

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM | MARCH 23-29, 2022
IN THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM, POWER MEANS LEADING WITH LOVE.

*So then, let us aim for
harmony in
the church and try to
build each
other up.*

Romans 14:19 NLT

>> MARCH 23

Have you ever had a conversation with a friend that left you feeling sad or upset? Or have you ever been the friend that left someone else feeling sad or upset? Our words have the potential to encourage the people in our lives, but they also have the power to be incredibly hurtful to those around us. It's our job to use our words well—to use the authority we have to speak to others wisely. After all, don't we all want to be people who build each other up?

This week, find a way to use the authority you have over your words well. Send an encouraging text, write a note, or just offer a compliment to someone in your life to build them up.

*Love is patient and
kind; love does not
envy or boast; it is not
arrogant or rude. It
does not insist on its
own way.*

*1 Corinthians 13:4-5
ESV*

>> MARCH 24

Have you ever been to a wedding? If so, there's a good chance you heard someone quote this verse. While the idea of love is great for weddings, that isn't exactly what these words are about. This passage is part of a letter written by Paul to a group of new Jesus-followers living in Corinth. In it, Paul was trying to explain the kind of upside-down way of life Jesus talked about, the kind of life where you put others before yourself and love your neighbor as yourself. Paul knew these Jesus-followers might need some specific examples of what this kind of love is and what it is not.

Take a few minutes and think about your family and your friend group. Jot down a few ways you could show the kind of love Paul talks about in this verse.

*I am the good
shepherd; I know
my own sheep, and
they know me,
just as my Father
knows me and I
know the Father.
So, I sacrifice my
life for the sheep.*

John 10:14-15 NLT

>> MARCH 25

One of the hardest things about dealing with people in authority is that it requires a lot of trust. The good news is that when it comes to God's authority, we can feel comfortable to trust it completely. God knows who you are and what you need. And more than that, God loves you and has plans to fill your future with hope. Just like a shepherd's job is to feed, protect, and guide their sheep, God uses authority to do the same for us. When you struggle with trusting God, remember what God has promised to do: protect, provide, and guide you in the best way.

Take a moment to jot down three ways God helps take care of you. Then, thank God for what you've written.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 NIV

>> MARCH 26

God has a lot of authority and can do anything in the world with it! But ultimately, God used it to give one pretty amazing thing to us: Jesus. God sent Jesus to live, walk, and lead among us. To die for our sins. To rise from the dead and make a way for us to be close to God forever. God, who has the authority to do absolutely anything, ultimately gave us the biggest gift. What an example of what it means to lead with love!

Who in your life might be encouraged by this truth? Write down their names and then make an effort to share more about God's love with them this week.

Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.

1 Peter 5:2 NLT

>> MARCH 27

What regular responsibilities do you have? The things we end up having to do regularly aren't always the most fun. In fact, they often end up feeling like chores. But what if there was a different way to see our responsibilities? A way that made them feel more important? This week, try seeing them as the things that you have been given authority over. They are things that you have been trusted to do.

Think about one of your regular responsibilities. What if you changed your perspective and thought about that thing as a responsibility God has given you as a leader? You might find yourself stepping up to handle your responsibilities with a new attitude!

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Romans 12:10 ESV

>> MARCH 28

This verse describes a love and affection that is not chosen, but guaranteed. Whether we're a fan of them or not, we can't choose our siblings—and in the same way, we shouldn't choose who receives our love. Love can't be dependent on how close we are to someone, what they've done for us, or when we're feeling loving. It's a type of humility that "honors" others, or treats them with high respect. Love honors the other person like family, as if we have no choice but to share in burdens and blessings.

Write down this verse and put it where you can see it regularly. Each time you do, imagine how you might "outdo" yourself at showing honor to the last person you saw.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

John 13:34 NIV

>> MARCH 29

Some of us have great authority figures in our lives. And, unfortunately, others of us are dealing with authority that has been unkind, hurtful, or worse. Either way, we can sometimes find ourselves wondering what real, good authority should be like.

When we memorize verses like this one, it reminds us of Jesus, who is the ultimate example of authority, and it shows us how to use our own authority with love and kindness like He did.