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FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



SIMPLIFY | JANUARY 17-23, 2024
LOVING GOD = LIVING LIKE JESUS

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 17

One of the ways we can know and love God more is by getting to know Jesus. The more we learn about Jesus' love, character, and heart, the more we'll understand the love, character, and heart of God, too! Where do we go to learn more about that? God's Word! Scripture gives us a real-life, personal look at who Jesus is.

So today, memorize this verse to learn more about Jesus and God. Write each word on a sticky note or index card and place them on a table. Read the verse completely in order, then mix up the cards. Try to put the cards back in the correct order as you work to memorize the verse.

Ah, sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17 NIV

>> JANUARY 18

Life constantly shows us where we come up short. The failed math quiz, the missed free throw, and even that challenging level of a video game—all of it tells us that there are some things we just can't do perfectly. But thankfully, we have access to a God who can do anything! All of creation—from the stars in the sky to the smallest fish in the sea—reminds us that God is all-powerful. The more we get to know the all-powerful God, the more confident we'll be to trust God with every part of our lives.

As you pray today, talk to God about a struggle or limitation you're dealing with in life. Remember that God's power is with you to help you through anything you're facing.

This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly all believers.

1 Timothy 4:10 NLT

>> JANUARY 19

Life is not always easy. Sometimes, the pressures of today can distract us from the possibilities of tomorrow. But when we place our hope in Jesus, we can be encouraged as we face both today and tomorrow, knowing that He has already overcome every possible challenge we might face. The more we look to and lean on Jesus, the more we'll be reminded of all He has done to help us, love us, and walk with us through anything we're facing.

Today, write down a few challenges you're facing. Share them with a friend or family member and pray together for Jesus' love to cover you as you walk through each one.

*Jesus told him,
“I am the way, the
truth, and the life.
No one can come to
the Father except
through me.*

John 14:6 NLT

>> JANUARY 20

Have you ever thought about what getting to know someone really means? Whether it's a friend, family member, or someone important to us, we wonder how we can really get to know that person more. Maybe you've asked yourself, "how I can REALLY get to know God?"

We can get to know God through Jesus! A great place to start is in the Gospels, which were recorded by some of Jesus's closest followers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John! Pick one of those to start reading, and set a reminder or alarm on your phone or somewhere you'll see it often! Then, actually spend time with Jesus by reading more about Him. By learning more about Jesus, you'll get to know God more too!

*For every house has
a builder, but the one
who built everything
is God.*

Hebrews 3:4 NLT

>> JANUARY 21

Everybody likes to be recognized for the good things they've done. It feels good to win an award, or be applauded in front of others, or even to just receive a compliment. In those moments, it's important to remember that all we have is from God. That means the brains that helped us win the awards, the abilities that helped us receive the praise, or the qualities that others complimented are all ours because God gave them to us. Out of God's great love for us, we've been given every good gift in this life!

What is one thing you're really good at? Thank God for giving you that quality or skill, and pray that you'll remember it's all from God.

*Whoever says,
“I know him,”
but does not do what
he commands is a liar,
and the truth is not in
that person.*

1 John 2:4a NIV

>> JANUARY 22

Okay, so the word "liar" seems harsh, doesn't it? Well, all it means is that it's impossible for us to truly get to know God while completely ignoring how God teaches us to live. But if we follow Jesus and really get to know Him, then we'll see that obeying Him is what's best for us. As we follow Jesus, our lives should begin to look like His.

This week, ask people in your circle if your walk backs up your talk. Identify an area in your life you can grow in this, and ask people to help you stick to it. Remember, no one is perfect, but we should always be growing and learning to keep God's commands.

*May God give you
more and more
grace and peace as
you grow in your
knowledge of God
and Jesus our Lord.*

2 Peter 1:2 NLT

>> JANUARY 23

Do you know what happens when you get to know Jesus? According to one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, we get more grace and peace in our own lives. The more time we spend getting to know Jesus through things like prayer, Scripture reading, and being a part of a church, the more peace we'll feel about life. Who wouldn't want more peace in life and more grace for ourselves and others?

This week, be intentional about taking time to get to know Jesus—maybe a few minutes in the morning or a few minutes before you go to bed. In the end, watch how grace and peace grow in your life.