

A red Advent wreath is the central focus, featuring a large white 'X' on its front. The wreath is set against a dark green background with gold bokeh lights. The text 'CHRISTMAS AT SPTEP' is written in a white, serif font across the top of the wreath.

CHRISTMAS AT SPTEP

*Advent 2020
Study Guide*

What you are holding in your hand is an Advent Devotional.

Advent is a time of expectation and waiting. On the church calendar, it is the beginning of the liturgical year which starts with the four Sundays before Christmas Day. This devotional will begin on the first Sunday of Advent and will end on the twelfth day of Christmas (January 6th) which we also call Epiphany.

Each day will have a Scripture reading with space to put your own thoughts about the text. The theme of Advent is the expectation and waiting for God's promised Messiah to come and rescue His people. As you read the text, remember the themes of Advent – Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. How does the text we read each day relate to Jesus coming in his first Advent (His birth in Bethlehem, sometimes called the Incarnation) and His Second Advent (our waiting His return in Glory)? There are questions with each reading to help you through this devotional. Please feel free to use your own copy of the Bible for the readings (we have copied from the English Standard Version for this devotional).

So how do you use this book? Here is a way:

PRAY – Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance in reading and to open your eyes, minds, and hearts to see His word clearly.

READ – With a pen/pencil in hand, read the text more than once and note or underline anything that you see as important or that relates to Advent and awaiting Jesus' arrival. Alternatively, you could read this together as a family and allow everyone to say something about what they heard in the text.

OBSERVE and **APPLY** – Using the questions and your own notes, write what you learn. Are there truths we are to believe, behaviors we are to correct, or actions we are to do? How does this text direct me to be more like Christ Jesus?

It is our hope and prayer that you will find this time beneficial and warming to your faith and soul.

Merry Christmas!

NOVEMBER 29 - ADVENT SUNDAY

Genesis 1:1, 26-27, 2:15-17

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and

over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ¹⁵The LORD God

took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep

it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely

eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of

good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you

shall surely die."

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GOD IS OUR CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

Where in your life do you see God as your Creator?

What does God as your sustainer mean to you?

NOVEMBER 30

Genesis 3:13-15

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

THE CURSE AND THE PROMISE

Where in your life do you see God's promises?

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DECEMBER 1

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

GOD'S COVENANT PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

In what life events has God showed you His presence?

DECEMBER 2

Genesis 49:8-12

⁸ Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

THE BLESSING OF JACOB'S SON JUDAH

How does this prophecy speak to Judah's genealogy?

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DECEMBER 3

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers it is to him you shall listen ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.' ²¹And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?' ²²when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

A NEW PROPHET LIKE MOSES

How do you know that it is God who guides your steps?

DECEMBER 4

Isaiah 7:14-17

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah the king of Assyria!

IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

What does it mean to you to think of "God with you"?

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DECEMBER 5

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

UNTO US A SON IS BORN

What does your family do to celebrate the advent season?

DECEMBER 6 - ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah 11:1-5

- ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

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FROM THE STUMP OF JESSE

Write down some of the attributes of the Holy Spirit:

What does it mean for you to have been given the same spirit in Christ?

DECEMBER 7

Isaiah 11:6-10

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

FOR THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD

What is the meaning of peace?

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DECEMBER 8

Isaiah 40:1-5

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE

List some ways that Jesus brings you comfort:

DECEMBER 9

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

FOR THE LORD HAS COMFORTED HIS PEOPLE

Write some ways God has shown you His salvation:

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DECEMBER 10

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

I WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE I MADE

What promise is God fulfilling?

DECEMBER 11

Psalm 72:1-7

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- ²May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!
- ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- ⁶May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
- ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

GIVE THE KING YOUR JUSTICE, O GOD

Why do we call Jesus a king?

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DECEMBER 12



Psalm 72:8-14

- ⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- ⁹ May desert tribes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust!
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
- ¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.
- ¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

FOR HE DELIVERS THE NEEDY

**What does it mean for you that Jesus is the King of kings
and the Lord of lords?**

DECEMBER 13 - ADVENT SUNDAY

Psalm 95:1-7

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

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FOR HE IS OUR GOD AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE

Write reasons why Jesus’ advent makes you joyful:

What comfort do we have from being God’s flock and in His pasture?

DECEMBER 14

Psalm 110:1-4

¹The Lord says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

²The Lord sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;

from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.

⁴The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER

How is Jesus our priest?

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DECEMBER 15

Malachi 3:1-3

¹ Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD.

I SEND MY MESSENGER AND HE WILL PREPARE THE WAY

How can we prepare for the coming Messiah?

DECEMBER 16

Luke 1:26-29

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Write about an event when God was with you and how did this event strengthen your faith?

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DECEMBER 17

Luke 1:30-34

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

FOR HE WILL REIGN OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER

Personal Reflection:

DECEMBER 18

Luke 1:35-38

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

FOR NOHTING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

What event in your life seemed impossible and how did God carry you through?

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DECEMBER 19

Luke 1:46-56

- ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."
⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to
her home.
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THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME

Where do you see God's blessings in your life?

DECEMBER 20 - ADVENT SUNDAY

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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JOSEPH WENT TO THE CITY OF DAVID

List some events in which God redirected you:

How did His new plan for your life bless you?

DECEMBER 21

Luke 2:8-12

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

THERE HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU A SAVIOR

What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is your Savior?

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DECEMBER 22

Luke 2:13-16

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

GLORY TO GOD

How do you celebrate the Messiah's arrival?

DECEMBER 23

Luke 2:17-20

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

BUT MARY TREASURED ALL THESE THINGS

What blessings are you thankful for?

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DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Matthew 1:18-20

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

JOSEPH AND MARY

Personal Reflection

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

Matthew 1:21-25

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,

²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FORM THEIR SIN

Jesus came to take on the sins of the world. How does this knowledge move your faith?

[illegible]

DECEMBER 26

Matthew 2:1-6

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,

² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

WE HAVE COME TO WORSHIP HIM

What does worship mean to you?

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DECEMBER 27

Matthew 2:7-12

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

THEY REJOICED

What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord?

DECEMBER 28

John 1:1, 14-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

List times that Jesus made Himself known in your life:

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DECEMBER 29

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION AS SONS

What does being adopted into God’s family mean to you?

DECEMBER 30

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality
with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking
the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by
becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF

**In what circumstances of your life has Jesus' humility
strengthened your faith?**

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DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER

How do you exalt and glorify Jesus in your life?

JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON

What does Jesus being the exact imprint of God mean to you?

[illegible]

JANUARY 2

Colossians 2:6-15

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

IN CHRIST, THE WHOLE FULLNESS OF DEITY DWELLS BODILY

Why is Jesus coming to us bodily important for our salvation?

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JANUARY 3

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

LET US HOLD FIRMLY TO THE FAITH WE PROFESS

What helps you hold fast to your faith? Why can we approach God with confidence?

JANUARY 4

Titus 3:3-7

³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND APPREARED

List some times you felt God's love?

Hope Love

JANUARY 5

1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

THIS WE PROCLAIM CONCERNING THE WORD OF LIFE

Who proclaimed the word of life to you? What is your response to having fellowship with God the Father and the Son?

JANUARY 6 - EPIPHANY

1Peter 1:3-12

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

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THINGS INTO WHICH ANGELS LONG TO LOOK

Personal Reflection

[illegible]

NOTES

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible