

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



FAMILY MATTERS | OCTOBER 14-20, 2020

BOTTOM LINE: Your family matters even when it's fractured.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

- Psalm 145:18 NIV

>> OCTOBER 14

Are you ever surrounded by family, yet still feel alone? Maybe it's because you feel like your parents don't get it, or your siblings are out to get you, or your kids don't appreciate you, or the people you live with are completely different than you are. Surrounded by people, it can still be easy to find ourselves feeling left out, isolated, or misunderstood. The good news is that no matter what your family looks like or how you feel about your family on any given day, God promises to be with you. God is never far. And when we call on God, God promises to answer. So today, take time to do just that! Talk to God and tell God how you feel. Ask God to remind you that you are never alone.

"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?"

- Matthew 7:3 NLT

>> OCTOBER 15

It's easy to point a finger at someone else, isn't it? When we're hurt, mad, or frustrated, it's easy to blame the entire thing on the person who caused us pain. But remember, for everything we see wrong in someone else—for all the blame we put on them—there's something in ourselves we can work on as well. Nobody is perfect, so rather than focusing our energy on what we want to fix in others, we should focus it on what we can do for ourselves. How can we become better friends, better family members, better people? Let's put our energy there! This week, instead of looking at what you want from others, practice developing those things in yourself.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

- Ephesians 4:2 NIV

>> OCTOBER 16

When it comes to our families, sometimes it's easy to think things will never change—that whatever is bothering us today will still be an issue tomorrow. But here, Paul tells us to be patient with those we love. That means that instead of giving up hope that they'll change or things will be different, we can choose to be patient and loving as we trust God to do the rest. Talk about this verse with your family this week. Talk through issues you have within your family where you could all use more patience and love. Commit to pointing out this truth to one another as often as it is needed.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

- Colossians 3:12 NIV

>> OCTOBER 17

Do you own a piece of clothing that you love? It doesn't necessarily look fashionable, but you love it because it's comfortable. It fits you just right! In the same way we can put on our comfiest piece of clothing, God asks us to clothe ourselves with things that bring that same comfortable feeling to the people around us. Things like compassion, kindness, trust, patience, and more. Putting those things on will not only make you feel better, they'll make the people around you feel better as well. So, the next time you feel anger, frustration, disappointment, or hurt creeping in, take it off. Put something new on. Pick just one quality on this list and focus on wearing that well in your life this week.

"Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another."

- Galatians 5:26 NLT

>> OCTOBER 18

We often compare ourselves to those we're closest to—our co-workers, our best friends, the kids on our team, the people who live in our homes. The temptation to compare who we are or what we have to the people around us is real. And the worst part? Eventually the comparison causes conflict in those relationships. It breaks up our family! So, what can we do? We can choose a better way. Instead of jealousy, we can focus on the good things that we have. We can choose to be happy for our friends and family members when they have good things as well. This week, find a way to celebrate someone in your family who you usually compare yourself to. Watch how doing that changes the way you see both them and yourself.

"Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs."

Proverbs 19:11 NLT

>> OCTOBER 19

The people we love know how to push our buttons better than anyone else, right? Nobody can get on your nerves like your family! They know just what bugs you, frustrates you, and sets you off. And sometimes, they give into the temptation to push those buttons and make you mad. While we may not be able to control what others do, we can control how we respond. In other words, we can control our tempers. The next time you feel yourself getting angry, step back and talk to God about how you feel. You don't have to fight back or slam doors. Instead, you can choose to let it go and move on.

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:35 NIV

>> OCTOBER 20

Work on memorizing this verse this week. Try putting it to a song. Applying the words to a familiar tune and singing it to yourself throughout the week will help you commit God's truth to memory in a fun and creative way. It won't even feel like work!