

STUMMIN

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THE BIG QUESTIONS | NOVEMBER 15-21, 2023
YOU BELONG HERE.

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 15

Scripture isn't just something written a long time ago for people who lived a long time ago. It's truth and encouragement from God to us today, too! Sometimes the best way to memorize a verse is to picture it as a real scene lived out by real people—because that's what it is!

So, draw a picture illustrating what's happening in this verse. After you're done, write the verse on the page as well to help you not only remember the words, but remember the real people and the real God who created them.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 100:3 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 16

Everybody wants a place to belong. It's the reason why sports teams and marching bands wear uniforms – they identify that you belong. When we begin a relationship with Jesus, we become a part of God's family.

Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who watches over his sheep (that's us!). Sheep can wander away from the group of other sheep, and need a shepherd to protect them and keep them together. We don't follow Jesus by ourselves - we follow him together with our church, small group, friends, and believers all over the world. Jesus is the shepherd who we belong to and he keeps us safe and united.

You are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 17

What if you were king/queen for a day? A royal leader in your community? In this verse, Peter tells us that, believe it or not, you are! In God's Kingdom, you belong. You fit. You're even considered royalty! So the next time you struggle to see yourself as special, valuable, or worthy of belonging somewhere, remember the way God sees you.

Today, focus on the truth of how God sees you! Write the word "ROYALTY" somewhere you'll see it often to help you remember who you are to God.

*God's way is perfect.
All the Lord's
promises prove true.
He is a shield for all
who look to him for
protection.*

Psalm 18:30 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 18

Perfection is something we may experience occasionally, but it's fleeting. Even the smartest kid at school doesn't get 100% on every single test. God, however, IS perfect. Completely all-the-time perfect. Because of this, God always comes through on his promises. God never fails, gives up, or quits on us. We can uniquely trust God more than anyone or anything else. Not only is God perfect, but God is on our side. We belong to God, and when we follow his perfect way, we experience a life of incredible joy and purpose.

What is one way that you can walk in God's perfect way today?

*There is no longer Jew
or Gentile, slave or
free, male and female.
For you are all one in
Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 19

There are lots of labels that can divide us: athlete or artist, Senior or Freshman, Varsity or JV, Xbox or PlayStation. Although we naturally gravitate to people who are like us or enjoy the same things as us, this can create an "us vs. them" mindset. Jesus is a label breaker. Anyone who believes in and follows him belongs to him. Christianity is not a club or a clique, it's an extremely diverse group of people who Jesus has made into one family.

Because of Jesus, you don't have to wonder where you really fit in. Remember today that you always have a place to belong—no matter what.

*Therefore, go and
make disciples of all
the nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father
and the Son and the
Holy Spirit.*

Matthew 28:19 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 20

What was the last thing that you got super excited about and couldn't stop talking about? Maybe it was a band you discovered, a new restaurant you tried, or a movie line you keep repeating. Faith is meant to be repeated as well. When we follow Jesus, we do what He did. Jesus spoke with anyone who would listen about the incredible life found in having a personal relationship with God. The disciples then took the message Jesus was sharing and continued telling others the Good News. As followers of Jesus, we continue to share the message of Jesus to our world today.

What is the best part of following Jesus? Share it with someone this week.

*See what great
love the Father has
lavished on us, that
we should be called
children of God! And
that is what we are!*

1 John 3:1 NIV

>> NOVEMBER 21

Being part of a family is about love, about being real with each other, and about belonging to someone.

We belong to God! In fact, we belong to God like children. God wants to spend time with us because God loves us, even when we might not take time for God or when we do something we know is wrong. God loves us so much, like the most perfect parent. God the Father sent Jesus to Earth so that we could be forgiven and called children of God.

Today, think about the ways God has shown you love.