

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS | DEC. 1-7, 2021
BOTTOM LINE: WHERE THERE IS NOT HOPE, BRING IT.

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12 NLT

>> DECEMBER 1

Have you ever tried to find your way around a dark room? Because you can't see anything, the odds of running into something and getting injured is pretty high. Life can sometimes feel a lot like that, can't it? Like you're wandering around in dark and difficult times, and it's hard to find hope that things will get better. The good news is that Jesus is the light of the world. When we follow Him, Jesus leads the way for us no matter what we're walking through.

But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.

Romans 8:25 NLT

>> DECEMBER 2

Waiting is one of the hardest things to do! It's so difficult to sit around or try to distract yourself while you wait for something you want in life. And if we're honest, waiting can also make it really hard to have hope that whatever it is we want will happen. It can be so tough to find the courage to look forward to something when you just aren't sure how it will turn out. Well, the key to having hope no matter what is confidence! When we put our hope in God, we can be confident that God is with us no matter what. That makes waiting worth it!

But I will keep on hoping for your help; I will praise you more and more.

Psalms 71:14 NLT

>> DECEMBER 3

Have you ever been in need of help? If you have, then you know the way it feels. Your stomach clenches up, your heart starts beating fast, your hands get sweaty. And when the help finally comes? Well, there's nothing like that feeling of relief! But did you know that in between those feelings of helplessness and relief, you can insert something very important: hope. When your hope is in God, you can trust that help is going to come. You can trust that God will come through, even when you're in the middle of waiting and looking for help. What situation in your life could use a little hope between the helplessness and the relief?

*Faith shows the reality
of what we hope for;
it is the evidence
of things we cannot
see.
Hebrews 11:1 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 4

Faith is a tough concept to grasp. We can put our faith in God, but what does that actually mean? Faith is the action of living as if what you hope for is going to happen. When you sit in a chair, it shows you have faith in the result—that the chair will hold you up. The same can be true when we put our faith in God. We can live as though we know the result—that all God has promised will be true for our lives. As a family, take turns sharing about a time when you chose to have hope even when you didn't know what the result would be.

*Let us hold unswervingly
to the hope we profess,
for He who promised is
faithful.
Hebrews 10:23 NIV*

>> DECEMBER 5

Often times, Christmas brings a spark of excitement that is lacking the rest of the year. It is a time of family and fun. But sometimes, Christmas can be hard. That's when it's important to remember that Christmas isn't a celebration that depends on the things we have; it is the celebration of hope coming into the world. And the hope we celebrate is Jesus! Is there anything that feels hopeless in your life this Christmas season? Ask God to help you celebrate the hope you have in Jesus, even when things are hard.

*And so, Lord, where do
I put my hope? My only
hope is in you.
Psalm 39:7 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 6

It's an awful feeling when someone lets you down. Whether it's your parent forgetting to pick you up, a friend cancelling on you, or your sibling not having your back, it hurts when you hope that someone will come through for you and they don't. But God has a perfect record of coming through for us. And that's the incredible thing about God! When you count on God, you can know that God loves you unconditionally, always looks out for you, and will always come through.

Write down the ways you've seen God be present in your life and use that as a reminder to put your hope in God!

*For a child is born to
us, a son is given to us.
The government will
rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful.
Isaiah 9:6 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 7

When we think about Christmas, sometimes we see it as the end of the story. But really, the birth of Jesus was only the beginning. God sent Jesus to Earth to make a way to have a relationship with us. And one of the ways that relationship can grow and continue is through learning about Jesus in God's Word. So, as you think about Jesus this Christmas season, make it a goal to memorize this verse to grow in your understanding of Him.

And make it fun! Write three Christmas cards to friends or family members this week and include this verse in the note. Each time you write it, try to do more of it from memory!