

A YEAR OF *Intentional Living*



Every day is a new opportunity to grow in our faith. But in a world filled with distractions, sometimes it's hard to know where to start. We invite you to try these simple monthly ideas that put your faith into action. Make this a year of living intentionally to engage with the Word, serve others, and connect with God!



JANUARY

Share a Verse

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11, NIV

Start the year off with a fun way to get into God's Word. Share your favorite Bible verse with five friends and ask them to share theirs. Talk about why these verses are meaningful. Commit to memorizing each friend's favorite verse this month.

FEBRUARY

Be Present

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

HEBREWS 13:16, NIV

Spend time this month with someone you know who is often alone, such as an elderly neighbor. Remember, you don't have to do anything special. Just being present and listening is enough. And you may be blessed just as much as you bless them.

MARCH

Intercede for Others

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”

EPHESIANS 6:18, NIV

Ask your loved ones and friends how you can pray for them this month. Commit to at least 10 minutes of prayer for others each day. When you've prayed for someone, be sure to let them know that you did!

APRIL

Rejoice in Differences

“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.’”

REVELATION 5:9, NIV

Spend time this month listening to praise and worship songs in languages you don't know (try searching YouTube for “Christian worship songs [language]”). Rejoice in the fact that people of all nations are called to worship God. You may even find some new favorites!

MAY

Celebrate Creativity

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

GENESIS 1:1, NIV

Put down the electronic devices and pick up a paintbrush, your colored pencils, clay, anything that lets you explore your own creativity—a gift to you from our Creator God. Illustrate a Bible verse or just play. Don't worry about perfection. This is about recognizing that creativity is part of being made in God's image.

JUNE

Dive into Scripture

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, NIV

This month, pick a book of the Bible or a passage you've always wanted to know more about and really dive in. Consult a study Bible or commentary, talk to your pastor or spiritual mentor, and discuss it with friends. Be sure to write out what you discover and consider how it applies to your own life.

JULY

Pursue Fellowship

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

GALATIANS 3:28, NIV

Seek a friendship with someone whose background is very different from yours, whether that's their socioeconomic background, their ethnicity, or some other factor that often divides us from each other. Honor their different experiences and look for what you have in common.

A YEAR OF *Intentional Living*

AUGUST

*Encourage
Young People*

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, 15, NIV

Write an encouraging letter (on paper!) to a pre-teen or teen you know (or several). Share 3 specific things you like about them, something you wish you’d known when you were their age, and hopeful words about their future.

SEPTEMBER

*Practice
Discernment*

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

ROMANS 12:2, NIV

While watching movies, TV, or videos for entertainment this month, stay mindful. Ask yourself: What’s the worldview behind this? What’s the underlying message? What am I learning from it, intentionally or unintentionally? Consider keeping a journal of your thoughts to help you keep track of influences.

OCTOBER

*Cultivate
Silence*

“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

LUKE 5:16, NIV

This is a noisy world, and with smartphones in our hands, we always have something to watch or listen to. This month, make the choice to turn off the TV or music while you do chores or hobbies. Leave your phone off during those “in between” moments. Look for time to spend alone with your thoughts.

NOVEMBER

Honor Faithfulness

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

HEBREWS 12:1, NIV

This month, choose a hero from the history of Christianity to learn about. Explore their life story. Ask yourself: What would I have done in that situation? How am I like this person? How am I different? (Some places to start: St. Polycarp, Mary McLeod Bethune, Watchman Nee, Jim Elliot, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Amy Carmichael.)

DECEMBER

Serve Others

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 PETER 4:10, NIV

What talents has God given you? This month, look for ways to use your special skills—from simple home repairs to cooking a meal to making someone feel welcome—to show Jesus to someone else. Remember that opportunities to serve others can be found in formal volunteering, but also in keeping your eyes open to the needs of people around you!

