



WHAT CHRISTmas MEANS TO **ME**

CHILDREN & YOUTH 2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Introduction

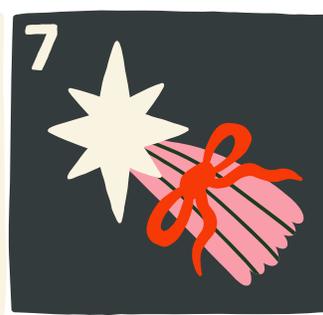
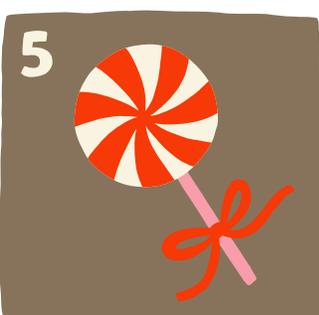
What CHRISTmas Means to Me!

In this devotional, written especially for children and youth, we'll walk together through stories, scriptures, illustrations, and reflections created by young people just like you. Our prayer is that each page helps you notice the small sparks of hope God is planting in your life every single day.

No matter your age, your questions, or your experiences, **you have a place in this season.** You have a voice in this story. And you carry a light that can help someone else see hope more clearly.

As you journey through these pages, we hope you feel encouraged, inspired, and reminded that the arrival of Jesus is good news for you—right now, exactly as you are.

Let's enter this Advent season with open eyes, open hearts, and a hope that keeps shining.



THANK YOU!

This year, our Children & Youth Ministry determined a theme that we would focus on when we reflect on our place in God's kingdom. We landed on, "Kingdom Kids". In Children's Church our lessons have been centered around, "Kingdom Kids know their Word!"

We are excited to share the fruits of their learning by incorporating their understanding of the Word towards the Advent Season.

We'd like to thank each child, youth, and teen who committed to writing devotionals. We were only able to feature a few, but the amount we received truly blessed us as we read through them. We'd also like to thank those who drew illustrations to capture what CHRISTmas means to them!

Finally, we'd like to thank those from First Church of God in Christ and Rock Christian Fellowship who submitted devotionals. God smiles when we show unity, and the collaboration and effort shown does not go unnoticed.

God Bless!

Tabernacle Bible Church Children & Youth Ministry Team



WEEK 1

Hope

Hey!

So, I'm old enough to have lived through some hard moments, but young enough to still remember what it feels like to wait, wonder, and hope for something big. Christmas time has always been one of my favorite seasons because it's a chance to be with family, eat my favorite foods, and even gift giving. But Advent? Advent invites us to slow down, open our hearts, and look for the light God is shining right in front of us.

Advent is all about **hope**—not just the kind of hope where we cross our fingers and wish for something, but the deeper, stronger hope that comes from knowing God keeps His promises. It's the kind of hope that grows even when things feel dark, confusing, or unsure. It's the hope that whispers, "God is working, even when you can't see it yet."

What do you hope for in this season of Advent? Dig deeper than the new game, Roblox, matching pajamas, or cell phone. Think about how you want God to show up and out for you.

Camille Scott
Interim Children & Youth Ministry Leader
Tabernacle Bible Church

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon ^[a] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2-6

Jesus is Hope

NOVEMBER 30

Aniya Ottenberg
Tabernacle Bible Church

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Jesus knows EVERYTHING about us! This verse reminds me that He is with us everywhere, all the time. Hope feels like the quiet promise God whispers to me when life feels confusing or heavy, reminding me that I'm not walking through anything alone. It's the kind of light that shows up even when everything around me feels uncertain—like a sunrise I didn't realize I needed.

Questions

- 1. What are some things you've hoped for?
- 2. What does Jesus hope for us?

Prayer

Dear God, You are always doing so much for me and I am very thankful for it all. Please continue to help me wait for Your promises. Amen



Sweet Hope

DECEMBER 1

Amya Williams, Freshman | Howard University
First Church of God In Christ

"Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 24:14 NIV

When we think about hope, we often imagine waiting for something good to happen. This verse reminds us that real hope comes from finding God's wisdom. God's wisdom isn't just knowledge; it's learning to see the world through His eyes. It's knowing that even when life feels uncertain, He already has a plan for our good.

The verse says wisdom is "sweet to your soul." Just like honey brings sweetness to our taste, God's Word brings sweetness to our hearts. The more we learn about God and trust what He says, the stronger our hope becomes. Our hope in Christ is what keeps us steady. It reminds us that no matter what's happening right now, our story isn't set in stone because God has the final say.

Questions

- 1. What are some ways you can show hope when you're having a hard day?
- 2. How can you ask God for wisdom this week?
- 3. Why do you think God wants us to stay hopeful?

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for giving me hope and wisdom through Your son Jesus. Help me to remember that You have a good plan for my life. When I feel worried or unsure, remind me that You are always with me. Help me to refrain from dwelling in my current situation, but focus on the good You have given me and the plan You have for my life. Lord, help me to always remember that I have hope within You. Amen.

Hope For a Good Future

DECEMBER 2

Leilani Wilson
Tabernacle Bible Church

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:10-12 NIV

I know that Jesus hears my prayers. Since I believe that Jesus is God's son and He saved me, I know that I will go to Heaven. My future is better because I have faith and hope that Jesus will be with me always!

Questions

1. What things in the future do you hope for?
2. How can you help others have hope?

Prayer

Dear God, please help others have hope. Not just for the future, but for the hope that comes with trusting You. Amen



Hope!

DECEMBER 3

Adrianna Dreams
Tabernacle Bible Church

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Hope as Christians should be based on God's promises. It is an act of faith, and even discipline! For me, hope helps build strength, especially when life gets hard.

When you follow Jesus, instead of just wishing for things, you start to put your hope in Christ and you believe bigger. Hope makes you stronger.

Questions

1. What is hope?
2. How does hope relate to Jesus?

Prayer

Dear God, I pray that You keep showing me how to have hope. I hope for trust and guidance from those I look up to. Continue to give me strength for the things I see and don't see. Thank you for my health and well-being. Amen.



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

DECEMBER 4

How does this image represent HOPE during the Advent Season?

What scripture relates to this image?

How did the people in the Christmas story show HOPE? (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wisemen, etc.)



Jasmine W

Illustration By:
Jasmine Wilson, 8th Grade
Tabernacle Bible Church

Go to the Source!

DECEMBER 5

MarTaveon Roberts
Rock Christian Fellowship Church

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Joy, peace and hope all stem from the Lord. To keep hope or to find it in dark times you can't make it out of thin air, we must go to the source of where it comes from: God and God alone!. It reminds me that He has the power to help me in times of need. He is our comforter and who we look to now, look forward to in the future and trust in no matter what.

Questions

1. How can you return to the source when things look grim?
2. What things or people do you place your hope in that let you down?
3. What do you hope for and does it align with Gods will for your life?

Prayer

Dear Abba, thank You for being the source of hope, so if I lack in any area, I know I always have access to hope in You. Thank You for the access, in Jesus' name, amen.



It Gets Better!

DECEMBER 6

OlaNike Aluko
Rock Christian Fellowship Church

1. Hope is something you can always look forward to. It serves as a reminder that no matter how difficult things may seem, there are always brighter days ahead. Just knowing that, can improve your spirit.
2. Hope brings you out of grim and bad situations. In tough times, having hope can really make a difference. It encourages us to keep going, even when your feeling low.
3. Hope and faith go hand in hand. Showing that no matter how bad things get or may seem, if you have hope in God and have faith things will improve and get better.

Prayer

Dear God, please help us to have more hope and faith in Your power and love. In times of darkness and struggle, remind us that You are our guiding light. Fill our hearts with a strong faith that leads us out of the shadows and back to Your warm embrace. Help us to see that no matter how difficult things may seem, Your love and strength are always with us. We trust that You have a purpose for our lives, and that You will help us find our way. Amen

WEEK 2

Peace

Hey everyone! Happy Week 2 of our Advent Journey. This week our focus is **Peace**. At the beginning of 2025, Pastor Brown asked every family to come together to pick a word as a theme to guide each family throughout the year? My family chose the word Peace. Quietly, I was so happy that we chose that word because I had been feeling like our home had been lacking in peace. I was tired of all the chaos and trouble that always seemed to follow us.

Have you ever felt that way too? I think we all go through times where we feel like life is crazy or that there is way too much going on.

We long for peace. What is peace exactly? The definition says it is the freedom from trouble. Now as much as I want to be absolutely free from all of the troubles in my life, and I'm sure you feel the same, I know that won't happen because we live in a broken and sinful world.

But (I know we are not supposed to start a sentence with a conjunction, but I had to)... with the peace that God gave us in His Son Jesus Christ, although trouble surrounds us, Christ is with us and keeps us in the midst of the trouble. It is because of Christ that although the troubles don't cease, He gives us freedom in the midst to be able to endure and to go through. Isn't that great news?!

In our scriptural text this week, the scene describes a peace that is to come. A peace that will bring abundance and harmony. The scripture talks about a peace that brings unity that even animals who don't usually coexist together will. Bears and cows will be able to hang out. Crazy huh?!

Praise God for His Peace. I pray this Advent season that the Peace of God brings you and your family abundance and harmony.

May you walk in His Peace.

Tearrah Brown

TBC, Children and Youth Ministry

"1-5 A green Shoot will sprout from Jesse's stump, from his roots a budding Branch. The life-giving Spirit of GOD will hover over him, the Spirit that brings wisdom and understanding, The Spirit that gives direction and builds strength, the Spirit that instills knowledge and Fear-of-GOD. Fear-of-GOD will be all his joy and delight. He won't judge by appearances, won't decide on the basis of hearsay. He'll judge the needy by what is right, render decisions on earth's poor with justice. His words will bring everyone to awed attention. A mere breath from his lips will topple the wicked. Each morning he'll pull on sturdy work clothes and boots, and build righteousness and faithfulness in the land. 6-9 The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid. Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them. Cow and bear will graze the same pasture, their calves and cubs grow up together, and the lion eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will crawl over rattlesnake dens, the toddler stick his hand down the hole of a serpent. Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain. The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive, a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

10 On that day, Jesse's Root will be raised high, posted as a rallying banner for the peoples. The nations will all come to him. His headquarters will be glorious."

Isaiah 11:1-10 (MSG)

7 Days of Peace

DECEMBER 7

Family Activity

Materials Needed:

- 7 small envelopes (or you can just write on strips of paper)
- Small pieces of paper or cards
- A box or basket to store the envelopes

Preparation:

1. Write 7 "acts of peace" on small pieces of paper.
2. These acts can be simple, everyday actions that help foster peace within the family, community, or world. Some can be spiritual (like praying for peace), some can be practical (like offering a kind word to someone), and others can be creative (like making a peace-themed craft). You can adjust them to suit your family's routine and age group.
3. Fold or roll the pieces of paper and place them in the envelopes

How to Do It:

1. Each day, as a family, gather around the couch or dinner table.
2. Open the envelope for the day and read aloud the "act of peace" inside.
3. After reading it, discuss how this act can be lived out and then do it together.
4. For a more reflective experience, you can light a candle or sit in a circle and say a prayer for peace, focusing on inner peace, family peace, or peace for the world.

The Goal:

The goal is to incorporate small, intentional actions of peace into daily life, not only to foster harmony within the family but also to extend that peace outwards. Each small act builds up to a larger sense of peace that can culminate on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, helping the family embody the true meaning of peace during Advent.

Examples of Acts of Peace:

- Write a note of appreciation to someone in the family.
- Create a "peace wall" with colorful paper cranes or doves, each representing a wish for peace.
- Pray for world peace and the healing of conflict around the globe.
- Spend 5 minutes in silence together to reflect on peaceful moments.
- Compliment someone on something they've done recently.
- Share a family meal with gratitude, saying "thank you" for the food.
- Do something kind for a neighbor, like baking cookies or offering help with chores.
- Make peace with someone you've had a disagreement with.
- Draw a peaceful picture or write a poem about peace.
- Create a "peace jar" where everyone writes down one thing they wish for peace in the world, and at the end of Advent, read them all aloud.
- Light a candle together in the evening and say a prayer for peace.





Peace in the Middle of Everything

DECEMBER 8

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Sometimes it feels like there's always something going on—school, friends, sports, family stuff—and our brains get loud. During Advent, think about how Jesus came into a world that was also loud, busy, and kind of messy, but He still brought peace with Him. It should remind us that peace isn't about everything around us being perfect; it's something God puts inside you. When you stop, breathe, and talk to God, you should feel Him calming you down, even if nothing else changes. Maybe that's what real peace is—God staying close, even in the chaos.

Questions

1. What situations in your life make it hard to feel peaceful?
2. How do you think God brings peace even when things around you don't change?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for giving us Your peace, even when life feels overwhelming. Help us remember that Your peace is stronger than our stress and louder than our worries. Show us how to rest in Your presence and carry Your peace with us wherever we go. Amen.



Jesus Broke ALL My Chains!

DECEMBER 9

Le'Tayshia Moore
Rock Christian Fellowship Church

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

A perfect person who loved imperfect us loved us enough to die in our place. Jesus wants me and you to be with him forever so much so that he died so we could always be with our heavenly father. We're no longer chained because of our sins if we choose to be set free by accepting Jesus's chain breaking blood. We're no longer chained to the consequences of our sin which is death but made alive through Christ's dying and living again. This verse (Romans 8:1-2) hits me deep because the word condemnation mean's declaring someone guilty, but the word tells us we're no longer guilty if we choose Christ. We're no longer chained but can have peace knowing that Christ died for us to live forever with Him.

Questions

1. What's something you feel chained to?
2. How long will you go before realizing you're free in Jesus?
3. How can you show your broken chains to people who have yet to accept Christ?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for everything you've done for me and others who read this. I pray that whoever is reading this prayer will put their faith in you to break whatever chains they have. Please protect and save whoever is reading this and their family. I pray they find peace in you. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and I pray whoever reads this takes something from what you gave me in Jesus' name, amen.

Peace is a Quiet Spirit

DECEMBER 10

Brittlyn Williams
Tabernacle Bible Church

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

This verse reminds me that real peace starts on the inside. Jesus gives us a kind of peace that the world can't take away, even when everything around us feels confusing or stressful. When I start to worry, I try to shift my attention back to Him—because His voice is calmer and stronger than all the noise in my mind. Fixing my thoughts on God instead of my fears helps me remember that I'm not alone. He already knows my future, and trusting His perfect plan brings a sense of peace that settles my heart and helps me breathe again.

Questions

- 1. How can we help spread peace around the world?
- 2. What does peace mean to you?

Prayer

Lord, use me as an instrument to show peace to those around me and the world. Amen!



Jesus is My Peace

DECEMBER 11

Aniya Ottenberg
Tabernacle Bible Church

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Isaiah 26:3

As long as you have God's peace in your heart, everything will be okay. This verse reminds me that when we keep our minds focused on Him, He fills us with a calm that doesn't disappear when life gets tough. During Advent, we remember how Jesus came to bring peace to the whole world—and to each of us personally. That's why we can trust God even when things feel confusing or scary. When we believe in Him, He takes care of us and gives us a peace that only He can give, a peace that steadies our hearts and helps us walk through anything.

Questions

- 1. What's something that gives you peace?
- 2. Why do you think people struggle with having peace?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for being there for us and giving us a peace that can only come from You. Amen.



A Calm Heart

DECEMBER 12

Amya Williams, Freshman | Howard University
First Church of God In Christ

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

In this verse, Jesus tells His disciples that He is giving them His peace, not the kind the world gives, but something much deeper. The peace of Jesus doesn't mean everything in life will be easy. It means that even when things get hard, our hearts can stay calm because we know God is with us.

The world's peace depends on everything going right. God's peace depends on who is in charge, and that's Jesus. He didn't come to remove all problems, but to remind us that we never face them alone.

When life feels stressful, remember Jesus already said, "My peace I give you." You don't have to earn it. You just have to receive it.

Questions

1. What helps you feel peaceful when you're upset?
2. How can you share God's peace with someone else this week?
3. What's one thing you can pray about instead of worrying?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your perfect peace. When I feel afraid or worried, remind me that You are always with me. Help me to bring peace to others through my words and actions. Amen.



Choosing God's Peace

DECEMBER 13

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Peace isn't just the quiet that happens when everyone stops talking. God's peace is something deeper—it's a calm that stays with us even when life feels busy, loud, or a little scary. During Advent, we remember that Jesus came to bring this kind of peace into the world. When we keep our thoughts on God and trust that He knows what we need, He fills our hearts with a peace that helps us breathe, relax, and remember we're not alone. This week, let's slow down and look for moments where we can choose God's peace instead of worry.

Questions

1. What is something that makes you feel worried or stressed?
2. How can you focus your thoughts on God when you start to feel that way?
3. Where do you see God bringing peace into your life this week?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for giving us a peace that goes deeper than anything the world can offer. When I feel overwhelmed, help me turn my thoughts back to You. Teach me to trust Your plan and to share Your peace with others. Thank You for sending Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEEK 3

Joy

Welcome to another week of our Children & Youth Advent Devotional!

I'm so glad you're here and taking time to prepare your heart as we move closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus. This week's theme is **JOY**, and I want you to know something important: joy isn't just a feeling we get when something exciting happens. Joy is a gift from God that stays with us, even when things around us aren't perfect.

During Advent, we remember that Jesus came into the world bringing a joy that reaches deep into our hearts—a joy that can brighten tough days, lift our spirits, and remind us that God is always with us. My hope is that as you read this week's devotionals, you'll discover new ways God is growing joy inside you. Maybe it shows up in your friendships, in small moments of kindness, or simply in knowing that you are loved by God more than you can imagine.

So take your time. Read with an open heart. And let the joy of Jesus shine through you this week. I'm cheering you on, and I'm so proud of you for walking this Advent journey with us.

Much Love,
Vanessa Robinson
TBC Youth Ushers Leader

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men^[a] 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.'"
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.

Jesus is Our Joy

DECEMBER 14

Maralyn Williams
Tabernacle Bible Church

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:10

Lots of things make us happy for a little while—new shoes, good grades, fun games, or getting invited to something. But those feelings go away. Jesus gives a different kind of happiness—joy that lasts.

Being close to Jesus brings peace, comfort, and a happiness that doesn't disappear when things go wrong.

Questions

1. What are some things you look to for happiness?
2. How could you look to Jesus instead?

Prayer

Jesus, help me look for joy in You, not just in things that don't last long. Amen.

Big God

DECEMBER 15

Ellys Osei, Saniah Thomas, and Zea Echols
Tabernacle Bible Church

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Psalm 4:7

What is joy? We think joy is having a lot of energy...especially for Jesus! Joy is that special feeling you get when something good happens. It's also another word for happy.

Think about how happy Mary & Joseph were when Jesus was born. Even though they were scared at first, we're sure they had joy that they were the mom and dad to a king!

No matter what your definition is, true joy is found in God because He is a BIG God!

Questions

1. What is your definition of joy?
2. How do you find joy?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for all you have done. Thank You for giving us joy and being a BIG God. Amen!



A Joy That Lasts

DECEMBER 16

Amya Williams, Freshman | Howard University
First Church of God In Christ

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Joy isn't the same as happiness. Happiness comes and goes depending on what's happening around us, but joy stays even when life is hard. This verse tells us to rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances. That's not easy, but it's possible when we understand that real joy comes from knowing Jesus. When we stay connected to God through prayer, we start to see the good in every situation. Even in tough times, we can thank Him for being with us.

Questions

- 1. What's something you can thank God for today?
- 2. How can prayer help you stay joyful?
- 3. What can you do to bring joy to someone else this week?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for giving me joy that lasts no matter what happens. Help me to keep praying and giving thanks even on hard days. Remind me that joy comes from knowing You and sharing Your love with others. Amen.



The Joy I Have for Jesus

DECEMBER 17

Reagan Adkins
Tabernacle Bible Church

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice!
Philippians 4:4

Think about how you feel when your favorite football team wins a big game. You probably feel super happy, excited, and like celebrating, right? Well, the joy we feel when Jesus is in our lives is even bigger and better than that!

When we remember that Jesus loves us, we can have that same kind of excitement in our hearts—because His love is more powerful than any game win. And even when life doesn't feel like a "win," we can still have joy because Jesus is with us!

Questions

- 1. What makes you feel excited and joyful like when your team wins?
- 2. How can you feel that joy for Jesus?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I want to have that big, happy feeling in my heart for You. Thank You for loving me so much! Please help me feel Your joy every day. Help others feel joy in their hearts about You. Amen.

Joy From the Lord

DECEMBER 18

Bryson Rogers
Tabernacle Bible Church

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
Galatians 5:22**

There is joy in unity and celebration! I'm sure there was much celebration when word came of a long awaited promise of salvation. Jesus' birth represents God's love for us and how He desires relationships with all of us .

Having true joy in Christ means celebrating the promise of everlasting life.

Questions

1. When's the last time you celebrated something?
2. How can you find joy, even when there's hard times?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You! Help us have joy throughout the day even when there's nothing to celebrate. Amen.



Always Keep Your Joy

DECEMBER 19

Charles Brown II
Tabernacle Bible Church



**Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice!
Philippians 4:4**

There's a joy I can't explain when something big happens...when the 49ers and LA Dodgers win!

There's also times when I don't have joy...getting a bad grade on a test, doing chores, or when I hear about the death of someone I know.

No matter what, I know that through it all, I have a different kind of joy that's always inside of me. The joy of the Lord. I know that if I hold on and remember that that joy is always inside of me, I can rejoice even when it's tough.

Questions

1. When's the last time you felt joy?
2. When's the last time you felt joy because of God?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the joy you give me. Please help me to feel and focus on Your joy all the time. Thank You for all the times, past, present, and future that You have and will give me joy. Amen!

Sing - Along

DECEMBER 20

I've Got the Joy

By: George W. Cooke

1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.

2 I've got the peace that passeth understanding,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passeth understanding,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.

3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.

4 For there is therefore now no condemnation,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
For there is therefore now no condemnation,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.



WEEK 4

Love

It's the final week of Advent!

As we get closer to Christmas, this week's theme is all about **LOVE**. And when we talk about love, I'm not talking about the love you feel when your team hits the game-winning shot in the last second (although, let's be real, that's a pretty awesome feeling). I'm talking about the love that changed the world—the love that brought Jesus to this earth and keeps us connected to God.

In basketball, teamwork and trust are key to winning. But the thing that holds it all together, the thing that makes the game worth playing, is love—the love you have for your teammates, the love you have for the game, and the love that drives you to be the best version of yourself. And just like that, God's love is what holds our lives together and gives us the strength to keep going.

Why Focus on Love This Week?

- Love is the heart of the Christmas story. Without love, Jesus wouldn't have come to save us. His love is not just a feeling; it's an action. He came to show us how to love, forgive, and serve others.
- Love is the answer to everything. The world can feel confusing and divided, but love is the thing that holds us together. It's what heals broken hearts, builds bridges between people, and transforms lives.
- Love is our response to God's grace. When we truly grasp the depth of God's love for us—His unconditional, never-failing, sacrificial love—it fills our hearts with joy, gratitude, and a desire to love others just as He has loved us.

Braxton Jones

TBC Children & Youth Volunteer

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,¹⁷ that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

John 3:16-19 (ESV)

Rooted in His Love

DECEMBER 21

Khyion Wooten & Maray Rogers

Tabernacle Bible Church

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalms 36:7

When we think about love, we usually think about our family, friends, or the people who make us laugh. But Advent reminds us that God’s love is way bigger than all of that. God didn’t just say He loved us—He showed it by sending Jesus. Jesus came into a broken world to bring light, hope, and a love that never gives up on us.

During Advent, we’re trying to look for ways to show love the way God does. Not just saying it, but living it.

Questions

1. Why is it difficult to love those who may not be kind to us?
2. What if God treated us the way we deserved instead of how He does because He loves us?



Prayer

Lord, give us the strength to love, no matter what bad things I may experience. We pray that everyone finds the love that comes from You and shares it with others. Amen.

Reliable Love

DECEMBER 22

Dayvid & Deryk Anderson

and Durrell Jefferson

Tabernacle Bible Church

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

Being reliable means people can count on you. Without doubt, people trust that if they need something, you are the one to call.

God’s love is just like being reliable. By staying in His word, it strengthens your faith to believe that He loves you even when you fall short or get angry with Him. We feel loved by God when we don’t always see what’s going to happen, but He protects and keeps us.

Questions

1. How can you strengthen your love for God and others?
2. What does love mean to you?

Prayer

Dear God, we pray that anyone reading this continues to grow their love for You. We pray that You remove any hatred in their heart, and become more like You. Thank You for loving us and sending Your son. Amen.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

DECEMBER 23

How does this image represent LOVE during the Advent Season?

What scripture relates to this image?

How did the people in the Christmas story show LOVE? (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wisemen, etc.)



Illustration By:
Matthew Brown, 7th Grade
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Love Makes Space

DECEMBER 24

Maddox Sims, Kneeland Brown II,
Tobias Smith, Avery Mclaurin
Tabernacle Bible Church

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Sometimes love looks like making space—space in our schedules, our hearts, or even our attitudes. Advent reminds us of the story of Mary and Joseph searching for a place for Jesus to be born. People closed their doors, but one small space in a manger became the place where Love entered the world. It made us wonder: do we make space for Jesus in our lives? Or do we fill our time with everything else? This Advent, we want to make room for God's love to grow in us, so we can share it with others.

Questions

1. What do you need to get rid of to make space for God's love?
2. How can you help your friends see God's love?

Prayer

Jesus, help us make space in our hearts for Your love this Advent. Fill us so we can share that love with others. Amen.

Love in Everything

DECEMBER 25

Amya Williams, Freshman | Howard University
First Church of God In Christ



**Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14**

Love is at the heart of everything God does. The Bible says that God is love, and He showed that love most clearly when He sent Jesus to earth for us. During Advent, as we get closer to Christmas, we remember that Jesus' birth was the greatest act of love ever.

This verse challenges us to "do everything in love." That means not just loving people when it's easy, but choosing love even when it's hard. Doing everything in love means speaking kindly, forgiving quickly, and helping others without expecting anything back.

When we love like Jesus, people can see God through us. Imagine how different the world would be if everyone chose love first! Let's show the kind of love that shines brighter than anything, the love that comes from Christ living in us.

Questions

1. What does it look like to "do everything in love"?
2. Who in your life needs to feel God's love this week?

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for showing me what real love looks like through Jesus. Help me to love others the way You love me, with patience, kindness, and a forgiving heart. Teach me to make love the reason behind everything I do. Amen.

Plan of Salvation

Advent reminds us why Jesus came: to bring hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives. But the greatest gift He came to give us is salvation—a new life with God that starts now and lasts forever. God wants every child, teen, and adult to know His love personally. Here's how we can receive that gift:

**God made you on purpose and with a purpose. His love for you never changes.
"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..." – John 3:16**

**No one is perfect. We all make mistakes, mess up, and choose our own way sometimes. The Bible calls this
"sin," and it separates us from God.
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." – Romans 3:23**

**That's why Jesus was born. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again so we could
be forgiven and brought back to God.
"But God shows His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8**

**You don't earn God's love—you receive it. Salvation is God's free gift to us.
"It is the gift of God—not by works..." – Ephesians 2:8-9**

**God invites you to say "yes" to Him—to believe in Jesus, ask for forgiveness, and choose to follow
Him with your life.
"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart...you will be saved." –
Romans 10:9**

If you want to begin a relationship with Jesus, you can pray something like this (your own words work too):

"Jesus, thank You for loving me. I know I make mistakes and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died and rose again for me. Today I choose to follow You. Come into my heart and help me live for You. Amen."

If you just prayed this prayer, tell a youth leader, pastor, parent, or trusted adult so they can celebrate with you and help you grow in your new relationship with Jesus!





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