

Acknowledge & Anticipate

Closing the Year

Psalm 52:9 CEV

I will always thank God for what he has done; I will praise his good name when his people meet

Marvelous Memories

God is so good! What monumental things did he do in your life this year? Use the insert in your manual to *praise his good name* by writing (or drawing for early learners) your milestones on the sheet. As your family puts away your Christmas decorations, tuck these away in your stockings or among your seasonal decor. Next year when you decorate, read them as a family for a fun reminder of God's faithfulness. Consider making it a tradition and do it again next year!

In the New Year

Isaiah 43:18-19 CEV

"Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, streams in thirsty lands."

Hang on to the New Things!

The Lord is doing a new thing in your family's life this year! Look for it by setting goals for the year! Sit down as a family to help each other identify practical and feasible faith-based goals. Do you want to read the Bible in a year? Commit to praying more often? Jot down (or draw for early learners) three resolutions and color your door hangers before placing them on your door handle. Keep them up all year as a reminder to stick with it!

***Adults and teens, do you struggle with sticking to resolutions? Consider entering your resolutions into a simple habit-tracking app like Habitory or commit to praying about it using the Prayminder app.*

Memorize the highlighted verses. Who will be first to commit these verses to memory?

Memory Verse Challenge

KINDA SECRET
MILITARY FAMILY MISSION

HEROSQUAD

MISSION MANUAL

ISSUED FOR
WINTER MISSION

Change of Command

Activity Instructions

Step 1: As a family, read the Scripture (back) and reflection (below).

Step 2: Discuss the Scripture using the Family Discussion Questions (right) to learn how to apply it to your lives.

Step 3: Take the Memory Verse Challenge this season and complete the *Acknowledge and Anticipate* family activity (back) to praise the Lord for what he did in 2023 and excitedly wait for what he has in store for 2024!

Imagine being at a change of command ceremony. The event formally symbolizes a transfer of responsibility to a new commander. The outgoing commander will most likely be recognized and honored for his accomplishments. Then there will be a time to look ahead and anticipate what the new commander will dive into. The ceremony includes a symbolic passing of the unit flag.

Now imagine if it were typical in these ceremonies to highlight the old commander's failures and to outline the ways the new commander is doomed from the start! That would be hard to watch, and no one would want to attend.

Yet sometimes that's just how we approach the Lord.

Often, we focus only on our disappointments and unmet desires, like the friends we are leaving behind or the new school we have yet to fit into. And as we look ahead, we might expect that nothing will change for the better. But God is faithful to "take care of all your needs with the wonderful blessings that come from Christ Jesus!" (Philippians 4:19).

As we enter the new year, we have the opportunity to treat it much like a change of command ceremony. As the year closes, take time to honor the Lord for all the good in your life. Think through the specific ways that he grew your faith and made you a better Christ-follower. And dream about what he might want to do in and through you this year. He loves a gracious and hopeful heart!

Family Discussion Questions

Eagle Squad

- Who is someone you know who is always thankful?
- What are things that you can do each day to show God that you are thankful?

JV Squad

- Why do you think it is important to praise God for the good things he has done for you?
- How can the change of the year draw you closer to the Lord this year?

Varsity Squad

- In what ways can Isaiah 43:18-19 encourage your heart?
- Is there anything that prevents you from having a hopeful and gracious heart? If so, what?



Don't Forget!

Have you checked out our **Digital Resource Library** yet? Just scan the QR code with your phone to access it.

There you will find all of our Hero Squad children's devotionals and family activities available for download. Check it out today for Bible-based fun on the go!



Marvelous Memories

(Flip to the back for early learners.)

Name: _____

Milestones: _____

Name: _____

Milestones: _____

Name: _____

Milestones: _____

Name: _____

Milestones: _____

Name: _____

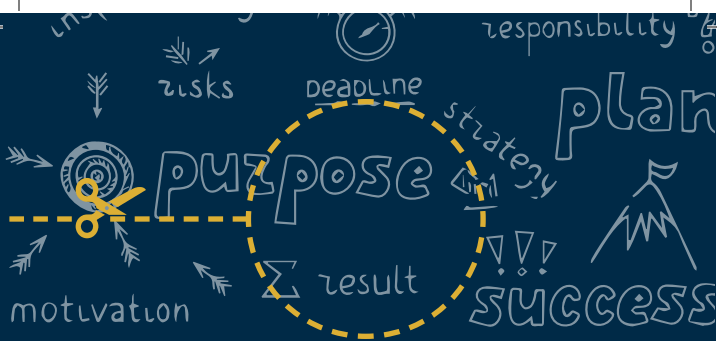
Milestones: _____

Marvelous Memories

(For early learners.)

Name: _____

Name: _____



THIS YEAR I WANT TO...

1

2

3



**I'm
Creating
Something
New**

Isaiah 43:19