

DAY 6

1 Corinthians 13:13 NLT

Wouldn't it be great if the kindness, and care, and compassion that mark the Christmas season could last beyond December? Well, while life may look different as Christmas ends each year, the things the season represents can remain. Jesus came to bring us faith, hope, and love—the very things that can make life better for all people each and every day. And because of Jesus, those things can be a part of our lives in any season and at any time.

This week, place this verse somewhere you will see it as a reminder of the things Jesus came to give us at Christmas. Then, leave it up after the season ends to help you remember that you always have access to faith, hope, and love through Jesus.

DAY 7

Luke 2:14 NIV

Memorizing Scripture helps you apply the truth you find in it to your life. When you know the verse and keep it in your heart, it becomes more than just something you read. It becomes something that changes you from the inside out!

Work on memorizing this verse this week. Try putting it to song, adding motions to remind you of the words. It's a simple way to do an important thing for yourself: remembering truth from Scripture so you know it when you need it the most!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

FOR ALL PEOPLE / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

Hebrews 12:14 NIV

It's not always easy to live at peace with our friends, family, teammates, or even with people in our small group all the time. Still, it's got to be important because the writer of Hebrews tells us to make every effort to do it! The good news is that we don't have to figure it out alone. God sent Jesus to bring peace on Earth. And because of the peace Jesus brought to all people thousands of years ago, we can ask God today and every day for help living at peace with others.

So, who in your life is difficult to live at peace with? Ask God to help you live in peace with them, not only today, but every day too!

DAY 2

Colossians 3:15 NIV

As the Christmas season begins, it's easy to be thankful. Christmas break and presents are almost here, and yummy treats are everywhere. But being thankful every day of the season isn't always easy. When you're forced to spend time with family you don't really know or when you don't get the gift you really wanted, those things don't usually lead to a grateful Christmas spirit! One of the best ways we can give thanks to God for all the gifts in our lives is through gratitude. Being thankful for the gifts God gives us is one way to celebrate Christmas every day!

To help you stay focused on gratitude and find peace this Christmas, make a list of ten things you're thankful for today.

DAY 3

1 Peter 3:11 NIV

Pursuing peace can be difficult to do, especially when things are not going well. When you're in the middle of a fight with a friend, when family drama gets a little too heated, when someone calls you out for something you didn't do, that's when peace can be hard to find. Remember, even when you react in a not so helpful way, you can still choose to pursue peace moving forward.

If you know and are walking with God, thank God for making peace and forgiveness possible through Jesus. And if you aren't yet sure about your faith, take time to think about or talk to someone you trust about how Jesus might bring peace to your life.

DAY 4

Philippians 4:7 NIV

Have you ever had to guard something? Maybe it was a flag in a game with friends, or the net during a sporting event, or a secret for a friend. Whatever it was, you know that when you're guarding something, it means that you're protecting it. You're watching out for it. Well, in the same way, God promises to guard our hearts and minds with peace. That's a pretty big deal because, as you probably know, so many things can keep us from feeling at peace, especially at Christmas! When that happens, we can turn to God for help in guarding and protecting our hearts and minds.

This week, work on memorizing this verse so that you can remember God's promise of peace not just at Christmas, but every day you need might need it.

DAY 5

Luke 2:10 NIV

*Written by Matthew, age 18,
from Sanford, Florida, USA*

It can be easy to lose the wonder that comes with Christmas and the birth of Jesus. We have gotten swept up in the gifts, decorations, and family get-togethers that we miss the reason for Christmas. We miss Jesus in the midst of everything else.

Think back to the night that Jesus was born. This was a night of praise for the angels. Luke, one of Jesus' closest followers, writes about the angels appearing to a group of shepherds and praising God. They were crying out, "Glory to God!" to praise God on that very first Christmas morning.

What if we thought about Christmas like the angels did? What if, instead of only getting caught up in all of the wonderful things about Christmas, we remembered what Christmas is all about.

Christmas is a time for us to reflect on who Jesus is and what God did for us by sending Jesus to us at Christmas.

So today, as we are getting excited about Christmas traditions and gifts and parties and time with family and friends, let's all take one minute to pause. As you do, remember why we celebrate Christmas in the first place! And then, spend one minute thanking God for sending Jesus to be with us at Christmas.