

# 5-Day Advent Devotional: Placing Our Hope in Jesus

## Day 1: Fully Known, Fully Welcomed

**Reading:** Hebrews 10:19-23

**Devotional:** The most profound truth of the gospel is this: God knows everything about you—every hidden thought, every secret shame, every failure—and still welcomes you into His presence through Jesus' blood. Unlike human relationships where secrets can destroy intimacy, God's love isn't contingent on your performance. The curtain has been torn. You have bold access to the Father not because you're worthy, but because Jesus is. This Advent season, stop hiding. Stop performing. Stop trying to earn what's already been given. That thing you think would make God reject you? He already knows, and the door to His presence remains wide open. Let this truth reshape how you approach God today—with confidence, not cowering.

## Day 2: The Faithfulness of God

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 1:20

**Devotional:** Every promise God has ever made finds its "yes" in Jesus. When you look at the baby in the manger, you're looking at God's faithfulness made flesh. Can your sins be forgiven? Yes—Jesus. Has God abandoned you? No—Jesus came to us. Does God care about your salvation? Yes—Jesus. Unlike our broken promises to ourselves and others, God always comes through. This Christmas season, when you're tempted to put hope in your ability to control circumstances, provide comfort, or gain approval, remember that God has already proven His faithfulness. The birth of Christ isn't just a nice story; it's evidence that God keeps His word. Where have you been depending on yourself instead of depending on His proven faithfulness?

## Day 3: Beyond Surface Idols

**Reading:** Colossians 3:1-4

**Devotional:** We chase comfort, approval, control, and power thinking they'll bring joy, but they only leave us stressed, anxious, and empty. These source idols drive our anger, our relational conflicts, and our restlessness. But when you've tasted the unconditional love of God—being fully known yet fully accepted—everything else becomes tasteless. Like losing your sense of smell and taste, pursuing anything outside God's presence leaves you disappointed. This Advent, identify which idol has captured your hope. Is it the comfort of your schedule? The approval of family? Control over your finances? Power through success? Name it, confess it, and redirect your worship toward the One who actually satisfies. Only in

God's presence do we taste real life.

## **Day 4: Hope That Creates Dependence**

**Reading:** Psalm 62:5-8

**Devotional:** How dependent on God are you? Your prayer life reveals the answer. If you only pray over meals, you're only depending on God for calorie control. But the gospel calls us to radical dependence—trusting God with our marriages, our finances, our children, our futures. We've seen what we can do on our own; Scripture shows us what God can do, and it's infinitely greater. The birth of Jesus demonstrates that God intervenes in human history. He doesn't stay distant. This week, when hardships arise, will you default to self-reliance or turn to Him? When blessings come, will you credit yourself or praise the Giver? Let your hope in Christ's faithfulness transform into daily, moment-by-moment dependence on Him.

## **Day 5: Joy in the Season**

**Reading:** Luke 2:8-14

**Devotional:** The angels announced "good news of great joy" not because of gifts, food, or family gatherings, but because of Jesus. This Advent, fight against the commercialized version of Christmas that leaves you stressed, disappointed, or empty. Whether this year has been physically hard, financially difficult, or emotionally draining, you have reason for deep-rooted joy. Not happiness that vanishes with circumstances, but joy anchored in this truth: God pursued you, welcomed you, and proved His faithfulness through Christ. The shepherds didn't receive presents; they received presence—God with us. As you navigate busy schedules and family dynamics this season, pause repeatedly to refocus your heart. Decorate your home, enjoy the traditions, but let them point you to the only Source of lasting joy: Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.