

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



SIMPLIFY | JANUARY 10-16, 2024
KEEP FAITH SIMPLE.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38 NIV

>> JANUARY 10

With so many things competing for our attention, it can be difficult to focus on the things that matter—the things that Jesus said are most important! Memorizing Scripture can help us with this. When we have God's Word in our hearts, we've got the most important things to focus on right there with us at all times.

So this week, as you think about simplifying your faith by focusing on the Greatest Commandment, memorize it to help you! Draw a picture of what this verse reminds you of. Then, underneath that picture, write the verse. Place that picture somewhere you'll see it often. Every time you come across it, continue to work on memorizing the verse.

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

1 John 3:11 NIV

>> JANUARY 11

Jesus made it pretty clear that loving others was a top priority. But if we're being honest, there are some people that are just plain hard to love! In those cases, it is important to remember that God loves us even when we're hard to love. God loves us unconditionally, even though we don't deserve it. Loving others is about what God has called us to do, even - and especially - when we don't want to. We love because God says it's important—that's it!

This week, commit to praying for someone in your life who is hard to love.

Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

Psalms 119:72 NLT

>> JANUARY 12

It's hard to appreciate something you don't fully understand. Some of the subjects you study at school seem like a complete waste of time, but as you grow up, you'll realize just how important those things are to your life. Unfortunately, we can sometimes treat the Bible the same way. Reading and studying it right now can help you a lot in the future. Though you may not always realize it, the more you learn about God's Word, the better your life will be. It will help you remember the things that Jesus said are most important: loving God, loving others, and loving ourselves!

This week, ask a friend or family member to share how they learn more about God's Word. Then, try it for yourself!

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.

Hebrews 13:1 NLT

>> JANUARY 13

If you have siblings, then you know that getting along with them isn't always easy. But even on the worst days, you're held together with those people by the love you have for each other as family. In the family of God, the same rules apply. As believers, we must remain committed to loving each other. Love is what Jesus calls the greatest commandment. When we focus on loving others with God's love, we'll find it easier to love everyone in the family of God!

Think of the last person you had a hard time getting along with. Ask yourself how that relationship might change if you approach it with a little more love.

See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children, and that is what we are!

1 John 3:1a NLT

>> JANUARY 14

It feels good to be loved, doesn't it? Whether it's through an encouraging text, a hug from someone in your life, or an unexpected gift, it's nice to know that you matter to others. Well, one of the greatest acts of love we've ever received is being invited into the family of God. The God of the universe loves us completely and unconditionally. What better gift is there than that?

Take time this week to spend alone with God. Thank God for loving you enough to send Jesus to this world so that we might be able to be close to God again. If you've never thought about this gift, talk with your family or a faithful friend about what it means for your life!

The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

Psalm 118:6 NLT

>> JANUARY 15

So often, we find ourselves worried about other people's opinions of us. Do they like me? Do they think I'm smart enough? The list goes on and on! We get so caught up in the opinions of other people that we forget the One that really matters. Remember that God says we are chosen, valued, and enough. Then, whether you are giving a presentation at school, speaking out for what you believe, or helping those in need, you can know that God is with you. Because of that, you don't have to be afraid. You have the Creator of the whole universe on your side!

You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands.

Psalm 119:73 NLT

>> JANUARY 16

God made us. And as our Creator, God knows what's best for us. But even when we know this is true, we sometimes try to take matters into our own hands. We want to control what's happening in our lives, so we ignore what God commands in favor of what we want. But remember that God gives us commands not to hold us back, but to give us more life. God loves us, knows what's best for us, and wants us to have the best lives possible. When we remember that truth—when we keep it in our hearts—we'll better be able to trust God's loving guidance in our lives.

Today, memorize this verse. Use it as a prayer to guide you toward remembering God's love for you!