES YOU NO MATTER WHAT.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me."

JOHN 13:20 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 17

Do you have a family member who lives in a different state or a friend who moved far away? It's hard when someone you love isn't close to you physically. That makes spending time together, staying close, and being a part of each other's lives more difficult. That's one of the great things about Jesus. He cared so much about us that He came to Earth to actually be with us. He wanted to know us in a real, close way. And when we get to know Him, we're getting to know God in a personal way. Today, thank God for sending Jesus into the world to show God's love for you.

>> NOVEMBER 18

I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me.

PROVERBS 8:17 NLT

God is always available to us. We don't have to wonder where God is or what God thinks about us. God has already told us! If we make an effort to get to know God and discover more about God, we won't be disappointed. Because of God's love for us, we can experience God in all kinds of ways. Through music, in nature, at church, in our relationships—God is all around us! So this week, make an effort to seek God out. Go on a walk, spend time in prayer, keeping reading your Bible, talk to a friend, or listen to worship music. Pay attention to how you find God, and feel God's love, in those places.

>> NOVEMBER 19

Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

ROMANS 13:10 NLT

Have you ever known someone who didn't make a mistake? Who never let you down? Chances are even the people you're closest to have made mistakes that have impacted your relationship. You've probably done the same thing a time or two! But what's cool about your relationship with God is that God can't make a mistake. God won't mistreat you. God's love is the only love that won't let you down. And because of God's love for us, we can do our best to show that same kind of love to others. Will we always get it right? No! But even making an effort to love others is giving them a look at the way God loves them, too. How can you practice loving someone with God's love this week?

There was a man there named Zacchaeus.
He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.

LUKE 19:2-3 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 20

We've been learning this month that Jesus makes it personal with us. And not just those of us who are good, or get it right all the time, or even the ones we think deserve it. No, Jesus makes it personal with all of us. He wants to know each and every one of us in a real way. No matter who we are, what we've done, or what other people think about us, Jesus wants to have a relationship with us. That's what He demonstrated here with Zacchaeus! And it's what He demonstrates in His love for us still today. Spend time today thinking, writing, or journaling about what it means to know that God wants a relationship with you just as you are.

Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 21

Do you ever wish you could get a fresh start? That you could leave all the mistakes and mess ups you've made in the past? Well, the good news is that with Jesus, you can! When you get to know Him in a real and personal way, you start a new life. And you no longer have to feel the guilt, or shame, or embarrassment about anything from before. Instead, you can walk forward knowing that God has forgiven you and wants to help you start again. Is there something you want to leave behind you? Pray today and ask God to remind you that you have been given a new life and an opportunity to begin again.

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:39 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 22

There's no mistake you can make that will separate you from God's love. There's nothing you need to do to earn His love. God loves us no matter what. And He calls us to do the same. He asks us to make it personal for others by treating them with love and acceptance no matter what.

That could look like showing kindness to someone who has hurt you in the past, or simply listening to a friend share about the mistakes they've made. Whatever it is, take a step to show somebody unconditional love and acceptance this week.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

LUKE 19:10 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 23

Getting to know God personally means learning God's Word. The more you get to know the Bible, the more you get to know God. That's one of the ways you can make it personal! So today, get creative with memorizing this verse. Set it to music, draw a picture that reminds you of it, or try to come up with actions that go along with the words. Practice getting to know God by memorizing this verse in a fun way.