

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS | DEC. 15-21, 2021
BOTTOM LINE: WHERE THERE IS NOT JOY, BRING IT.

*The Lord has done
great things for us,
and we are
filled with joy.
Psalm 126:3 NIV*

>> DECEMBER 15

How many things do you say are great? Is it great to have fun with friends? Would you say your favorite meal is great? Or getting Christmas presents and having winter break are great? We usually think things are great because they bring us joy. Well, we can be filled with joy because of the great things that God has done for us. There is no greater joy than that!

What great things has God done in your life? Take a moment to write down a few examples and think about how they've brought joy to your life.

Then, thank God for bringing you joy through those great things in your life.

*For the Lord your God
is living among you. He
is a mighty savior.
He will take delight
in you with gladness.
With his love, he will
calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you
with joyful songs.
Zephaniah 3:17 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 16

Have you ever heard someone say that it's the "little things" in life that make them happy? Things like ice cream on a hot day, an unexpected thunderstorm, a good grade on a pop quiz, or listening to your favorite song on repeat. Little things like that can bring us a lot of joy. But have you ever thought about what brings God joy?

God gets the greatest joy out of each one of us! God delights in us. In other words, to God, we're like ice cream on a hot day!

Think of all the things about you that might bring God joy. Then, celebrate those things!

*Suddenly, an angel
of the Lord appeared
among them, and the
radiance of the Lord's
glory surrounded
them. They were
terrified, but the angel
reassured them. "Don't
be afraid!" he said. "I
bring you good news
that will bring great joy
to all people."
Luke 2:9-10 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 17

There's usually a limit to the way good news works. Think about it! A cupcake brings joy to the person eating it. A surprise vacation brings joy to the people traveling. And a snow day brings joy to an entire school district.

During the first Christmas, though, an angel brought good news that was different. It was good news that had the potential to bring great joy to all people—the good news of Jesus.

Who is one person you know that could use some good news in their life this week? Find a way to share the good news of Christmas with that person.

*Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."
John 14:6 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 18

There can be a lot of loud, confusing, and frustrating stuff that comes with the Christmas season. And all of that can make Christmas feel anything but joyful, right? Thankfully, Jesus told us what Christmas was all about when He told us who He truly is. When we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the fact that Jesus provides a way for us to connect with God, our Heavenly Father.

Jesus is the way toward all truth and life in this world, and that's definitely something worth celebrating!

That's the real reason we can have joy no matter what else is happening around us this Christmas season.

*Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.
Romans 12:12 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 19

The Christmas season is full of songs, TV shows, and movies that talk ALL about joy. But sometimes, we get caught up in the troubles we are facing, and the Christmas season feels anything but joyful.

This verse reminds us that we can be joyful despite our troubles because we have hope. So today, focus on joy. Where do you see it? Write it down. Take a picture of something that represents it. Encourage your family to do the same. Then, share your joy sightings with one another. Do this every day between now and Christmas. And remember to keep on praying and thanking God for the things that bring you joy!

*Always be full of joy in the Lord.
I say it again—rejoice!
Philippians 4:4 NLT*

>> DECEMBER 20

Joy is a feeling that we can all have. Joy doesn't depend on circumstances or even on whether you're in a good mood or not. Joy is something that's available to you always when you are in relationship with Jesus. Our relationship with Jesus gives us the ability to experience joy in all situations.

When you remember how much Jesus loves you and that Jesus is with you in every situation, that's when you can find joy.

Take a minute to say a quick prayer asking God to keep you mindful of the joy Jesus gives no matter what.

*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 21

One of the things God gives us to help us have joy is the Bible. God's Word is meant to help fill our hearts and minds with joy that can only come from God. Having a verse like this one memorized is a simple way to remember joy when you need it!

So, make this verse the lock screen on one of your devices this week. Each time you pick it up to use it, read the verse first. Try to work toward saying it from memory.