

SAMPLER

CHARLES F. STANLEY

Every Day with Jesus

365 DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS





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PRESENTED TO

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FROM

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DATE





EVERY DAY WITH JESUS

365 Devotions for Kids

Charles F. Stanley

Adapted by Tama Fortner



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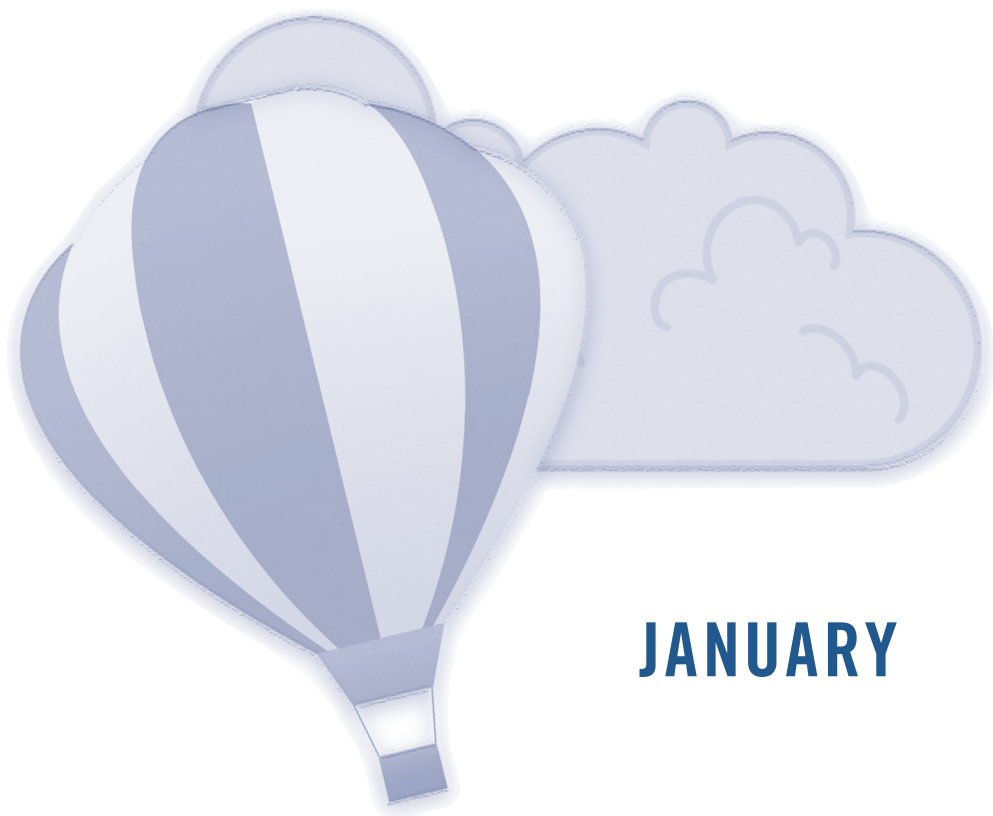
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JANUARY





JANUARY 1

A GREAT, BIG LOVE

God created human beings in his image.

GENESIS 1:27

Have you ever thought about how much God loves you? You could spend your whole life thinking about it and still never understand how huge God's love for you is.

For starters, God made you *in His own image!* Just think about that: God wanted you to look like Him—maybe not on the outside, but in your heart and soul. Then think about how God created every treasure in the universe, but He says *you're* worth more than any of them. In fact, you're so special to God that He wants to talk to you and to be part of every single moment of your life. He wants to fill you up with His love so full that when other people look at you, they see His love (Matthew 5:16).

So if you ever wonder what you're worth, remember this: God created you, He loves you, and He says you belong to Him (Isaiah 43:1).

Lord, thank You for loving me with such a great, big love, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . THINK ABOUT
HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU.



JANUARY 2

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU

*God, you are my God. I want to follow you. . . .
Your love is better than life.*

PSALM 63:1, 3

Do you ever pretend to be someone you're not and do things you'd rather not do—just so people will like you? Do you ever wish that people knew the *real* you? That they loved you just because you're . . . *you*?

Of course, *lots* of people know and love you. But there's only One who will ever perfectly know and love you, and that's God. He knows everything you've ever thought or done or said, and everything you will ever think or do or say. The good stuff *and* not-so-good stuff. And He still loves you.

When you mess up—when you sin—you might be tempted to think God doesn't love you or want you around anymore. Don't believe that for a second! God *created* you to be with Him, and He *never* stops wanting you to be with Him. There's nothing you can do or think or say that will ever make Him stop loving you. Not ever.

Father, thank You for knowing me and loving me, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . REMEMBER GOD
LOVES YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU.



JANUARY 3

LET JESUS SET YOU FREE

“If the Son makes you free, then you will be truly free.”

JOHN 8:36

Have you ever seen a donkey carry a heavy load on its back? Have you ever noticed the donkey can't get that load *off* its back all by itself? It simply can't reach it. A donkey needs someone else to take away its heavy load.

And so do you. “But I'm not carrying any heavy loads on my back,” you say. You're right—your load is inside you. It's your bad feelings, like anger, jealousy, sadness, and pain. Those feelings can get buried deep down inside, where you can't reach them. They get heavier and heavier, dragging you down. You need someone to take away your heavy load. You need Jesus. He's the only One who can do it.

Jesus will set you free from your heavy load. He'll comfort you and help you forgive and be joyful. All you have to do is ask—and Jesus will set you free.

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to set me free.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . LET HIM TAKE
AWAY YOUR HEAVY LOAD.



JANUARY 4

JOY—NO MATTER WHAT

“I told you these things so that you can have peace in me. In this world you will have trouble. But be brave! I have defeated the world!”

JOHN 16:33

Do you have joy, no matter what’s happening in your life? It’s possible to have that kind of joy with Jesus.

That doesn’t mean that if you follow Jesus you’ll never have another problem. But it does mean that Jesus will always stay right by your side. When you’re sad, He’ll comfort you. When you’re afraid, He’ll help you be brave. And when you have troubles—and there will *always* be troubles in this world—Jesus will guide you and help you. He’ll even use your troubles to help you trust Him more, and He’ll bless you with the joy of simply being with Him.

Jesus will never leave you on your own, not in happy times and especially not in troubled times. So the next time you’re going through a tough time, don’t give up. Instead, thank Jesus for the help and the joy He’s already sending your way (Psalm 126:6).

Lord, I’m so glad You’re always right beside me. Thank You for helping me, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . LOOK FOR HIS JOY,
NO MATTER WHAT’S HAPPENING.



JANUARY 5

TRUST AND BELIEVE

“Don’t worry, because I am with you. Don’t be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you. I will support you with my right hand that saves you.”

ISAIAH 41:10

Some people say they believe in God and trust Him, but their lives are filled with fear, worry, and doubt. That’s not how God wants His people to live.

You *can* trust God, and you can believe every one of His promises. God wants only the very best for you. When you follow Him and try to obey His Word, He won’t let you miss out on all the very best things He has planned for you (Hebrews 11:6). But remember, what *God* knows is best for you might be different from what *you* think is best for you. Trust God—He knows what your soul needs.

Is there something you’re afraid of? Or worried about? Talk to God. Ask Him to take away those worries and fears. Trust Him to help you. And don’t forget: God is always good. So if He doesn’t give you what you want, it’s because He has something even better planned for you.

Lord, I trust You, and I believe You want only the very best for me, amen.

**TODAY WITH JESUS . . . BELIEVE GOD IS
DOING GOOD THINGS FOR YOU.**



JANUARY 6

WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?

When a man's steps follow the Lord, God is pleased with his ways.

PSALM 37:23

When you've had to make a choice, did you ever wish God would just shout from heaven and tell you what to do or where to go? God promises to guide you and help you, but sometimes it may not *feel* like He is. Don't worry. God really *is* working in your life, guiding and helping you, even when it doesn't feel like it.

God hears you when you pray. He knows everything that's happening, He knows when you aren't sure what to do, and He knows just what you need. He won't hide His plans from you (Jeremiah 29:11–13)—but He probably won't show them all to you at once, either.

God is teaching you to trust Him. While He won't show you the end of this road you're walking, He will show you the next step to take—and He'll always be right there beside you.

Lord, it's hard sometimes, but I trust You to show me the next step to take, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . TRUST HIM TO
SHOW YOU WHICH WAY TO GO.



JANUARY 7

WHAT “HAVING FAITH” MEANS

Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him.

HEBREWS 11:6

What do you really want? Not stuff, like a bike—but bigger things, like your parents to stop fighting or someone you love to stop being sick. Did you tell God about it? Do you believe He’ll help?

Believing God—what some people call *having faith*—doesn’t mean you know exactly how things will turn out. Instead, it means knowing who God is: that He’s always loving and good. Having faith is believing God means what He says, and He will do what He promises (Isaiah 55:10–11).

“But I’ve been waiting so long, and God still hasn’t fixed my problem,” you say. Yes, sometimes God will ask you to wait for His answer (Isaiah 64:4). The important thing is to keep believing while you wait—and trusting that He wants only the best for you. You don’t have to beg God to keep His promises, because He always will, in His own perfect way.

God, I do have faith. But please help my faith to be stronger when I have to wait, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . CHOOSE TO BELIEVE—CHOOSE TO HAVE FAITH.



JANUARY 8

THE MOST AMAZING GIFT

*The Lord has set his throne in heaven.
And his kingdom rules over everything.*

PSALM 103:19

You have been given the most amazing gift ever. What is it? It's the gift of knowing God. *You* get to talk to God, the Creator of everything, any time you want. What an *amazing* gift!

God knows you too. And guess what? He knows you even better than you know yourself! He knows your past, present, and future. He knows everything you think and feel. And no matter what you'll face today, God already knows all about it, and He has the very best plan to get you through it.

With His all-powerful hand, God can do anything. With His unlimited knowledge, He'll guide you. And because of His never-failing love, He'll make sure that everything in your life will be used for your good—even the tough things (Romans 8:28).

There's absolutely nothing better in this whole world—this whole universe—than knowing God and being known by Him!

God, help me know You just a little better each day, amen.



JANUARY 9

THE DEVIL LOVES TO LIE

We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5

The Devil is your worst enemy, and he loves to lie to you. He likes to whisper things into your thoughts—things like, “You’re a loser; it’s hopeless, so just give up; God’s not going to answer your prayer”; and “God doesn’t even want anything to do with you.” The Devil knows exactly what to say to make you feel terrible.

But remember this: *the Devil is a liar* (John 8:44). Don’t listen to him! Those terrible things he whispers aren’t true. Believe what God says instead—He never lies to you.

And what does God say? What’s His truth for you? When you trust God, you’re a winner (Proverbs 16:3). There’s always hope because Jesus is on your side (John 16:33). God not only hears your prayers, He answers every one of them (Matthew 7:7–11). And God loves you so much, He’ll *never* let you go (John 10:11, 27–28). Believe God. He always tells the truth.

*Lord, help me spot the Devil's lies, and
show me Your truth instead, amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . TRUST THAT
GOD’S WORD IS ALWAYS TRUE.



JANUARY 10

GOD ALREADY KNOWS

“The Spirit of the Lord is in me. This is because God chose me to tell the Good News to the poor. God sent me to tell the prisoners of sin that they are free.”

LUKE 4:18

Are there things about yourself that you're ashamed of: bad choices you've made, past mistakes, or something you've done or said that you wish you hadn't? Some of those things may be so painful that you don't want anyone to know about them—especially not God.

But God already knows. He knows all the very best things about you—and the very worst. He knows your deepest hurts, your biggest fears, and your worst mistakes. And He still loves you so much that He sent Jesus to save you (Romans 5:8).

God wants you with Him, no matter what you've done. He wants to talk with you and spend time with you. He wants to set you free from shame—to heal your hurts and wash away your sins and mistakes. Don't be afraid of what God knows. Tell Him everything. And then let God tell you how much you're loved.

God, You know everything I've ever done or said or thought, and You still love me. Thank You, amen.

**TODAY WITH JESUS . . . REMEMBER HE
LOVES YOU, NO MATTER WHAT.**



JANUARY 11

GIVE YOUR EVERYTHING TO GOD

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:5

It's important to give God every part of your life—at home, at school, with friends, in sports—not just at church. If you don't, you'll end up building a wall between you and God.

For example, maybe you keep God out of your friendships, so you can do things God wouldn't like. Or you keep Him out of school, so you can pretend it doesn't matter if you cheat. Or you keep God out of sports, so you can throw a fit after a bad game. You tell yourself God won't notice your sins, if you don't give Him that part of your life.

But God sees every sin, and those bad choices build up a wall that keeps you apart from Him. You can tear down that wall, though, by giving your *whole* life to Him. You'll still mess up sometimes, but if you tell God about it, He'll always forgive you.

Dear God, help me give every part of my life to You, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . INVITE HIM
INTO EVERYTHING YOU DO.



JANUARY 12

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Remember the Lord in everything you do. And he will give you success.

PROVERBS 3:6

When you have a decision to make, how do you decide what to do? Do you make a quick choice, or just do whatever your friends do? Or do you take time to carefully think about which choice would be best?

How you make decisions actually says a lot about you. Do you go with what would be the most fun or the easiest or the safest? Are you willing to risk messing up, failing, or just looking silly? Do you do whatever it takes to protect yourself from any kind of pain or sadness?

No matter how you choose to make your decisions, there's one thing you must always include—a talk with God. Ask Him about all your decisions. Only He knows the perfect choices for you. Ask God to guide you with His perfect wisdom, because He'll never lead you to a wrong decision.

*Lord, in everything, please show me
what You want me to do, amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . TRUST GOD TO
HELP YOU MAKE GOOD DECISIONS.



JANUARY 13

GOD CREATES GOODNESS

We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

ROMANS 8:28 NLT

Is there some problem in your life that just won't go away? Maybe it's huge, or maybe it's small, but it's *always* there. You've prayed and prayed about it, and you just can't figure out why God won't take it away. It's okay to wonder why, and it's okay if you don't understand. The important thing is to keep trusting God—He has a plan for you and your problem. You just don't see it yet.

God is ruler over everything—yes, even your struggles (Psalm 103:19). And He promises that He'll use everything in your life for your good, because you love Him. *Everything*. Even that pesky problem.

So the next time that problem pops up, talk to God about it. Then trust Him not only to take care of it—in His own perfect way and time—but also to somehow bless you through it.

Father, I'm not sure what good will come from this problem, but I trust You to take care of it, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . LOOK FOR THE GOODNESS
GOD BRINGS OUT OF YOUR TROUBLES.



JANUARY 14

LIVING CLOSE TO GOD

At one time all these things were important to me. But now I think those things are worth nothing because of Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:7

Jesus came to earth and died on a cross to give you the most beautiful gift—the forgiveness of your sins. He took all the punishment for your sins, so you can look forward to living forever with Him in heaven (Ephesians 2:8–9). Because of Jesus, you can talk to God and He will listen.

God wants to spend time with you, listen to you, and help you. He wants you to grow closer and closer to Him, so you can love Him more and more. But there are things that can keep you from getting closer to God, such as: selfishness, jealousy, anger, and hate. To get closer to God, you have to give up those things.

God wants you to be forgiving, kind, and loving to others (Ephesians 4:32). But most of all, He wants you to be like Him. So when you do as God asks—loving Him and loving others—you'll live closer and closer to Him.

Lord, help me to love You and love others, so that I can get closer to You, amen.



JANUARY 15

WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU

Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.

1 PETER 2:6

Have you ever heard someone say, “Not my will, God, but Your will be done”? Do you understand what that means? It means that you believe God will *always* do what’s best for you. And even though you may want Him to answer your prayer in one way, you understand that if He answers it a different way, then His way is much, much better. When you trust God, you’ll never be disappointed.

So when you face a problem, and you know how *you* want it to turn out, you have a choice to make. Will you trust God and obey Him, even if you don’t like His answer? Or will you try to fix it your own way? Remember: when you trust God, He’ll never let you down. He will always do what’s best for you—and it will be greater than anything you could ever even ask or imagine!

*Lord, I trust You to do what's best for me. I
know You'll never let me down, amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . PRAY THAT
GOD'S WILL BE DONE.



JANUARY 16

TIME FOR FAITH

I will lead the blind along a way they never knew. I will guide them along paths they have not known.

ISAIAH 42:16

There will be times when God asks you to step out into the unknown. Maybe that's what He is asking you to do today—to do something you've never done before, or to make a choice you wouldn't choose on your own. Everything is new—even strange—and you're not quite sure how you feel about that. That's the time for faith. Trust God to lead you.

If you knew exactly what to do all the time and could handle everything all by yourself, you wouldn't need faith. You wouldn't need to trust God. You also wouldn't get to experience the amazing love, wisdom, and power of God when He works in your life.

When God asks you to do something—especially something new—He'll use the full power of heaven to make sure you're able to do it. So trust Him, and follow wherever He leads you.

Lord, I will go wherever You send me. Help me always do what You ask, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . GO WHERE HE SENDS YOU.



JANUARY 17

YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT GOD

*“Just as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways.”*

ISAIAH 55:9

Be ready—because there will be times when God’s instructions just don’t make sense. But here’s something you should know about God: He doesn’t expect you to understand Him or His ways of doing things. He only expects you to obey Him, even if His instructions seem strange to you.

Think about it: Why would God ask Abraham to leave his home without telling him where he was going (Genesis 12:1–2)? And why would God promise to give seventy-five-year-old Abraham a son, and then wait *twenty-five years* to do it? That just doesn’t make sense!

And that’s the point. You aren’t supposed to understand God. After all, He’s the Creator and ruler of everything. He’s huge and all-powerful. Your job is to worship and praise Him. Don’t try to figure Him out—it isn’t possible. Just trust Him, and let Him show you how awesome and amazing He really is.

*Lord, I don’t understand all the things You do,
but I do know You’re amazing! Amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . THINK ABOUT
HOW AWESOME GOD IS.



JANUARY 18

WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.

PSALM 139:14

How do you decide what you're worth? Is it by what other people say about you? Or how much money you have, how you look, what you wear, your grades, or how good you are at sports? It's tempting to use those kinds of things to decide how valuable you are. Tempting, but wrong! Those kinds of things are always changing. Sometimes they're not even true! And you've probably noticed that it's much easier to believe the bad stuff than the good stuff.

Remember this: the only One who can truly decide how valuable you are is the One who created you and who sent His Son to die for you—*God*. And because Jesus died for you, you are forever loved (Jeremiah 31:3), accepted (Romans 15:7), able (2 Corinthians 3:5), and victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57). Believe what God says about you, because it's the real truth.

*Lord, teach me to see how important and
valuable I am to You, amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . SEE YOURSELF
THE WAY GOD DOES.



JANUARY 19

WHAT TO BELIEVE

Lord, give me life by your love. Your words are true from the start.

PSALM 119:159–160

You read it yesterday, but it's so great, you should read it again today. Because of Jesus, you are forever loved (Jeremiah 31:3), accepted (Romans 15:7), able (2 Corinthians 3:5), and victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57).

But sometimes, that is hard to believe. Troubles, hard times, mistakes you've made, hurt feelings, or cruel words from others can make you feel afraid, worthless, helpless, and just not able to deal with your problems.

But remember, "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things" (Jeremiah 17:9 NLT). That means your feelings can lie to you—because of a mistake you made, what someone says about you, or just from having a bad day. But you can always trust what God's Word says. So repeat these words to yourself over and over again: "Because of Jesus, I am loved, accepted, able, and victorious." *That's* what you should believe!

Jesus, help me to believe the truth of Your words always, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . REMEMBER
WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU.



JANUARY 20

YOU CAN'T EARN GOD'S LOVE

The Lord wants to show his mercy to you. He wants to rise and comfort you. . . . And everyone who waits for his help will be happy.

ISAIAH 30:18

Do you feel as if you need to *do* something to get God to love you? That you have to win Him over or impress Him? If so, then you're probably trying to *earn* God's love instead of trusting Him to simply give it to you.

You don't have to obey God to *make* Him love you. That's not what God wants. Yes, you should obey Him—when God shows you what to do, then do it. When He points out a sin, tell Him you're sorry and live how He tells you. But don't do it to earn God's love—do it because *He already loves you*—and because you love Him and want to please Him.

You see, God wants to bless you with His love *even more* than you want to be blessed. Stop trying to earn His love. Just accept it—and love Him right back.

Father, help me understand that I don't have to earn Your love because You always love me, amen.

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . BELIEVE GOD LOVES YOU.



JANUARY 21

TIME FOR GOD

My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him.

PSALM 62:5 NASB

You take time for school, for friends and family, for fun things you like to do. But do you take time for God? To think about Him, listen to Him, and let Him show you who He wants you to be? You should! Because that's how you get to know God and what He wants for your life. It won't happen in an instant. After all, you didn't get to know your best friend after just one visit. To know God, spend time with Him every day.

When you're not spending time with God, He might use a problem to get your attention. He knows if you're worried or upset, you'll turn to Him. And when you do, He'll not only help with that problem, but He'll also fill your life with His love, joy, and peace. You were *created* to be with God—so take quiet time every day to do just that.

*God, I want to know You better. Help me
take time for You each day, amen.*

TODAY WITH JESUS . . . SPEND TIME WITH GOD.

