



Family Advent Devotions

Remembering God's promises fulfilled
throughout December

December 1st

"He protects His flock like a shepherd;
He gathers the lambs in His arms
and carries them in the fold of His garment.
He gently leads those that are nursing."

Isaiah 40:11

Discussion

Many times in the Bible Jesus is referred to as a shepherd, and we are the sheep. In what ways are we like sheep and Jesus like the shepherd? What does this verse make you think of?



Prayer

Praise Jesus for loving us so tenderly. Ask Him to show you how you can love others the way He loves you.

December 2nd

"We all went astray like sheep;
we all have turned to our own way..."
Isaiah 53:6a

Discussion

Here is another verse comparing us to sheep. Describe "turning to our own way" in your own words. What do you think we have gone astray from?



Prayer

Pray that you would return
to the Lord each time you
find yourself wandering
away from Him.

December 3rd

"There is no one righteous, not even one...
All have turned away..."
Romans 3:10-12a

Discussion

Do you know what "righteous" means? (It means free from guilt or sin. It can be described as having a "right" relationship with God.) Who does this verse say is righteous? Does that include us?



Prayer

Ask God to give you a
humble heart and to show
you in what ways you need
Him.

December 4th

"For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

Discussion

Do you know what "wages" mean? It can mean payment for work, but it also means the result of doing something wrong. What is the result of our sin? Death. Do you know who died in our place? Jesus. He is our Saviour!



Prayer

Thank God for His
mercy in allowing Jesus
to pay the price for our
sin on the cross.

December 5th

"I will put hostility between you and the
woman, and between your offspring and her
offspring. He will strike your head, and you will
strike His heel."
Genesis 3:15

Discussion

Do you know how long people have been waiting for a saviour? Ever since Adam and Eve! This verse is the first mention in the Bible of the coming Saviour! In this verse, God is cursing the serpent for deceiving Eve. The "offspring" He is referring to is Jesus!



Prayer

Thank the Lord that He
always had a plan in
place to save us from
our sins..

December 6th

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."

John 1:1-2

Discussion

If people have been waiting for a Saviour since Adam and Eve, how long has Jesus been around? What answer do you find in this verse? Here, Jesus is referred to as the "Word". If He was there at the beginning, why did people need to wait for Him? (If you aren't sure, that's ok! Wait for tomorrow's verse!)



Prayer

Praise God that He had a plan for us even before the creation of the world.

December 8th

"For a Child will be born for us, a Son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Discussion

Do you know what the word "prophecy" means? This is another verse from the Old Testament, foretelling that Jesus would come as a baby about 700 years before He was born! What are some of the names Jesus is given?



Prayer

Thank God that He knows our past, present, and future.

December 7th

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:4

Discussion

Do you see now what kind of Saviour people were waiting for? A human! God with us! Did you know Jesus was fully God and fully human at the same time? What is Jesus referred to in this verse besides "Word"? God's son.



Prayer

Ask God for wisdom to help you understand His divine plan for our Salvation.

December 9th

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name Him Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

Discussion

This is another prophecy from the Old Testament. It gives another name for Jesus, "Immanuel". Do you know what that means? God with us. What is so amazing about God choosing to be with us?



Prayer

Praise God that He loves us so much that He sent His Son to earth to live and die with us and for us.

December 10th

"She will give birth to a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

Discussion

Now, this verse is from the New Testament. It sounds just like the last prophecy we read! But this time, the angel is saying it to Joseph (Jesus' earthly father). What important thing does the angel say Jesus will do? Remember when we talked about "going astray"? Who can help us when we go astray?



Prayer

Praise the Lord for sending Jesus to save us from our sins!

December 11th

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Discussion

Why did God give up His Son? For what purpose did Jesus come to dwell with us? What is the thing we need to do to have eternal life?



Prayer

Thank God for sending His only Son, so that we might live with Him in eternity as His adopted sons and daughters.

December 12th

"But He was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him and we are healed by His wounds."

Isaiah 53:5

Discussion

This is another prophecy about Jesus from the Old Testament, but this one isn't foretelling of His birth, it's talking about something else. Do you know what? His death. Do you know what 'iniquities' are? Sins.



Prayer

Ask God to show you any sins in your life that you need to ask forgiveness for.

December 13th

"...He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when He had come as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death - even to death on a cross."

Philippians 2:7-8

Discussion

Why do you think it was important that Jesus came as a baby? Did he come as a mighty earthly prince, or the son of a lowly carpenter?



Prayer

Ask the Lord to show you how you can be humble, just as Jesus was.

December 14th

"Bethlehem...One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times."

Micah 5:2

Discussion

Again, Jesus' birth is being prophesied about in this verse. This time, the prophecy says exactly where Jesus will be born! Where does it say He will be born? From when did it say He came? Remember when we talked about Him being there at creation?



Prayer

Praise God for His Word, the Bible, which points us to Jesus in both the Old and New Testaments..

December 15th

"Then the angel told her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus.""

Luke 1:30-31

Discussion

Now an angel is telling a woman named Mary that she will have the promised Saviour, Jesus, as her own baby! How do you think she felt about that?



Prayer

Thank God that even when we don't feel like we are good enough, He has chosen us to be His sons and daughters and do His will.

December 16th

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."

Luke 1:32

Discussion

Here, the angel is still talking to Mary about Jesus. Do you know what it means that "God will give Him the throne of His father David"? If now, we'll find out in tomorrow's verse!



Prayer

Praise God that He is our one True King!

December 17th

"...He raised up David as their king and testified about him, 'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after My own heart, who will carry out all My will.' From this man's descendants, as He promised, God brought to Israel the Saviour, Jesus."

Isaiah 53:5

Discussion

This is another prophecy about Jesus from the David was a humble shepherd who became a king of Israel. Jesus was a Shepherd King too, and David's descendant. From this verse, what kind of people do you think God chooses to serve Him?



Prayer

Pray that you may be a child after God's own heart..

December 18th

“...He will reign on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.”

Isaiah 9:7

Discussion

Jesus came not only to save us from our sins, but to do what else? To establish God’s kingdom. How will He rule? With justice and righteousness.



Prayer

Ask God to bring His kingdom about here on earth as it is in heaven.

December 19th

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, because He has looked with favour on the humble condition of His servant.”

Luke 1:46b-48a

Discussion

This verse is Mary’s song of praise to God after hearing the angel tell her she will give birth to the Saviour. What do you think she means by “humble condition”? Do you have to be important, famous or powerful to serve God?



Prayer

Ask God to show you how you can serve Him right where you are.

December 20th

“When the time came to completion, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Galatians 4:4-5

Discussion

When the time was right, God sent Jesus to earth, born of Mary, to redeem us. Do you know what “redeem” means? He came to pay the price for our sins so we could become adopted sons and daughters of God!



Prayer

Thank Jesus for coming to earth so we could become His brothers and sisters.

December 21st

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

John 14:6

Discussion

What does ‘come to the Father’ mean in your own words? Through Jesus, our relationship with God which was broken by sin can be restored.



Prayer

Thank Jesus for coming to earth to make a way for us to have a right relationship with God.

December 22nd

"But we do see Jesus - made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone - crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death"

Hebrews 2:9

Discussion

The reason Jesus was born was to save us by His death on the cross and His resurrection. Do you know the legend of the candy cane? Look it up and see how it describes Jesus.



Prayer

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for our sins, and rising again so we can have new life in Him.

December 23rd

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

Discussion

Do you know what Alpha and Omega stand for? They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus was with God at the beginning, He came to earth as a baby, He died for us on the cross, and He is returning one day to make all things new!



Prayer

Praise God that He is the Lord of all creation and time.

December 24th Christmas Eve

Read Matthew 1:18-23

Discussion

Do you notice the prophecies we read about being fulfilled in these verses? Can you name them?



Prayer

Ask the Lord to prepare your heart for tomorrow, the day we celebrate our Lord Jesus' birth!

December 25th Christmas Day

Read Luke 2:1-20

Prayer

Spend time praising God for the true gift of Christmas, His Son Jesus.

