

STUMMIN

FAMILY DAILY DEVOTIONAL



START THE PARTY! | SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2023
AN INFLUENCER KNOWS THAT EVERYONE IS INVITED.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10 NIV

>> SEPTEMBER 20

Memorizing Scripture is one of the best ways to remind yourself of what's true. It's easy to think negative thoughts or let lies about ourselves (and even God!) run on repeat in our minds. But when we have verses memorized, we can replace those untrue or painful thoughts with the truth of who God is and how God feels about us. That's important!

So, keep working to memorize this verse this week. Use it as prayer, reading it aloud when you pray. Each time you pray, work to say more of it from memory.

Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.

Matthew 9:10 NLT

>> SEPTEMBER 21

It's easy to focus only on ourselves and on our friends. After all, we're all busy people with a lot happening in our lives. Who has time to include everyone? Especially when we might not even like them! Well, even though it's hard, that is what we are called to do. Jesus shows us how to include not just our friends, but everyone! That's what an influencer does!

Today, ask God to open your eyes to the people around you - on your street, in your neighborhood, at home, or in your small group. Pray that you would notice their needs and step up to meet them with God's help.

But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

1 John 2:5-6 NLT

>> SEPTEMBER 22

Sometimes figuring out how we're supposed to live feels challenging. But living in a way that honors God isn't as complicated as we might think. All we have to do is look to Jesus. His life is our example! When we obey God's leading in our lives, we're living the way Jesus did. We're stepping into the full, amazing life Jesus came to give us. And we can influence others to do the same.

Take time to read a little bit of one of the four books in the Bible about Jesus' life on Earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. As you read, take note of the way Jesus lived and challenge yourself to follow His example.

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Romans 15:7 NLT

>> SEPTEMBER 23

Being accepted is a challenge no matter how old you are, but it's especially difficult in middle and high school! We want to fit in, we want to be included, and we want to be accepted for who we are. Yet it feels like no matter how hard we try, we still don't fully fit in. We feel judged, misunderstood, compared, or left out. And that's hard! Thankfully, because of Jesus, we always have a place to belong. Through Jesus, we're accepted into God's family just as we are. Because of that, we'll never be left out, left alone, or unaccepted. We'll always have a place at the party!

Write down Romans 15:7 and put it somewhere you'll see it often. When you see it, stop and thank God that you are accepted no matter what!

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.
Matthew 9:9 NLT

>> SEPTEMBER 24

Isn't it true that we often put people in categories? In our minds, there are the people we consider "in" and the people we consider "out." But as Matthew, one of Jesus' closest followers, reminds us, this isn't the case with God. Matthew was a tax collector—someone the world would've seen as "out" at the time. But Jesus invited Matthew to follow Him just the way he was. Matthew didn't have to do anything but accept the invitation. Just like that, he was "in."

Think about the people in your life who you may be seeing as "out." Ask God to change your heart toward them, reminding you that in Jesus, we're all "in" at the party.

But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?
Romans 10:14 NLT

>> SEPTEMBER 25

Think about the first person who told you about Jesus. Was it a friend who invited you to church? A grandparent who prayed for you often? A coach or teacher who encouraged your faith? A small group leader who showed up for you? Whoever it was, that person was definitely an abundant-life influencer. They took time to share the good news—the best news—with you. They took time to tell you about Jesus, and that changed your life! We get the chance to do the same for someone else. We get to tell anyone and everyone about who Jesus is. We get to share good news!

So, make an effort to share a little bit about Jesus with someone else in your life this week!

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2 NIV

>> SEPTEMBER 26

Living life to the full is to enjoy life fully, to gain all that we can from the life we live. But what do we do when it's a struggle to live life to the full? We live life with others! When we live in community, we can unite with one another during difficult times, and together, we can support each other in living life to the full.

We're also supposed to go through life connecting with God. In difficult times, looking to God for guidance, comfort, and care can help us continue to see how we can have full life in good times and in tough times.