



Everyday Faith

BY BECKY WEHRSPANN, FEATURES EDITOR

Several years ago, Concordia Publishing House introduced the Everyday Faith Calendar – a Bible verse and short activity on a printable calendar, along with a devotional blog post*. It is an intentional way to encourage readers to daily be in God’s Word. One of the authors is Kyla Rodriguez, who combines two of her vocations – Director of Christian Education (DCE) and stay-at-home mom – for tips and tools to use at homes and congregations.

“As a DCE, I appreciate having practical tools that people can use in any setting to have more structure with their time in the Word,” Kyla says. “There’s a perception that you need to know what you’re doing when studying God’s Word. I like being part of something that is helping that seem less intimidating and more acceptable for someone to pick up a Bible and have a place to start.”

Kyla chooses a verse for each day of the month, along with an activity or question. She also writes the blog post to correspond with the calendar. “I think through seasons of the church year, time of year, something to highlight or focus on, and I try to include that,” Kyla says. “In the blog, I write about why the verses have been selected for that month.” For example, one month included verses from the Old Testament and, the following month, highlighted verses from the New Testament. Other months’ themes have included the Fruit of the Spirit or verses specifically for memorization.

“As a mom and as someone who is trained in ministry and worked with students in the parish, I feel like parents are looking for ideas on how to do new things with their family – feeling equipped to talk about God’s Word,” Kyla says.

Kyla offers these tips for incorporating the calendar or Scripture memorization into daily life (excerpts from Everyday Faith Calendar, blog.cph.org; used with permission).

Anyone

- Use the activity or question on the calendar as a journaling prompt, writing thoughts about or answers to the verse or activity for that day.
- Read the verse together over the phone or Facetime with a grandchild, niece or nephew, or young person from your congregation. Exchange and discuss your answers to the activity or question.
- Share on social media – posting the verse and question or activity can be a great conversation starter for your friends and followers.

Families with young children

- Use a silly voice each time you practice, saying the verse you are trying to learn together. Talk like a pirate, whisper the verse, shout the verse, or sing the verse. Be creative!
- Make up actions that match the words in the verse.

Families with older children/teens

- Each person writes the verse on separate sticky notes and puts them around the house where other family members will see them throughout the week (inside the refrigerator, on the door you go out when you leave the house, a bathroom mirror, etc.).
- Take a picture of the verse in your Bible or screenshot the verse from a Bible app, and set it as the lock screen on your phone. Each time you pick up your phone, you will see the verse.
- Each day, text the Bible verse to your children at a time you know they will be on their phones.

Celebrate learning together. Perhaps every time your family learns five new verses, make it a tradition to have a movie night, play a game, get ice cream, or do something else you love.

Work together with your family to center your daily routine around God’s Word!

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