



The Twelve Days  
Of Christmas  
DEVOTIONAL

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For centuries, Christians have celebrated the Twelve Days of Christmas as a sacred season of lingering in the mystery and joy of Christ's incarnation. Far more than a cultural relic, these days invite us to slow down, pray, and be attentive to the one through whom the world was made, the one who took up his dwelling among us in the flesh.

Beginning Christmas Day, we encourage you to use this devotional guide as a resource to inspire your worship over these twelve days. It is intended to help you create intentional space to gaze upon Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18; Hebrews 12:2), becoming more like him (Romans 8:29). Each devotional begins with a Scripture reading, followed by a brief reflection and prayer, and concludes with a simple practice. As Jesus said, our hearing should lead to doing (Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-25). Consider lighting a candle each day to mark that time as sacred and to remind you that God is present with you.

As we journey through the Christmas season, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit would help us carry the wonder of Bethlehem into our ordinary lives. May the words of this old Christmas Day prayer be the longing of our hearts:

*"O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity."*

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## **Day 1 – Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

The Nativity of Our Lord

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Reflection:

Today we celebrate the unbelievable humility of God – that he would take on flesh, enter our world, and dwell among us. The Incarnation is the heart of the gospel: heaven bending low, God walking with His people. As the angels proclaimed peace, we welcome Christ into our homes, our rhythms, and our hopes.

Prayer:

Almighty God, you have given your only son to take our nature upon him. Grant that we, who rejoice in his birth, may walk in his light and reflect his peace. Amen.

Practice:

Enjoy rest. No agenda. Sit with someone and name one thing you're thankful for this year.

## **Day 2 – Friday, December 26**

Stephen, the First Martyr – Witness & Forgiveness

Scripture: Acts 7:54-60

Reflection:

Stephen's martyrdom reminds us that the love of Christ empowers us to forgive even in the face of injustice. His vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God strengthens our courage. Christmas joy is not escapism – it is bold hope in a broken world.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, fill us with your Spirit so we can love and forgive as you do. Strengthen all who suffer for your name. Amen.

Practice:

Pray for persecuted Christians. Choose one quiet act of generosity today.

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## Day 3 – Saturday, December 27

Apostle John, Friend of Jesus – Love & Truth

Scripture: 1 John 1:1-7

Reflection:

John calls us to walk in the light – to live lives marked by truth, love, and fellowship. The babe in the manger is the eternal word of life. Christmas invites us into honest community, where love is practiced in deed and in truth.

Prayer:

God of truth, lead us into your light. Purify our hearts and deepen our love for one another. Amen.

Practice:

Share with someone how you saw God's goodness this year.

## Day 4 – Sunday, December 28

The Holy Innocents – Lament & Protection

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-18

Reflection:

Christmas joy does not ignore suffering. We remember the children lost in Herod's cruelty, and we grieve the injustices that mark our world today. Christ came for the vulnerable. He came as a child Himself. His family fled in fear to another country. His kingdom protects the least and hears every cry.

Prayer:

Merciful Father, comfort all who mourn and protect all children. Let your justice roll like a mighty river. Amen.

Practice:

Pray for at-risk children in Memphis and around the world. If you are a parent, bless your children with a hand on their head and a short prayer.

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## **Day 5 – Monday, December 29**

Justice & Courage

Scripture: Psalm 72:1-7; Micah 6:8

Reflection:

Christ is the righteous King who defends the poor and upholds justice. Christmas reveals not only tenderness but also holy strength. Jesus rules with both compassion and power, calling his people to integrity.

Prayer:

Lord, give us courage to live with integrity. Strengthen leaders in your church, our city, and our country to do justice and to love mercy. Amen.

Practice:

Spend a few minutes praying for civic leaders, pastors, teachers, and first responders.

## **Day 6 – Tuesday, December 30**

Joseph & Mary – Hidden Faithfulness

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Reflection:

God enters history through ordinary people whose obedience often unfolds in obscurity. Joseph and Mary show us that quiet faithfulness shapes salvation history. God delights in hidden obedience.

Prayer:

Lord, make us faithful in small things. Give us humble hearts that say yes to You. Amen.

Practice:

Parents bless children (and spouses bless one another) with: "May you walk in the faithfulness of Christ." If you're not married, reach out to a friend and pray this blessing over that person.

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## **Day 7 – Wednesday, December 31 – New Years Eve**

Remembering the Year with Gratitude

Scripture: Psalm 90

Reflection:

Before stepping into the new year, the church pauses. We remember God's faithfulness and number our days with wisdom. Gratitude turns our hearts toward the God who carries us.

Prayer:

Eternal God, you are our refuge in every generation. Teach us to live with wisdom, gratitude, and hope. Amen.

Practice:

Gather with your family or friends and each person name three blessings from the past year.

## **Day 8 – Thursday, January 1 – New Year's Day**

The Holy Name of Jesus

Scripture: Luke 2:21-40

Reflection:

Jesus receives his name – the name above every name, the name that saves. The Christmas season teaches us to call on the Lord with trust and love, letting his name shape our year ahead.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with the power of your holy name. Teach us to rest in your mercy. Amen.

Practice:

Pray the Jesus Prayer together three times: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me." As you pray this, imagine yourself kneeling at his feet and watch as he smiles upon you in deep delight.

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## **Day 9 – Friday, January 2**

Christian Friendship

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Reflection:

Saints Basil and Gregory lived in the 4th century and were very close friends. They also participated in the writing of the Nicene Creed, a vital confession that defended the Christian faith against error that is still used today. They remind the church that deep friendship strengthens faith and forms devoted believers. Christmas invites us into community – a shared life shaped by encouragement, honesty, and prayer.

Prayer:

God of fellowship, grant us deep, holy friendships that strengthen our faith and reflect your love. Amen.

Practice:

Text or call a friend in Christ to encourage them. Tell them what they mean to you.

## **Day 10 – Saturday, January 3**

Christ Our Light

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Reflection:

The word became flesh, and the darkness cannot overcome him. This is the heart of Christmas – the radiant light of God shining into every shadow. We welcome his light into our minds, our habits, and our homes.

Prayer:

Light of the world, shine in our hearts. Drive out darkness and fill us with your glory and grace. Amen.

Practice:

Light a candle at dinner and share how Jesus has been your “light” this year.

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## Day 11 – Sunday, January 4

The Shepherds – Simple Mission

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Reflection:

God entrusted the gospel first to shepherds – ordinary people with ordinary lives. Christmas reminds us that every believer carries good news into the world. Mission begins in wonder and spills into witness.

Prayer:

Lord, send us out with joy. Let the gospel overflow from our lives in word and deed. Amen.

Practice:

Pray for one person you hope to share the gospel with this year.

## Day 12 – Monday, January 5 – Epiphany Eve

Twelfth Night – Preparing for Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 2:1-12

Reflection:

Epiphany means manifestation or appearance. Epiphany reveals, or manifests, Christ to the nations. On the eve of this day, we remember that the Child born in Bethlehem is Lord of all peoples, demonstrated by the visit from the Magi, foreigners of Israel. Christmas ends not in sentiment but in mission: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

Prayer:

Lord of the nations, reveal your glory in our homes, our church, and our city. Make us faithful witnesses of your gospel. Amen.

Practice:

Pray as a family for missionaries, local outreach, and your church's ministry. Pray for family and friends who do not know the Lord.

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## FINAL BLESSING

*Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we give you thanks for these days of celebration and reflection – days in which we have stood  
in awe of the mystery of the Incarnation, that your eternal Son took on flesh and dwelt among  
us. As we have prayed and meditated on your word, let every truth we have contemplated take  
root in our hearts and bear the fruit of deeper devotion, clearer faith, and a renewed love for  
you and for our neighbors.*

*Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
as your birth once broke into the darkness of our world, let your presence shine now into every  
part of our lives. Form your character within us. Teach us to walk in humility, generosity, and joy.  
Make our homes places of your peace and our church a people who carry Your hope into the  
world.*

*Holy Spirit,  
send us out with fresh power and holy imagination. May what we have celebrated not fade as  
the season ends, but continue to shape us throughout the year. Draw us ever deeper into the  
life of Christ, that in all we do – whether in worship, work, or rest – your glory would be  
revealed in us and through us.*

*We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus,  
our Savior, our King, and our Emmanuel.*

*Amen.*

