

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



BITTERSWEET | APRIL 13-19, 2022

THE MORE YOU HOLD ON TO A GRUDGE, THE MORE IT HOLDS ON TO YOU.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23 NLT

>> APRIL 13

We're all going to make mistakes. Everyone is going to mess up. Everyone is going to hurt someone else. Because we're human! And while forgiving others for what they've done wrong or even receiving forgiveness from others when we've done something wrong isn't a quick fix, it is something we can trust will help make our lives better. Forgiveness takes time, but with God, we are able to move on. God knows we're all going to mess up, over and over again. But God also loves us enough to make forgiveness possible, over and over again.

Read this verse every day this week as a reminder that we're all going to need forgiveness, and we all have it available to us through the God who loves us.

But I [Jesus] say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

Matthew 5:44 NLT

>> APRIL 14

If there is one person who was mistreated a lot, it was Jesus. He was betrayed, abandoned, beaten, and even killed. And yet, Jesus still had love and forgiveness for each and every person who treated Him poorly. So, when we read Jesus' command here to love and pray for the people who hurt us, we can listen to it, knowing that Jesus was speaking from experience. When we choose to love, pray for, and even forgive those who have mistreated us, we're making a choice to live more like Jesus Himself.

Is there someone you've been hurt by? Pray for them, asking that they would learn from their mistakes and that you would find a way to forgive them.

Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

Luke 6:37 NLT

>> APRIL 15

When someone hurts you, what's the first thing you want to do? For most of us, the answer is simple: get them back. We want to do to others what's been done to us. But today's verse reminds us that there's a better way.

When we hurt or wrong someone to get payback for what they've done to us, the cycle doesn't end. But when we choose to forgive? Well, not only are we breaking the cycle and letting go of anger and pain, but we're also acting out of the forgiveness we've already received from God. We forgive, not because it's easy to do, but because we know we've been forgiven, too.

*But the Lord our
God is merciful and
forgiving, even though
we have rebelled
against him.*

Daniel 9:9 NLT

>> APRIL 16

Forgiving other people isn't easy. When our best friend lies to us, or our siblings hurt our feelings, or our parent disappoints us, forgiving, showing kindness, and moving on seems like an impossible thing to do. That's when remembering all that God has done for us can be helpful. When we mess up, God forgives. When we make a mistake, God shows kindness. And no matter what, God loves us. Remembering that truth will help us show the same kind of mercy and forgiveness to people in our lives who need it, too.

Pray today that God would remind you of the love and forgiveness that's been given to you. Then, ask God to help you show the same to someone else this week.

*Instead, be kind to
each other,
tenderhearted,
forgiving one another,
just as God through
Christ has forgiven
you.*

Ephesians 4:32 NLT

>> APRIL 17

When God forgave us, God didn't give us what we deserve. Instead, God chose to give us forgiveness, even though we didn't deserve it. Now, we can do the same for others!

Take a moment to pray and thank God for the forgiveness God gave you.

Then, ask God to help you show others that same forgiveness when they disappoint or let you down this week.

*Make sure that
nobody pays back
wrong for wrong, but
always strive to do
what is good for each
other and for everyone
else.*

1 Thessalonians 5:15 NIV

>> APRIL 18

In ancient times, people operated with a payback mindset. That just means if someone hurt you, you could hurt them back. You could do to others what was done to you. In other words, it was all about revenge. While that may sound extreme, so many of us live with the same mindset. While we may never actually act on it—we may never pay back wrong with wrong—we certainly want to! Paul, the writer of this verse, reminds us that God asks us to do something different: to do what is good. When we choose goodness over payback, we're not only helping ourselves move on, but we're choosing God's best for our lives, too.

*Make allowance for
each other's faults,
and forgive anyone
who offends you.
Remember, the Lord
forgave you, so you
must forgive others.*

Colossians 3:13 NLT

>> APRIL 19

Memorizing God's Word takes the guessing out of what God wants us to do. The more we read and know what God says, the better we'll know how God wants us to live. And who doesn't want that?