



Three Day Fresh Start Devotional for Parents

by Mandi Hart

Day 1: It's a new day

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" Lamentations 3:22-24

The Lord's mercies are new every day. Have you heard the saying that today is a gift that is why it is called the present? Perhaps you had a tough week last week or the weekend didn't go as you had planned. Today is a new day. Decide to start anew. Be kinder than you could've imagined and embrace your dreams. As you guide your children into a new year, seize the moment to receive God's grace and provision.

Call to action:

What do you hope will happen this week? Can you start this week with a fresh new attitude? How do you think Jesus can help you during this week? Talk to your children about that as you drive to school.

Day 2: Press on toward the goal

The Bible speaks about pressing on toward the goal for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. What are you dreaming about for the year? What goals have you set? If you are not a goal kind of person, what are your hopes for the year ahead? Write them down and talk to your children about their aspirations too.

Philippians 3:14 "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Call to action:

Have you set any goals for this term? A goal is defined as the object of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result. Perhaps chat about it in the car now? How can you help your children achieve the goals they have set for themselves?

Day 3: You have a chance to make things better

Look around you and what do you see? If you're driving to school, peep out of the window? Do you see beautiful nature and clean roads or do you see smog, litter, and pollution? I read a saying once: "Let it not be said of you that this place was better before you came." It struck me that we each have a responsibility to leave this world a little better than we found it. Encourage your children to do just that this year.

Call to action:

How can you make things a little better around you today? Could examples be to pick up some litter as you walk past it? To save electricity and switch off lights as you go along? Or to be thoughtful and kind to the children around you that are lonely? To be a friend or to be the mom or dad that inspires their children to love more.

As you start this year with your children - know that God is with you and will never leave you nor forsake you. He loves your children even more than you do and you can trust Him.

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