

Our Daily Bread[®]

Devotional Journal



Discovery House[®]
from Our Daily Bread Ministries

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How to Use This Devotional Journal

Select a time and place. If possible, set aside a time and place each day for reading the Scripture passage and the daily devotional article—and then contemplating what you’ve read. Your time will be more effective if you have dedicated time to connect with our Lord.

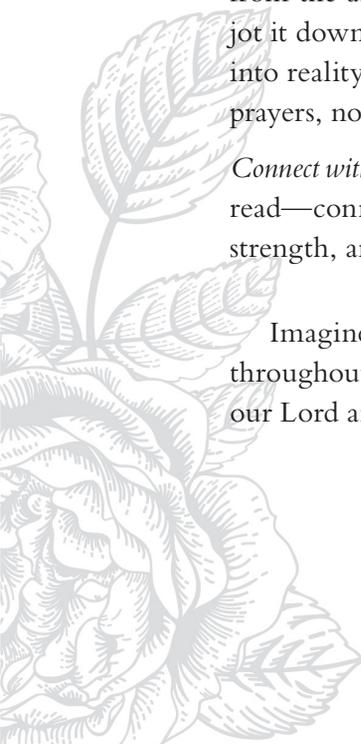
Read the Bible passage. Begin by reading the suggested verses from the Bible (listed at the top of the column). Then note the key verse, which is printed above the article. This will guide you in thinking about the theme for the day.

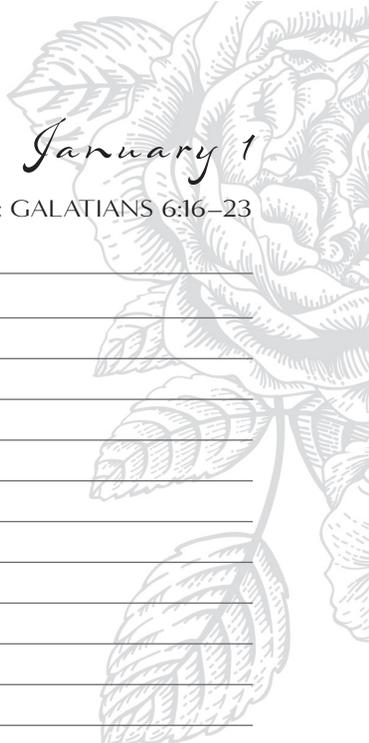
Read the article thoughtfully. As you read, seek to learn more about God, your relationship and connections with Him, and how He wants you to live each day.

Use the journaling space. You can use the journaling section to record truths and observations you noticed in the Bible passage or insights you gained from the article. As you see a new Biblical Truth, you might want to jot it down. The Personal Application space can help you turn an idea into reality in your day. In the Prayer section, you can write your own prayers, note prayer requests, or record answers to prayer.

Connect with God. You will want to talk with the Lord about what you’ve read—connecting with Him in prayer as you seek His guidance, help, strength, and encouragement for your day.

Imagine the joy you’ll find by staying in touch with our great God throughout the year. May you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).





January 1

READ: GALATIANS 6:16-23

The Old and the New

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! —2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Typical January resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more, or spend less time at work and more time with family—maybe even to stop chatting on the cell phone while driving.

It's not surprising that we want to change the things in our lives that we're unhappy about—even though most New Year's resolutions are kept for no more than three weeks.

What if you were to ask God what He wants you to change, improve, or begin this year? He might prompt you to:

- Demonstrate more of the fruit of the Spirit in your life, which is “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).
- “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44).
- “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).
- “Be content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:5).
- “Walk in obedience to [God's] commands” (2 John 1:6).

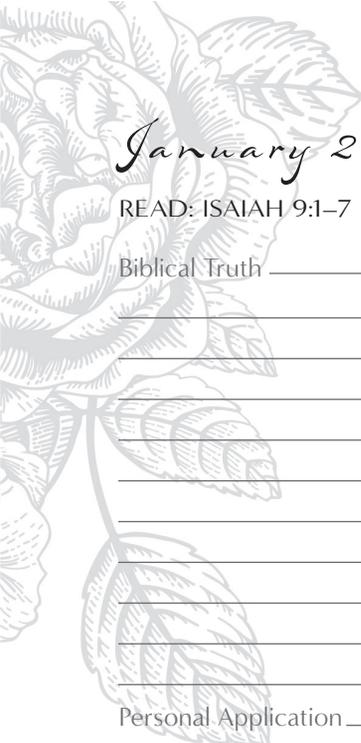
As believers and new creations, we can be free from old patterns and failures. As we ask God to help us live each day in the power of the Holy Spirit, He will help us shed the old and embrace the new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

-Cindy

Biblical Truth _____

Personal Application _____

Prayer _____



January 2

READ: ISAIAH 9:1-7

Biblical Truth _____

Personal Application _____

Prayer _____

Isn't He Beautiful

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
—ISAIAH 9:6

A group of children from our city was in a worship service, and we started to sing. Ariel, age seven, leaned close to me and softly said, “I love this song; it makes me cry.”

The music and words about Jesus, her Savior, touched her heart as we sang the song “Isn't He Beautiful.”

Yes, the Lord Jesus is beautiful. We don't find a specific reference in the Bible describing Him that way, but His personal character is strong yet gentle, holy yet forgiving, majestic yet humble—all combined. Simply beautiful!

In his prophecy, Isaiah described Jesus and His coming in this way: “To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor—giving us comfort and wisdom. The Mighty God—acting with power and authority. The Everlasting Father—providing for all our needs and protecting us. And the Prince of Peace—offering reconciliation with God and others.

Isn't Jesus beautiful! Worship Him.

—Anne

The King Could

January 3

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
—MATTHEW 19:26

READ: MATTHEW 19:16–26

Like many young children, I had a favorite book of nursery rhymes. I particularly remember Humpty Dumpty, a big, egg-shaped creature with a painted face and skinny arms and legs, perched happily on a wall. Then he fell and broke into countless pieces. As a child, I felt the hopelessness of the situation whenever I read that they "couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again."

Since then, I've come to know Christ as my Savior and Lord. I've experienced His powerful and tender hands restoring the shattered pieces of my life and the lives of others. I've had the joy of seeing many seemingly hopeless drug addicts made new in Christ. As a result, I've added a line to the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme: "What all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't do, the King could!"

Are you or someone dear to you feeling shattered and broken today? Remember, no one is hopeless and beyond God's saving help. Jesus said, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

When the broken pieces of life seem beyond hope of repair, don't give up. We have a King who can put people back together again.

Joanie

Biblical Truth _____

Personal Application _____

Prayer _____



