

The ONE
YEAR[®]
MINI



Daily Inspiration



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The One Year Mini Daily Inspiration

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Living Sacrifices

What are the benefits of dedicating my life to God this year?

GOD'S RESPONSE

Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. *Romans 12:1-2*

 God wants us to offer ourselves as *living* sacrifices—daily laying aside our own desires to obey him, putting all our energy and resources at his disposal, and trusting him to guide us as we follow him. God has good plans for us. He wants to transform us by “changing the way [we] think” so we can live to honor and obey him and receive his best for us. Because we have his Son, Jesus, to make this new kind of life possible, we should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices to his service.

GOD'S PROMISE

Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. *PSALM 37:5*




Balance

How can I keep my life balanced this year?

GOD'S RESPONSE

“If the Arameans are too strong for me, then come over and help me,” Joab told his brother. “And if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I will come and help you. Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the LORD’s will be done.” *2 Samuel 10:11-12*

 There must be a balance in life between our plans and our faith in God. Joab said, “Let us fight bravely.” In other words, they were determined to do all that they could, using their minds to figure out the best strategies, using their strength to fight, and using the other resources God had given them. But Joab also said, “May the Lord’s will be done.” He knew that when they had done all they could, the outcome was in God’s hands. Balance comes as we use our minds and our resources to obey God and, at the same time, trust him for the outcome.

GOD'S PROMISE

How joyful are those who fear the LORD and delight in obeying his commands. . . . They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them. *PSALM 112:1, 7*

Goals

Why is it important to set goals?

GOD'S RESPONSE

Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.


Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Proverbs 4:25-27

I run with purpose in every step. *1 Corinthians 9:26*

Let love be your highest goal! *1 Corinthians 14:1*

 The beginning of a new year is a great time to review existing goals and set new ones. Of course, setting goals takes time and thought, and with our busy lives, we may feel as if that's time we can't afford. But goals give us direction. They serve as reminders of what is really important to us, and they help to keep us on track.

You may have many goals for different areas of your life—including those New Year's resolutions you made—but choose to make following God your primary, overarching goal. You do not know what the year ahead will bring, but making following God your number one goal will give you ongoing purpose and keep you from straying away from God, regardless of what the year brings.

GOD'S CHALLENGE

Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:11




Guidance

When is the time to seek God's guidance?

GOD'S RESPONSE

All of Adonijah's guests jumped up in panic from the banquet table and quickly scattered. Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, so he rushed to the sacred tent and grabbed on to the horns of the altar. Word soon reached Solomon that Adonijah had seized the horns of the altar in fear, and that he was pleading, "Let King Solomon swear today that he will not kill me!" *1 Kings 1:49-51*

 Sometimes it takes getting caught before someone is willing to give up a scheme. When Adonijah learned that his plans to gain the throne after King David were doomed to fail, he ran in panic to the altar, the place of God's mercy and forgiveness. He went there, however, *after* his treasonous plans had been exposed. If Adonijah had first considered what God wanted, he might have avoided trouble.

Don't wait until you have made a mess of your life to run to God. Make it a point this year to seek God's guidance *before* you act.

GOD'S PROMISE

[Wisdom says,] "They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency. But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm." **PROVERBS 1:30-33**

Growth

As a child of God, how can I grow and become more mature this year?

GOD'S RESPONSE


Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

1 Peter 2:2-3

Let us go on . . . and become mature in our understanding.

Hebrews 6:1

When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God of Heaven's Armies. *Jeremiah 15:16*

 One characteristic all children share is that they want to grow up to be like their big brothers or sisters or their parents. When we first believe in Christ, we become spiritually newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will yearn to grow to maturity.

The need for milk is a natural instinct for babies, and they express in an unmistakable way their desire for nourishment. Once we see our need for God's Word and begin to find nourishment in Christ, our spiritual appetites will increase, and we will start to mature.

How strong is your appetite for God's Word?

GOD'S PROMISE

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! **PSALM 34:8**



Behavior

How can I make sure my behavior is pleasing to God day after day?


GOD'S RESPONSE

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. *Psalm 139:23-24*

Take control of what I say, O LORD, and guard my lips.

Psalm 141:3

 Would you change the way you live if you knew that God would be examining your every word and thought? David asked that God approve his words and thoughts as if they were offerings he had brought to the altar. As you begin each day, determine that God's love will guide what you say and how you think. Then your words and actions will be pleasing gifts to God day after day.

GOD'S CHALLENGE

Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.


COLOSSIANS 3:17

Busyness

With all my activities, how can I make sure I stay focused on God?

GOD'S RESPONSE

When all the people had crossed the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, "Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. . . ." So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. He told them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. We will use these stones to build a memorial." *Joshua 4:1-2, 4-6*

 Once the Israelites had safely crossed the river, what would be next—claiming the Promised Land? Not yet. First, God directed them to build a memorial from twelve stones drawn from the river by twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel. This may have seemed like a delay in their mission of conquering the land, but God did not want his people to plunge into their task unprepared. They were to focus on him and remember who was guiding them.

As you are busy with your God-given tasks, set aside quiet moments, times to build your own memorial to God's power. Don't allow your activities to shift your focus away from God.

GOD'S PROMISE

This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls." **JEREMIAH 6:16**



Holy Spirit


How can God guide me if I can't see him or hear him?

GOD'S RESPONSE

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. They told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he replied, "I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side." *John 20:24-25*

[Jesus said,] "When the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."

John 14:26

 Have you ever wished you could actually see Jesus, touch him, and hear his words aloud? Are there times you wish you could sit down with him to get his advice? Thomas needed Jesus' physical presence in order to believe that Jesus had risen. But God's plan is wiser. He wants to be present with you, and all believers, at all times, so he sent us the Holy Spirit. Even now he is with you in the form of the Holy Spirit. You can talk to him, and you can find his words to you in the pages of the Bible. By his Spirit, Jesus has made himself as real to you as he did to Thomas.

GOD'S PROMISE

"This is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you."


ISAIAH 59:21

Challenges

How can I approach this year's challenges with courage rather than with fear?

GOD'S RESPONSE

After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua. . . . "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you.' . . . No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you." *Joshua 1:1-5*

 Joshua's new job consisted of leading more than two million people into a strange, new land and conquering it. What a challenge—even for a man of Joshua's caliber! Without God, every new challenge can be frightening. *With* God, every challenge can be a great adventure.

Just as God was with Joshua, he is with you as you face new challenges. You may not be called to conquer nations, but you will face tough situations, difficult people, and hard temptations. God promises that he will never abandon you or fail to help you. As you depend on God for strength, you can face life's challenges with courage and confidence.

GOD'S PROMISE

Nothing is impossible with God. LUKE 1:37




Help

There are so many things that I need to accomplish this year. How can I find the help I need?

GOD'S RESPONSE

After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. I also said to the king, "If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself." And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me. *Nehemiah 2:6-8*

 After Nehemiah had prayed, he asked the king for permission to go to Judah. As soon as he got a positive answer, he began asking for additional help.

Sometimes when we have needs, we hesitate to ask the right people for help because we are afraid to approach them. Not Nehemiah! He went directly to the person who could help him the most—the king himself! Don't be reluctant to ask for help. Those you ask may be more interested and approachable than you thought. Sometimes God's answers to our prayers come as a result of our asking others.

GOD'S CHALLENGE

Take courage as you fulfill your duties, and may the LORD be with those who do what is right. **2 CHRONICLES 19:11**

Index

A Better Gift	<i>December 15</i>	Church	<i>May 24</i>
Abandonment	<i>October 28</i>	Circumstances	<i>September 5</i>
Abundant Life	<i>January 19</i>	Comforting Others	<i>December 2</i>
Acceptance	<i>December 1</i>	Commitment	<i>June 1</i>
Accomplishments	<i>August 14, 27, October 12</i>	Comparisons	<i>June 22</i>
Action	<i>July 12</i>	Complaining	<i>July 17</i>
Adaptability	<i>May 29</i>	Compromise	<i>July 10</i>
Adversity	<i>April 26, May 8</i>	Confession	<i>February 11, August 22, October 14</i>
Advice	<i>March 8, August 15, October 8</i>	Confidence	<i>October 10</i>
Afraid	<i>December 26</i>	Coincidence	<i>June 8</i>
Alpha and Omega	<i>December 31</i>	Conscience	<i>May 30, October 6</i>
Amazement	<i>March 18</i>	Contentment	<i>December 12, 17</i>
Answered Prayer	<i>January 21</i>	Crossroads	<i>September 10</i>
Answers	<i>April 7</i>	Crowded Out	<i>September 21</i>
Appearances	<i>April 27, May 19</i>	Culture	<i>September 15</i>
Appreciation	<i>November 25</i>	Daily Praise	<i>July 19</i>
Assumptions	<i>June 10</i>	Decisions	<i>August 23, October 22</i>
Attitude	<i>June 20, 30</i>	Dedication to God	<i>October 20</i>
Attitudes	<i>July 29, August 19</i>	Dependence	
Authenticity	<i>September 13</i>	on God	<i>November 19, 20</i>
Balance	<i>January 2</i>	Depression	<i>February 23</i>
Being Misunderstood	<i>July 9</i>	Desires	<i>February 24, September 25</i>
Behavior	<i>January 6</i>	Despair	<i>December 9</i>
Belief	<i>April 21</i>	Destiny	<i>August 1</i>
Belonging	<i>April 29</i>	Devotion	<i>August 5</i>
Blessings	<i>May 9</i>	Direction	<i>March 12</i>
Body of Christ	<i>May 12</i>	Disagreement	<i>June 9</i>
Boldness	<i>May 23</i>	Discernment	<i>November 13</i>
Busyness	<i>January 7</i>	Discipline	<i>June 19, November 10</i>
Calling Your Name	<i>February 7</i>	Discomfort	<i>September 20</i>
Caring for Others	<i>May 27</i>	Discouragement	<i>February 8, October 2, December 8</i>
Celebration	<i>May 5</i>	Dissatisfaction	<i>October 9</i>
Challenges	<i>January 9, April 4</i>	Doubt	<i>September 29</i>
Change	<i>January 11</i>	Effective Servants	<i>December 6</i>
Character	<i>March 26, April 16, May 20</i>	Effort	<i>August 12</i>
		Emotions	<i>August 6</i>

Encouragement	<i>August 29</i>	God's Love	<i>February 9, August 25</i>
Enthusiasm	<i>May 2</i>	God's Nearness	<i>March 1</i>
Eternal Perspective	<i>April 17</i>	God's No	<i>June 7</i>
Eternity	<i>April 8</i>	God's Plans	<i>February 18</i>
Example	<i>July 20</i>	God's Power	<i>November 2, 3,</i> <i>December 18</i>
Excuses	<i>July 18</i>	God's Provision	<i>November 22, 27</i>
Facing Death	<i>October 30</i>	God's Timing	<i>August 13</i>
Fading Away	<i>November 14</i>	God's Word	<i>January 16, April 14,</i> <i>July 11</i>
Failure	<i>April 25</i>	Good Times,	
Faith	<i>July 22</i>	Bad Times	<i>December 10</i>
Faithfulness	<i>August 24, 26</i>	Grace	<i>September 19</i>
Family	<i>May 10</i>	Gratitude	<i>November 24</i>
Faults	<i>September 17, October 18</i>	Grief	<i>January 23</i>
Fear	<i>October 31</i>	Growing Up	<i>November 9</i>
Feelings	<i>October 7</i>	Growth	<i>January 5</i>
Feelings of Guilt	<i>July 24</i>	Guidance	<i>January 4, March 10</i>
Feeling Safe	<i>February 3</i>	Happiness	<i>March 14</i>
First Step	<i>June 2</i>	Help	<i>January 10, 15, 29</i>
First Harvest	<i>December 22</i>	Helping Others	<i>September 12</i>
Focus	<i>October 11</i>	Helping the Poor	<i>August 10</i>
Follow	<i>July 16</i>	Heroes	<i>September 11</i>
Follow-Up	<i>August 30</i>	Hiding	<i>December 7</i>
Forgiveness	<i>March 11, September 18, 24</i>	Holidays	<i>December 23</i>
Fountain of Life	<i>September 3</i>	Holiness	<i>August 20</i>
Freedom	<i>July 4</i>	Holy Spirit	<i>January 8, November 4</i>
Fresh Start	<i>March 21</i>	Honor	<i>February 19</i>
Friendship	<i>May 31</i>	Hope	<i>January 25</i>
Friendship with God	<i>July 30</i>	Hopelessness	<i>January 31,</i> <i>February 27</i>
Future	<i>January 17</i>	Humility	<i>July 3</i>
Generosity	<i>November 23,</i> <i>December 21</i>	Idolatry	<i>October 23</i>
Giving	<i>August 28,</i> <i>November 16, 17, 18</i>	Immanuel	<i>December 25</i>
Glorifying God	<i>October 21</i>	Impact	<i>July 21</i>
Glorious Acts	<i>July 23</i>	Impossible	<i>January 24</i>
Goals	<i>January 3</i>	In Sync	<i>September 22</i>
God	<i>July 26</i>	In the Desert	<i>February 26</i>
God's Accessibility	<i>November 15</i>	Insignificance	<i>November 5</i>
God's Care	<i>February 25</i>	Integrity	<i>October 19, November 7</i>
God's Image	<i>March 7</i>	Intimate Prayer	<i>October 29</i>
God's Laws	<i>January 27</i>	Invisibility	<i>September 26</i>
God's Light	<i>July 13</i>		

Invitation	March 9	Obstacles	October 27
Jealousy	June 27, July 14	Oneness	June 18
Jesus	December 24	Opportunities	July 31
Jesus Christ	April 9	Opposition	August 11
Jesus' Name	April 10	Outsiders	November 12
Joy	March 17, 23	Panic	August 16
Justice	February 20	Regrets	June 3
Kindness	July 2	Patience	May 26
Laziness	April 6	Peacemaking	November 11
Leadership	January 22	Peer Pressure	August 3
Legacy	December 27, 28	Persecution	September 23
Let Jesus In	March 24	Perspective	December 11
Light	May 18	Planning	December 29
Listening	February 14, August 17	Planting	December 5
Living Sacrifices	January 1	Pleasure	August 2
Living Water	March 22	Pointing the Way	July 6
Loneliness	April 28	Possessions	August 9
Love	February 22, May 15, November 30	Power	July 5, December 18
Loving Others	February 13	Praise	December 20
Lukewarmness	November 1	Prayer	January 30, February 21, March 29, June 28, December 13
Lust	February 12	Preparation	February 5
Lying	October 24	Pride	August 21, October 25
Making a Difference	May 16	Priorities	June 25, October 16, 26
Making Choices	March 13	Problems	February 17, September 6, December 14
Making Peace	May 25	Procrastination	September 9
Meaning	April 20	Prosperity	September 28
Mercy	June 16	Protection	October 3
Messiah	April 5	Purpose	January 14, May 3
Miracles	June 6, September 30	Pursued by God	February 16
Mistakes	November 8	Readiness	April 18
Money	April 3	Refreshment	March 16
Motives	June 12	Regrets	June 3
My Redeemer Lives	April 12	Religion	May 28
My Rights	July 1	Remember	June 17
Needs	February 2	Renewal	September 8
Neighbors	May 13	Repentance	September 1, October 15
New Direction	December 30	Reputation	October 5
New Life	March 20	Rest	December 19
Obedience	January 28, March 30, June 26, July 28, October 4, 17		

Restlessness	<i>October 1</i>	The Lights	
Restoration	<i>February 6</i>	of Christmas	<i>December 16</i>
Resurrection	<i>April 11</i>	The Poor	<i>November 28</i>
Rituals	<i>September 27</i>	The Unknown	<i>February 1</i>
Rules	<i>June 24</i>	The Way	<i>April 15</i>
Running Away	<i>March 28</i>	Thoughts	<i>August 4</i>
Sacrifice	<i>May 4</i>	Tomorrow	<i>March 6</i>
Seduction	<i>February 10</i>	Tragedy	<i>March 25</i>
Seeds	<i>May 6</i>	Transformation	<i>March 19</i>
Selfishness	<i>October 13</i>	Trials	<i>June 13</i>
Selflessness	<i>December 3</i>	Troubles	<i>May 1</i>
Sensitivity	<i>November 29</i>	True Words	<i>September 14</i>
Serious Prayer	<i>November 21</i>	Trust	<i>April 19</i>
Serving God	<i>January 20</i>	Trusting God	<i>February 28</i>
Sharing	<i>December 4</i>	Truth	<i>July 25</i>
Shortcuts	<i>July 15</i>	Unfinished	<i>August 18</i>
Significance	<i>July 7</i>	Unity	<i>June 15</i>
Sin	<i>January 26, March 4,</i> <i>June 11</i>	Value	<i>March 3, June 5</i>
Slow Down	<i>September 7</i>	Values	<i>February 15, April 30</i>
Solid Rock	<i>August 31</i>	Vision	<i>May 11, September 4</i>
Spiritual Apathy	<i>July 27</i>	Volunteer	<i>March 15</i>
Spiritual Gifts	<i>May 17</i>	Vows	<i>April 2</i>
Spiritual Nourishment	<i>April 24</i>	Waiting	<i>January 18</i>
Standing for God	<i>May 21</i>	Weaknesses	<i>March 5</i>
Stewardship	<i>April 22</i>	Wealth	<i>August 7</i>
Stress	<i>April 1</i>	Willing	<i>June 29</i>
Struggles	<i>September 2</i>	Wisdom	<i>March 27, May 7, June 21</i>
Success	<i>August 8</i>	Witnessing	<i>June 14</i>
Suffering	<i>February 4, June 23</i>	Words	<i>September 16,</i> <i>November 6</i>
Talking about It	<i>May 22</i>	Work	<i>January 13</i>
Testimony	<i>May 14</i>	Worship	<i>January 12, March 31,</i> <i>April 13</i>
Testing	<i>April 23</i>	Worth	<i>June 4</i>
The Gift of Life	<i>March 2</i>	Worth It	<i>July 8</i>
Thanksgiving	<i>November 26</i>		