

STUMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



FOR ALL PEOPLE | DECEMBER 13-19, 2023
JESUS IS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

*"Glory to God in the
highest heaven,
and on earth peace
to those on whom his
favor rests."*

Luke 2:14 NIV

>> DECEMBER 13

Memorizing Scripture helps you apply the truth you find in it to your life. When you know a verse and keep it in your heart, it becomes more than just something you read. It becomes something that changes you from the inside out!

Continue to work on memorizing this verse this week. Try putting it to song, adding motions to remind you of the words. It's a simple way to do an important thing for yourself: remembering truth from Scripture so you know it when you need it the most!

*Make every effort
to live in peace with
everyone
and to be holy;
without holiness no
one will see the Lord.*

Hebrews 12:14 NIV

>> DECEMBER 14

It's not always easy to live at peace with our friends, family, or teammates all the time. Still, it's got to be important because the writer of Hebrews tells us to make every effort to do it! The good news is that we don't have to figure it out alone. God sent Jesus to bring peace on Earth. And because of the peace Jesus brought to all people thousands of years ago, we can ask God today and every day for help living at peace with others.

So, who in your life is difficult to live at peace with? Ask God to help you live in peace with them, not only today, but every day!

*And the peace of God,
which transcends
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7 NIV

>> DECEMBER 15

Have you ever had to guard something? Maybe it was the net during a sporting event or a secret for a friend. Whatever it was, you know that when you're guarding something, it means that you're protecting it. You're watching out for it. Well, in the same way, God promises to guard our hearts and minds with peace. That's a pretty big deal because, as you probably know, so many things can keep us from feeling at peace, especially at Christmas! When that happens, we can turn to God for help in guarding and protecting our hearts and minds.

Today, remember that God's promise of peace is for all people at all times.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 NIV

>> DECEMBER 16

The Christmas season can be exhausting. We're running on fumes from school work and activities, and then the comparison game creeps in because we're hearing about everyone else's family fun, gifts, and holiday plans. We know those things aren't a competition, but it can be hard to try to keep up. Some days it all feels like a heavy burden.

You need rest. And that's what Jesus offers.

Today, when the exhaustion of Christmas feels overwhelming, take a time out from life and slow down. Take a few deep breaths. Pay attention to the goodness that surrounds you. Listen and look for the joy ... and peace ... of the season.

This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people.

1 Timothy 4:10a NLT

>> DECEMBER 17

Here's the hope we celebrate every Christmas: The God of all creation wanted to be with us and did whatever it took to make it happen. The God of the universe wanted to make sure we knew how loved we are. Just in case we were unsure about the closeness and goodness of God, God became man to take away any doubt. No matter how bad things may get, we are reminded that we are never alone.

What is an area of your life where you need to be reminded of the Good News of hope that Jesus brings to our world? Let this be your mantra today: "In Jesus, I can find hope!"

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

>> DECEMBER 18

Wouldn't it be great if the kindness, care, and compassion that mark the Christmas season could last beyond December? Well, while life may go back to "normal" as Christmas ends each year, the things the season represents can remain. Jesus came to bring us faith, hope, and love—the very things that can make life better for all people each and every day. And because of Jesus, those things can be a part of our lives in any season and at any time.

We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you.

2 Thessalonians 1:12a NIV

>> DECEMBER 19

Paul is praying for followers of Jesus to live in a way that their lives glorify God. But what does that even mean? Should we be praying all the time? Only listen to worship music? Read nothing except our Bible? Not exactly. We glorify God when we live in a way that looks like Jesus. When we show compassion, offer mercy, give forgiveness, practice justice, love those who are hardest to love, and live with empathy. Christmas is a great time to reflect on the character of God, perfectly shown in the person of Jesus, who came to earth so we might know exactly what God is like.