

Life Steps

Merry Messy Christmas! | December 24

Monday

Matthew 1:18-23

Reflect: Joseph's engagement to Mary got off to a messy start. He wanted to do the right thing but he was conflicted. As you prepare to gather with your messy family, what can you learn from Joseph, and what are your personal applications for Christmas Day?

Prayer: Happy Birthday Jesus! I pray you are honored as my family gathers to celebrate your presence among us.

Tuesday

Genesis 6:9 | Genesis 9:20-23

Reflect: The Bible is filled with stories of people who had messy lives but were used by God to change the world. Notice the contrast in the descriptions of Noah. If someone were to write your story, how would they describe you? Favorably and unfavorably? What is your take away from the story of Noah?

Prayer: God of grace and truth, use me to make a difference in your amazing world in spite of my many issues.

Wednesday

Genesis 27:1-46

Reflect: Rebekah had a very messy, dysfunctional family in large part because of her manipulative, conniving ways. How is your family dysfunctional? Even so, how has God used your family to be a blessing?

Prayer: God, show me how you want to use my messy family to be a blessing to others, then give me the courage to act as you so lead.

Thursday

Exodus 3:11 | Exodus 2:11-12 | Exodus 32:19

Reflect: Moses, the humblest man on the face of the earth had a serious anger problem. He had a very short fuse. Even still, God used him in a mighty way to deliver his people. As you get ready for 2024, what are some of your issues which sometimes contribute to the mess called your family?

Prayer: All-knowing God, make me aware of how I contribute to the dysfunction in my own family tree and the steps I can take to be a part of our recovery.

Friday

Judges 16

Reflect: Samson was stronger than Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone combined, but he was emaciated by his blind naiveté to his disloyal wife. His lack of healthy boundaries led to his own self-destruction. With whom do you need to set more healthy boundaries for your own sanity and well-being?

Prayer: God, open my eyes to the truth about me.

Saturday

Galatians 6:7 | Hebrews 4:16

Reflect: The Bible is unashamedly honest about the state of the human condition, but our dysfunction does not define our standing before God. Sin and brokenness has consequences, but by God's grace we are not alone, even in the mess of our own doing. What steps will you take on the front end of 2024 to improve the relationships that matter to you most?

Prayer: God of new beginnings, I surrender all my hopes and dreams for 2024 to your perfect will, trusting you will be with me every step of the way, especially in my relationships that matter most.

Sunday

Matthew 1:22-23

Reflect: Hindsight is 20/20. Later in life, Joseph could look back and clearly see God had been with him all along. As you reflect back over the challenges of 2023, how did God show up in the middle of the mess?

Prayer: God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, I thank you for the gift of 2023 and eagerly look forward to all you will do in, and through me, in 2024.