

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



BITTERSWEET | APRIL 27-MAY 3, 2022
HEALING TAKES TIME.

*Even if that person
wrongs you seven
times a day and each
time turns again and
asks forgiveness,
you must forgive.*

Luke 17:4 NLT

>> APRIL 27

If someone hurts you over and over again, it can be difficult to move forward, can't it? Sure, they keep apologizing, but nothing changes. That certainly makes forgiveness not so easy to give. But here, Jesus commands us to forgive every time someone asks. Of course, that feels impossible, but remember, everything is possible with God. Asking for God's guidance and help is the only way we can forgive, again and again and again, for as long as it takes to move on in a healthy way.

So why not start now? If you're having a hard time letting go of something, pray that God will help you forgive today. Then, keep praying for the strength to move on.

*Yet God, in his grace,
freely makes us right
in his sight. He did
this through Christ
Jesus when he freed
us from the penalty of
our sins.*

Romans 3:23-24 NLT

>> APRIL 28

One of the best things about forgiveness is that it sets us free. From what? Well, from anger, guilt, frustration, sadness, shame, and so much more.

When we receive forgiveness, we're set free from our mistakes, wrongs, and missteps. And when we choose to forgive, we are free from the frustration and hurt we're carrying. It may not happen right away, but when we take our hurts and pain to God, we can trust that eventually the forgiveness Jesus came to offer us will help us forgive others, too.

What would forgiveness free you from right now? Receive the forgiveness God offers you so that you can move forward and move on.

*Do all that you can
to live in peace with
everyone.*

Romans 12:18 NLT

>> APRIL 29

What should you do to live in peace with other people? As Paul wrote: "All that you can." That sounds like a lot, doesn't it?

Forgiving and finding peace doesn't mean we return to relationships that aren't good for us or let people keep hurting us. But it does mean we do our part to find the peace that only God gives us and to show that same peace to others when we can. We can offer forgiveness and find good ways to move forward. And we can do our best not to hurt or harm others along the way.

Is there a relationship in your life that needs peace? Pray that God would show you what it looks like to do all that you can for peace.

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

Mark 11:25 NLT

>> APRIL 30

Jesus' words here are so important. When we receive God's forgiveness for our mistakes, it gives us the ability to forgive others for their mistakes, too. In other words, just as much as we have been forgiven, we have to forgive others.

We can't simply receive God's forgiveness and love without giving the same back to others. When we find the freedom to forgive ourselves because of Jesus' forgiveness, the best thing we can do is to forgive others, too.

Try writing a letter to someone you need to forgive. You can even write the letter to yourself! The goal isn't to give the letter to anyone; it's simply to practice showing the forgiveness that Jesus offers us all.

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23
NLT

>> MAY 1

If you're human, you are going to mess up and make mistakes. It's just a part of life. You might say something mean to your friend that you probably shouldn't have. You might forget to clean your room after your parent has asked you to several times. You might not follow directions on a school project and get a bad grade on it. The good news is that when you choose to follow Jesus, the story doesn't end when you mess up or make a mistake. That's because God sent Jesus to Earth to forgive us of anything we'll ever do—forever!

Because of Jesus, we have a chance to start over every single morning, no matter what we've done. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven! And that's something to celebrate!

Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.

Proverbs 10:12 NIV

>> MAY 2

What are some conflicts that you're dealing with right now? Are you fighting with a friend or teammate? Arguing with your family? Whenever conflict shows up in our lives, we might struggle to know how to deal with it and move on. This Proverb gives us the answer: love.

One of the best ways to move on from hurt and resolve conflict is with love. Consider how you can use love, in even the smallest way, to help resolve a conflict and move on.

Maybe it's a simple prayer, or offering an apology, or asking someone you trust for help. Whatever it is, take a step toward love to resolve the conflict this week.

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

>> MAY 3

Forgiveness isn't easy on our own, is it? That's why it's so important to have God's help in taking steps to forgive those who hurt you. Memorizing God's Word is a great step toward doing just that!

Write this verse on a notecard and tape it to the inside of your locker or a book you're reading. Every time you change classes or open that book, take a second to read it. By the end of the week, try to say it out loud to yourself from memory!