

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



THE BIG QUESTIONS | NOVEMBER 1-7, 2023
WHEN YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND WHO JESUS IS, IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 1

If you want to know what it really means to follow Jesus, start by looking at Scripture. The Bible is filled with real accounts from real people who really saw and followed Jesus with their lives. Memorizing Scripture can help us have the answers to our big questions about following Jesus in our hearts and minds when we need them.

So today, start memorizing this verse. Set a reminder on your phone and make it the text of this verse. Every time it goes off this week, work towards committing the words to memory.

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 2

Did you know that it took years for Leonardo Da Vinci to finish his classic work, Mona Lisa? It wasn't something he just decided to paint one day. He worked, and worked, and worked on the painting and didn't stop until the masterpiece was done. God sees us the same way. The plan God has for your life is one that won't be given up on until the work is done. You are God's masterpiece, after all! And an artist as incredible as God will never stop working with you and for you until the work is done.

Make sure to pause for a few minutes today to connect with the God who loves you enough to never give up on you!

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalms 18:2 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 3

Sometimes life can feel like it's a little out of control. Friendships hit a rough patch. You've had another argument with your parent. Your grades are not what they should be. Times like that make life feel like you're in the middle of a storm, being tossed all over the place by everything around you. Well, the great news is that we have a God who is as strong as a fortress, which means a strong place of safety. God is our safety in the storms of our lives.

Today, write down some of the things that are causing you stress or anxiety right now—the things that feel like storms. Then, write "God is my fortress" above them to remind you that there is a place you can turn for safety and strength.

*And he died for all,
that those who live
should no longer
live for themselves
but for him who died
for them and was
raised again.*

2 Corinthians 5:15 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 4

Have you ever looked back on a choice you made only to realize that the decision was selfish? You made it to benefit you, but chances are, it didn't really make you any happier than you were in the first place. Believe it or not, there's hope when you find yourself in that spot. Because the truth is, we were designed to live for something other than ourselves! Jesus died and came back to life so that we could live for Him. And when we make choices that are influenced by following Jesus, we can trust that we're making the best choices for our lives.

This week, talk to someone you know who follows Jesus about what it looks like to make choices influenced by being a Jesus-follower.

*Jesus replied, "You
must love the Lord
your God with all
your heart, all your
soul, and all your
mind.' This is the
first and greatest
commandment."*

Matthew 22:37-38 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 5

When training a puppy, we start by giving the puppy directions, or commands, to help the puppy learn how to do the most important things we need them to do. Instead of "sit" or "stay," Jesus gives us one really important direction that He wants us to follow: To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. It's actually the most important thing we can do. Because when we do that, we are choosing to be part of God's purpose for us, which is to love God and to love others. This is God's plan for the world, and we can be part of it every day by the ways we love God and others.

Today, think of a random act of kindness you can do for someone you care about to show them you love them.

*Commit to the Lord
whatever you do,
and he will establish
your plans.*

Proverbs 16:3 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 6

We all have hopes and plans for the future. Whether it's what job we want in the future or just what we want to eat for lunch, we're constantly making plans. The problem is that our plans sometimes don't work out. But here's the good news: when we put God first and commit to following God, we start to want our plans to align with God's plans. Our plans start to change from "making the team this spring" to "being a light in any community and social situation I'm a part of, whether I get on the team or not". When our plans align with God's plans, our future is in God's hands. And we can trust that God will make a way.

*When Jesus spoke
again to the people,
he said, "I am the
light of the world.
Whoever follows
me will never walk
in darkness, but will
have the light of life."*

John 8:12 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 7

When you were a kid, did you ever try to follow an adult's lead? Maybe you were walking behind them on the beach or climbing up a hill behind them in the snow. In cases like those, following was easy because they left footprints behind as they walked. This is actually a great picture of what it looks like to follow Jesus. He leads us where we should go, and if we're following closely, we'll see the steps He's laid out for us to take.

Is there a part of your life where you need direction? An area where following Jesus' lead would help? Pray today for God to show you the path to take and give you the courage to follow.