

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



THE BIG QUESTIONS | NOV. 29-DEC. 5, 2023
YOU MATTER MORE THAN YOU THINK.

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 29

When we're not sure what we're doing or where we're going in life, we can look to Scripture to remember what's true. God has a plan for the world. God has a purpose for us. And when we follow God, we can trust that we're following that plan and purpose, too.

As you work to remember this truth, memorize this verse to help. And to make it fun, get creative! Turn this verse into a song, write it as a poem, journal about it, set motions to it—whatever gets your creativity going to help you commit it to memory this week.

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Colossians 3:23 NLT

>> NOVEMBER 30

In this verse, Paul, the author of this letter to the Colossians, is encouraging people who follow Jesus to work hard at everything they do. Why? Not so they can get praise and recognition, but so God can! Part of following God means living every part of our lives for God. Work hard as you clean your bathroom, because you're doing it to honor God. Work hard to study for that test, because you're doing it for God. Work hard to be kind to your family, because you're doing it for God. When you do, you're giving others a small glimpse into what it really looks like to live your life for God.

What is something that you can put some extra effort into today to honor God?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.
Hebrews 12:1 NLT

>> DECEMBER 1

Life can sometimes feel heavy - like we're running a race with the heaviest backpack in the world on our shoulders! We're trying to move forward and keep going, but the weight of the world feels like it's holding us back. When we follow God, the things that slow us down or keep us from moving ahead don't have to be carried alone. We can take everything that's holding us back and hand it to God so that we can keep moving. God gives us the help and endurance we need to keep going, keep running, and keep following.

So, ask yourself: What do you need to take off your shoulders in order to keep running toward God?

But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

Acts 20:24 NLT

>> DECEMBER 2

Why am I here? What's my purpose? What am I supposed to be doing with my life? Maybe you've heard people around you ask questions like these. Or maybe you've asked these kinds of questions yourself! They're big questions about the big purpose we all want to discover in this life. This verse assures us that God gives us the big answers we're looking for. Our main job here on Earth is to love God and tell other people about that love. When we're following God and sharing the things God's done for us, we can be sure we're playing a part in God's purpose for our lives right now.

This week, think about who you want to talk to about God!

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.

Psalms 37:5 NLT

>> DECEMBER 3

Have you ever had a friend or family member break your trust? Maybe they shared something you asked them not to, or they weren't honest with you, or they did something that really hurt you. When that happens, it can be hard to ever want to trust again! But the good news is, in God, we find the only One who will never break our trust. When we feel like we're not sure what else to do or who we can trust, we can look to God, knowing that we can trust God with everything in our lives.

To remind yourself of this, memorize this short verse. Let it be the first step you take in trusting God this week.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:28 NLT

>> DECEMBER 4

It's easy to trust God's purpose for our lives when things are going great. But when trouble and struggle come? That's when the big questions about God's purpose come, too. Suddenly, it's difficult to see how God can have a purpose for any of the things we're going through! Rather than give into discouragement in those moments, remember this verse. In it is a truth that will always carry us through hard times: God is working for our good... always! When bad things happen or hard times come, we can know that not only is God still working (though it might really be a mystery to us), but God is with us in it and through it all, too.

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 NLT

>> DECEMBER 5

Do you ever feel like nothing you say or do matters because you're too young to be seen as capable of making a difference? That's exactly how Timothy, an early church leader, felt while he was working in the church in Ephesus. He was constantly challenged by others who were older than him, and thought they were wiser and more godly. To encourage him, Paul wrote this letter, 1 Timothy, to remind Timothy that God doesn't see him as too young. Timothy mattered to God because he was a child of God and therefore, highly loved. God doesn't see you as too young either! There is no one too young or too anything to be a part of what God is doing to make the world better. God created us with unique skills and talents, and loves us for who we are.