

Christmas Gift Exchange

GCC Kids Quest
2025 Family Devotional



Unwrap God's Gifts
For Us This Christmas

How It Works

Advent is a season of anticipation, a time to focus on the arrival of something truly life-changing—Jesus! This year, we’ve designed a devotional to help your family experience the Christmas story in a meaningful, hands-on way each day.

Each week connects with the sermon series “Christmas Gift Exchange,” where Andrew explores how Yahweh takes the things we struggle with—fear, doubt, despair, hurt, and worry—and gives us good things in return: joy, trust, hope, healing, and peace. The devotional follows the same themes, giving your family daily readings, discussion questions, prayers, and simple activities to help you reflect on how God’s promises impact your lives.

The devotional is flexible! You can read a short passage each day, or combine a few days’ readings into one time that works best for your family. Once a week, you’ll also find a fun family challenge, song, or video to help bring the theme to life. The goal is not just to complete a task, but to enjoy time together, reflect on God’s goodness, and celebrate Jesus—the greatest gift of all.

Special moments, like reading the Christmas story from Luke on December 25, give your family a chance to pause and celebrate Jesus’ birth in a memorable way.

Follow Along on the New Kids Quest Podcast!

We know the holiday season can get wonderfully busy – full of events, travel, family gatherings, and lots of car time. To make this devotional as simple and attainable as possible, we're excited to offer an easy way for your family to follow along: **Glendale Christian Church Kids Quest Podcast.**

Each day, you'll find episodes that walk through the devotionals, Scriptures, and discussion questions. Whether you're driving across town, heading to grandma's house, or running errands, your car ride can become a meaningful time of discipleship and conversation.

Our hope is to help you make the most of the moments you already have – turning everyday life into opportunities to talk about Jesus together. Tune in, listen as a family, and enjoy growing closer to Yahweh and to each other this Christmas season.

You're not doing this alone – we're here to walk with you every step of the way!



Week 1: **Fear → Joy**

When we give Yahweh our fear,
He fills us with His joy.

December 1

Do Not Be Afraid

Read: Luke 1:26-30 (NIRV)

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings! You are highly favored. The Lord is with you.” Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. Yahweh is very pleased with you.”

Family Thought:

Mary was just an ordinary girl. One day, an angel appeared with a message from Yahweh – and she was scared! But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid.” Yahweh had a plan for her life that would bring joy to the whole world. Even when things surprise us or make us nervous, Yahweh is with us too. When we remember that, fear turns into joy.

Talk About It:

- What’s something that has made you afraid before?
- How did Yahweh help you through it?
- What do you think it would feel like to hear an angel say, “Don’t be afraid”?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for being with us when we’re afraid. Help us remember that Your plans bring joy, not fear. Amen.

December 2

Yahweh Is Our Helper

Read: Isaiah 41:10 (NIRV)

So do not be afraid. I am with you. Do not be terrified; I am your God. I will make you strong and help you. I will hold you safe in my hands.

Family Thought:

Fear can make us feel small and alone. But Yahweh says, “I am with you.” He doesn’t promise that scary things will never happen, but He does promise that we never face them alone. His strong hands hold us, help us, and give us joy when we trust Him.

Talk About It:

- What does it mean that Yahweh holds you safe in His hands?
- Can you think of a time you needed Yahweh’s help?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, for helping us and keeping us safe. Fill our hearts with Your joy today. Amen.

December 3

Good News of Great Joy

Read: Luke 2:8-10 (NIRV)

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. They were taking turns watching their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people.”

Family Thought:

The shepherds were just doing their job when suddenly the night sky lit up! At first, they were afraid, but the angel's message changed everything. The Savior had been born! The same good news that filled the shepherds with joy still brings us joy today—Jesus has come to be with us!

Talk About It:

- Why do you think the shepherds were afraid?
- How does knowing Jesus brings joy to you?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for sending Jesus, the best news ever! Help our joy shine bright like the angels' message. Amen.

December 4

When I'm Afraid

Read: Psalm 56:3-4 (NIRV)

When I'm afraid, I will trust in You. I trust in God. I praise His word. I trust in God. I will not be afraid.

Family Thought:

Even King David was afraid sometimes! But instead of letting fear control him, he chose to trust Yahweh. When we focus on who Yahweh is—powerful, loving, and always near—our fear begins to shrink and joy grows in its place.

Talk About It:

- What's one thing you can do when you feel afraid?
- How does trusting Yahweh help you feel more joyful?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, for being trustworthy. Help us to remember Your love when we're afraid and choose joy instead. Amen.

🎵 Optional Song:

Listen to "Fear Not" together and sing!



December 5

Joy Makes Us Strong

Read: Nehemiah 8:10b (NIRV)

Don't be sad. The joy of Yahweh makes you strong.

Family Thought:

The people of Israel were crying when they heard Yahweh's Word—they realized how far they'd wandered. But Nehemiah reminded them to celebrate instead! Yahweh forgives and loves us. His joy fills our hearts and gives us strength to keep going, even when life is hard.

Talk About It:

- How do you think joy makes us strong?
- What helps you remember Yahweh's joy?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, that Your joy gives us strength every day. Help us share that joy with others. Amen.

December 6


FAMILY CHALLENGE: Joy Jars

Challenge:

Make a “Joy Jar” together!

- Find a jar or box and decorate it.
- Each night this week, write or draw one thing that made you smile or feel brave.
- On Sunday, read them together and thank Yahweh for turning your fears into joy!

Optional Video:

 Watch “The Story of Christmas (Jesus and the Shepherds)” by Saddleback Kids and talk about how the shepherds went from fear to joy.





Week 2:

Doubt → Trust



When we give Yahweh our doubts,
He gives us trust.





December 7

Choosing Trust



Read: Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIRV)

Trust in Yahweh with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Remember Yahweh in everything you do, and He will guide you on the right paths.



Family Thought:



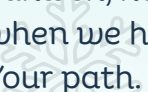
Sometimes we don't understand why things happen or why life feels hard. That's called doubt. Even in those times, Yahweh asks us to trust Him. Trust doesn't mean we have all the answers—it means we believe Yahweh loves us and will guide us, even when we're unsure.

Talk About It:

- What is something you've doubted before?
- How can you show trust in Yahweh even when you don't understand?

Pray:

Yahweh, help us trust You with all our hearts, even when we have questions or doubts. Teach us to follow Your path. Amen.



December 8

God's Promises Are True

Read: Numbers 23:19 (NIRV)

Yahweh is not a man, that He should lie. He is not human, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and not act? Does He promise and not carry it out?

Family Thought:

Sometimes we doubt because we think Yahweh might forget or change His mind. But Yahweh always keeps His promises. When we remember that He never lies, it's easier to trust Him with our doubts and fears.

Talk About It:

- Can you think of a promise Yahweh has made in the Bible?
- How does it make you feel to know Yahweh always keeps His promises?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, that You always keep Your promises. Help us trust You, even when we don't understand everything. Amen.

December 9

Trust Like Abraham

Read: Genesis 12:1-4 (NIRV)

Yahweh said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you." Abram obeyed Yahweh, and he went even though he didn't know where he was going.

Family Thought:

Abraham trusted Yahweh even when he didn't know the plan. He could have doubted or said "no," but he chose trust. We can do the same! Even when life feels uncertain, we can follow Yahweh with confidence, knowing He is leading us.

Talk About It:

- Why do you think Abraham obeyed Yahweh even when he was unsure?
- How can we follow Yahweh today, even when we have doubts?

Pray:

Yahweh, help us trust You like Abraham did. Teach us to follow Your path even when we don't know the whole plan. Amen.

December 10

Jesus Understands Doubt

Read: John 20:24-29 (NIRV)

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, wasn't with them when Jesus appeared. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said, "I will not believe unless I see His nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were." A week later, Jesus appeared again. Thomas saw Him and said, "My Lord and my God!"

Family Thought:

Even Thomas, a follower of Jesus, had doubts. Jesus didn't get angry at him; He showed him the truth and helped him believe. Yahweh understands our questions and doubts, and He wants to help us trust Him.

Talk About It:

- Have you ever had doubts like Thomas?
- How did Yahweh help you see the truth?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, that You understand our doubts. Help us see Your truth and trust You every day. Amen.

December 11

Let's Pray About Doubts

Read: Psalm 56:3-4 (NIRV)

When I'm afraid, I will trust in You. I trust in God. I praise His word. I trust in God. I will not be afraid.

Family Thought:

Sometimes doubts feel scary, but when we pray, Yahweh gives us courage and trust. Just like David trusted God even when he was afraid, we can bring our doubts to Yahweh and let Him help us.

Talk About It:

- What doubts can we pray about today?
- How does praying help us trust Yahweh more?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You that we can bring our doubts to You. Help us trust You and praise You even when we're unsure. Amen.

December 12

Small Steps of Trust

Read: Matthew 14:28-31 (NIRV)

Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and he began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him.

Family Thought:

Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out onto the water, even though it was scary. When we take small steps of trust in Yahweh, He is right there to help us. Doubt might whisper, "You can't," but Yahweh whispers, "I've got you!"

Talk About It:

- What is one small step of trust you can take this week?
- How did Jesus help Peter when he was afraid?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, that You catch us when we stumble. Help us take steps of trust in You each day. Amen.

December 13


FAMILY CHALLENGE: Trust Tree

Challenge:

Create a "Trust Tree" together:

- Use a small branch, drawing of a tree or your families Christmas tree.
- Each day this week, write or draw one thing your family is trusting Yahweh for on a "leaf" or piece of paper.
- Hang them on the tree. At the end of the week, thank Yahweh for how He has helped you trust Him.

Optional Video:

 Watch "Jesus Appears to Thomas" (John 20) by Saddleback Kids. Talk about how Jesus helped Thomas trust again.





Week 3: **Despair → Hope**

When we give Yahweh our despair,
He fills us with hope.

December 14

A Reason to Hope

Read: Romans 15:13 (NIRV)

I pray that Yahweh, the God of hope, will fill you with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Family Thought:

Sometimes life feels heavy, and it's easy to feel hopeless. But Yahweh is the God of hope! When we trust Him, He fills our hearts with joy and peace, and hope grows inside us. Hope isn't just wishing things will get better—it's knowing Yahweh has a good plan and is with us, no matter what.

Talk About It:

- What are some things that make you feel hopeless or sad?
- How can trusting Yahweh help you feel hope again?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for being our God of hope. Help us trust You and feel Your hope in our hearts every day. Amen.

December 15

Elijah in the Desert

Read: 1 Kings 19:4-8 (NIRV)

Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came and sat under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. "I've had enough, Yahweh," he said. "Take my life." But an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He ate and drank. Then he lay down and slept.

Family Thought:

Even a great prophet like Elijah felt despair. But Yahweh provided food, rest, and care—small acts that reminded Elijah He had a plan. Sometimes hope comes in small, quiet ways, even when things feel dark. Yahweh gives us what we need to keep going.

Talk About It:

- How do you think Elijah felt before Yahweh helped him?
- What small ways does Yahweh help you when you feel sad or discouraged?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, that You care for us when we are sad. Help us see the hope You give every day. Amen.

December 16

Jesus Brings Hope

Read: Matthew 11:28-30 (NIRV)

"Come to Me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest. Take My yoke and learn from Me. I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is easy, and My load is light."

Family Thought:

When life feels heavy, Jesus invites us to give Him our burdens. We can hope because He will help carry our worries. Hope grows when we remember we don't have to face life's difficulties alone—Jesus is with us, ready to help.

Talk About It:

- What are some "heavy loads" you carry?
- How can you give them to Jesus?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for sending Jesus to help us carry our burdens. Fill us with hope and peace today. Amen.

December 17

God's Promises Bring Hope

Read: Jeremiah 29:11 (NIRV)

"I know the plans I have for you," declares Yahweh.

"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."

Family Thought:

Sometimes it feels like nothing is going right. But Yahweh has a plan, and His plan is good. When we trust Him, we can hope in the future because we know He is in control and loves us.

Talk About It:

- How does it feel to know Yahweh has a plan for you?
- What can you do when you start to feel hopeless?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for Your good plans. Help us trust You and find hope in Your promises. Amen.

December 18

Shine the Light

Read: Psalm 33:18-19 (NIRV)

Yahweh watches over those who respect Him. He helps them in times of trouble. He keeps them alive. Yahweh will punish the proud and the evil, but He gives hope to His people.

Family Thought:

Yahweh watches over us and gives us hope, even when things feel dark. Our hope is like a light shining in the night—it reminds us that Yahweh is in control and that He will help us.

Talk About It:

- Can you think of a time Yahweh helped you in a hard moment?
- How does hope feel like a light in a dark place?

Pray:

Thank You, Yahweh, for being our hope. Help us shine Your light when things feel hard. Amen.

December 19

Look Forward with Hope

Read: Lamentations 3:21-23 (NIRV)

I remember this, and so I have hope: The faithful love of Yahweh never ends! His mercies never stop. They are new every morning.

Family Thought:

Every day is a fresh chance to see Yahweh's love. Even when yesterday was hard, hope is renewed every morning. Yahweh's mercy reminds us that despair doesn't have the final word—hope does!

Talk About It:

- What helps you remember Yahweh's mercy each day?
- How can you choose hope over despair this week?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You that Your mercies are new every day. Fill us with hope that lasts, no matter what happens. Amen.

December 20


FAMILY CHALLENGE: Hope Notes

Challenge:

Make a “Hope Jar” or use sticky notes:

- Each day this week, write or draw something that gives your family hope—like a Bible promise, a kind word, or something Yahweh has done for you.
- On Sunday, read them together and thank Yahweh for filling your hearts with hope.

Optional Video:

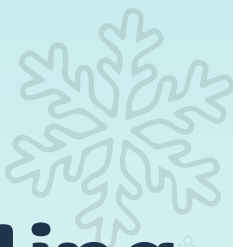
 Watch “The Hope of Christmas” by LifeKids and discuss how Jesus gives hope when life feels sad.





Week 4:

Hurt → Healing



When we give Yahweh our hurts,
He brings healing.



December 21

Jesus Heals Our Hearts

Read: Psalm 147:3 (NIRV)

He heals those who have broken hearts. He takes care of their wounds.

Family Thought:

Everyone gets hurt – sometimes on the outside, sometimes on the inside. Yahweh sees every hurt we have. He doesn't ignore them. He heals them. Jesus came at Christmas as the Healer – for our bodies, our minds, and our hearts.

Talk About It:

- Has anything hurt your heart this week?
- How does it help to know Yahweh heals broken hearts?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for being close to us when we hurt. Please heal our hearts and help us trust You. Amen.

December 22

Jesus Heals a Hurting Man

Read: Mark 1:40-42 (NIRV)

A man with a harmful skin disease came to Jesus. The man begged Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!"

Family Thought:

This man felt hurt and alone. But Jesus didn't run from him. He reached out and healed him. Jesus' healing shows us His kindness and compassion. When we feel hurt, we can come to Him too.

Talk About It:

- Why do you think Jesus touched the man?
- What does this tell you about Jesus' heart?

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for being willing to heal people. Heal our hurts today. Amen.

December 23

Healing in God's Presence

Read: Psalm 34:18 (NIRV)

Yahweh is close to those whose hearts have been broken. He saves those whose spirits have been crushed.

Family Thought:

Yahweh promises to be close to us when we are hurting. His closeness brings comfort, strength, and healing. Even if we still feel sad, He is right beside us.

Talk About It:

- When do you feel Yahweh close to you?
- What helps you remember He is near when you're sad?

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for staying close to us when we feel broken. Help us feel Your love today. Amen.

December 24 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE DEVOTIONAL

Darkness → Light

Read: John 1:4-5 (NIRV)

*In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has
not overcome it.*

Family Thought:

Before Jesus came, the world felt dark — full of sin, fear, sadness, and trouble. But Jesus came as the Light of the World. Light always wins over darkness. Even the smallest light pushes darkness away.

When we feel scared or unsure, Jesus gives us His light — His truth, His love, and His presence. Christmas Eve reminds us that Yahweh sent Jesus right into our darkness to bring us His bright, beautiful light.

Talk About It:

- What does darkness feel like?
- How does light change a dark room?
- How does Jesus bring light into our lives?



December 24

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE DEVOTIONAL




Darkness → Light




Family Activity:

Turn off all the lights. Light a single candle or turn on one flashlight.




Watch how the light pushes back the darkness.



Say together: "Jesus is our Light."

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for shining Your light into our world.
Help us follow Your light every day. Amen.





December 25


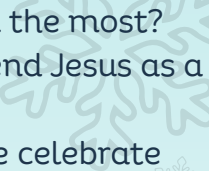

Christmas Day Reading



The Birth of Jesus

Read: Luke 2:1-20 (NIRV) – The full Christmas story.

After reading, ask:

- What part of Jesus' birth amazes you the most?
 - Why do you think Yahweh chose to send Jesus as a baby?
 - What "good news of great joy" can we celebrate today?
- 
- 
- 

Pray a prayer of thanks for the greatest gift – Jesus.



December 12

Healing Through Jesus' Love

Read: Isaiah 53:5 (NIRV)

His wounds have healed us.

Family Thought:

Jesus was hurt so that we could be healed – not just our bodies, but our hearts, minds, and relationship with Yahweh. Christmas shows us how much Jesus loves us: enough to come, to live with us, and to heal what sin hurt.

Talk About It:

- How does it feel to know Jesus took our hurts on Himself?
- What does Jesus' love mean to you?

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for healing us through Your love. Help us love others the way You love us. Amen.

December 27

FAMILY CHALLENGE:

Bring Healing

Challenge:

Choose one hurting person your family can help bring healing to:

- Make a card
- Bake a treat
- Call or send a message
- Invite them to church next week
- Pray for them by name

Explain that when we show love, we help share the healing Jesus gives.

Optional Song:

🎧 “Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)” – a family-friendly worship song about Jesus bringing hope and healing.





Week 5: **Worry → Peace**

When we give Yahweh our worries,
He fills us with His peace.

December 28

Trade Worry for Peace

Read: Philippians 4:6-7 (NIRV)

Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask Him for what you need. And give thanks. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds because you belong to Christ Jesus. His peace can never be completely understood.

Family Thought:

Worry feels like having a heavy backpack that gets heavier and heavier. But Yahweh invites us to hand those worries to Him. When we do, He replaces them with peace — a calmness that comes from knowing He is in control.

Talk About It:

- What are things you worry about?
- How can we tell Yahweh what we need instead of worrying?

Pray:

Yahweh, we give You our worries today. Please fill our hearts with Your peace. Amen.

December 29

Jesus Calms the Storm

Read: Mark 4:37-39 (NIRV)

A wild storm came up. Waves crashed over the boat. Jesus got up. He commanded the wind and said to the waves, "Be quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down. And it was completely calm.

Family Thought:

The disciples were worried – terrified, actually! But Jesus wasn't worried at all. He had complete peace, and with just a few words, He shared that peace with everyone in the boat. Jesus can calm storms outside us and storms inside us.

Talk About It:

- What "storms" do you face in life?
- How does Jesus help calm our hearts?

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for calming storms. Please calm the storms in our hearts today. Amen.

December 30

Yahweh Is Our Peace

Read: John 14:27 (NIRV)

"I leave My peace with you. I give My peace to you. I do not give it to you the way the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid."

Family Thought:

Jesus didn't just talk about peace — He gave it to us. His peace is different than the world's peace. It doesn't depend on things being perfect or easy. It comes from knowing we are safe with Him.

Talk About It:

- What do you think Jesus means by "My peace"?
- How can you remind yourself of His peace during the day?

Pray:

Jesus, thank You for giving us Your peace. Help us trust You and not be afraid. Amen.

December 31

A Peaceful New Year

Read: Psalm 4:8 (NIRV)

I lie down and sleep in peace. Lord, You alone keep me safe.

Family Thought:

As the year ends, we remember one important truth: Yahweh keeps us safe. He watches over us day and night. We can step into a new year confident that His peace goes with us, wherever we go and whatever comes our way.

Talk About It:

- How has Yahweh given you peace this month?
- What worries can you hand to Yahweh as you start a new year?

Family Activity – Peace Jar:

Have each family member write down one worry they want to give Yahweh as they head into the new year.

Place them in a jar labeled “Peace in Jesus.”

End the year praying over the jar and thanking Yahweh for His peace.

Pray:

Yahweh, thank You for being our peace this month, this year, and every day. We trust You with the year ahead. Amen.

A Note of Encouragement for Parents

You are doing sacred and important work.

In a busy season full of schedules, celebrations, and noise, you chose to slow down and lead your family toward Jesus. That matters. Yahweh sees every moment — every prayer whispered, every Scripture opened, every conversation in the car or around the table. None of it is wasted.

You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to get every day of the devotional done. You don't have to have all the answers. What your children will remember most is that you showed up—you invited Jesus into your home, into your rhythms, and into their hearts.

As you continue to guide your children, trust that Yahweh is guiding you. He loves your family even more than you do. He is with you, strengthening you, and filling your home with His joy, His hope, and His peace.

May you enter the new year knowing:
*You are seen. You are supported. You are not alone.
Yahweh delights in the way you are discipling your children.*

You're doing an incredible job. Keep going — Jesus walks with you every step of the way.



2110 S Blackman Rd
Springfield, MO 65809
417-881-7614

Created November 2025
by Leah Brown