

# Verse of the Month Devotional

January

For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.  
John 3:16

## Thoughts on the verse:

Maybe the most commonly spoken verse on the planet, but it's gospel truth in a nutshell never grows old. The ultimate sacrifice of the greatest gift this world has ever known, and every one of us gets to celebrate this truth if we only will believe it.

In our family we have a tradition of secretly doing a random act of kindness for another person and scrawling the initials SHIMLY somewhere near the surprise. It stands for See How Much I Love You, and it has miraculous power to break ice between bickering siblings, soften rifts grown high from neglect or busyness, and bring sweetness to bitter moments in relationships.

It stands for selfless love, preferring another over ourselves, and laying down our lives for another, mirroring the greatest gift ever given.

## Prayer:

Lord we thank you for the ultimate sacrifice, in giving Your only Son to make a way for us to spend eternity with You. Help us to live a life worthy of Your gift, and give us wisdom to know how to live out these days You have blessed us with, in Jesus' name.

## Action:

List three ways and/or three people you want to bless this month. From a surprise cup of coffee to a weary teacher friend, to a sweet treat for a child struggling in your life, to an intentional marriage relationship gift, pick some good options and make sure you tack on the SHIMLY effect, even if only to remind yourself. Enjoy the results of giving good gifts, even when we may think others are less deserving. (That's the whole point. ♥)

## Notes: