



Like a CHILD



Like a Child

Pastor Mason Phillips | December 21, 2025

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Day 1: The Gift of Vulnerability

Devotional: Jesus, the King of Glory, emptied Himself and became vulnerable as a baby. This Christmas season, consider what it means to lay aside your self-sufficiency and pride. Like Christ, we're called to divest ourselves of the need to control everything. When we cling to our rights and privileges, we miss the freedom found in surrender. True strength isn't found in independence but in depending on God. What areas of your life are you still trying to manage alone? Today, identify one burden you've been carrying and practice releasing it to your Heavenly Father. Remember, vulnerability before God isn't weakness—it's the pathway to experiencing His power and provision in your life.

Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Reflection: Reflect on a time when you found it hard to embrace childlike qualities such as trust and humility. What barriers prevent you from embodying these attributes today, and how might you begin to overcome them?

Day 2: Trusting the Father's Heart

Devotional: Children naturally trust their parents because they know they're loved. God invites you into this same posture—not as a slave to fear, but as His beloved child. The Spirit bears witness that you belong to Him. You don't have to fight for acceptance or prove your worth. Your Father is already fighting for you, providing for you, and affirming your place in His family. When anxiety threatens or rejection wounds, remember whose you are. You're not an outsider hoping for a place at the table; you're an heir with Christ. Today, when fear arises, pause and pray "Abba, Father"—let His Spirit remind you that you're safe, loved, and secure in His care.

Romans 8:14-17 NKJV

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you receive the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Reflection: Consider your daily life and identify moments where you prioritize yourself over others. How can you create specific opportunities to serve those around you, modeling Christ's example of humility and selflessness?

Day 3: The Obedience of Love

Devotional: Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience, even to death on a cross. His obedience wasn't born from obligation but from love and trust in the Father's goodness. Similarly, our obedience to God flows from understanding His love for us. When God gives commands, He's not restricting our freedom—He's protecting our flourishing. He sees what we cannot see and knows what we don't know. Children obey loving parents because they trust their parents want what's best for them. Today, examine one area where you've resisted God's direction. Ask yourself: Am I trusting that His way is truly best? Commit that area fully to Him, knowing that His plans are always for your good and His glory.

John 14:15-21 NKJV

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

Reflection: In what areas of your life are you most self-reliant? What steps can you take to shift from a mindset of self-sufficiency to profound trust in God's guidance and provision?

Day 4: Serving Others, Following Jesus

Devotional: The disciples argued about greatness while Jesus prepared to serve humanity through the ultimate sacrifice. He came not to be served but to serve. This counter-cultural call challenges our natural self-centeredness. As we grow up, we learn to protect ourselves, build walls, and prioritize our needs. But kingdom living requires us to empty ourselves for others. This doesn't mean becoming a doormat—it means using your freedom and gifts to bless others rather than demanding your own way. Today, look for one practical way to serve someone without expecting anything in return. Let your service flow from the overflow of God's love for you, mirroring how Christ served you first.

Luke 22:24-27 NKJV

Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.”

Reflection: Reflect on your current understanding of God's will for your life. How can you more fully commit to His guidance, and what fears or doubts do you need to lay down to do so?

Day 5: The Incarnation: God With Us

Devotional: Emmanuel—God with us. The Creator of the universe stepped down from glory and entered our world as a vulnerable baby. This is the stunning reality of Christmas: God didn't remain distant but drew near. He experienced hunger, tears, and dependence. He knows what it means to be human. Whatever you're facing today, God understands. He's not far off, demanding you figure it out alone. He's with you, for you, and in you through His Spirit. As you reflect on the nativity

scene, remember it represents God's passionate pursuit of relationship with you. He gave everything to bring you home. How will you respond to such extravagant love? Today, simply rest in His presence and thank Him for coming near.

Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulders.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgement and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.*

Luke 2:8-14 NKJV

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manager. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Reflection: How can the incarnation of Jesus and His choice to become like a child reshape your understanding of God's love for you? In what ways can you celebrate and share this gift with others during this season?

As you journey through this devotional, ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace the posture of a child—trusting, dependent, and secure in your Father's love. May you discover the rest, joy, and peace that come from living as God's beloved son or daughter.