

# DAY 6

Luke 2:11 NLT

Have you known someone who just had a baby? Maybe it's your mom, or your step-mom, or an aunt, or someone in your friend's family. If you have, then you know just how exciting that time can be for a family. Now, think about what that excitement must've been like at Christmas when Jesus was born. Just imagine what it was like for Mary and Joseph. They brought a baby into the world who would save the world. Now that is something worth celebrating!

**Today, think about ways you can really celebrate what the birth of Jesus means for you! Talk to a parent, friend, family member, or small group leader about how you plan to celebrate that this Christmas.**

# DAY 7

Luke 2:14 NIV

One of the best ways to remember what the holiday season is all about is to memorize passages of Scripture that share the Christmas story. Every day, these verses can remind you of the Good News of great joy for all people: the birth of Jesus!

**So, try memorizing it by connecting it to something you love: snacks! (Because who doesn't love snacks?) Write it on a sticky note and attach it to the refrigerator or pantry door. Every time you go to grab a snack, repeat the verse out loud to help you memorize it.**

# DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN  
**everyday faith.**

FOR ALL PEOPLE / WEEK 1

MIDDLE SCHOOL

# DAY 1

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Have you ever hoped for something to go one way, but then it didn't? That time you didn't make the team, or didn't get the role you wanted in the school play, or didn't land the grade. Whenever life doesn't go as planned, we are faced with a choice: We can put our hope in our plans, or we can trust God's plans for our lives. That's one great thing we can remember and celebrate at Christmas. God showed us thousands of years ago that there is a plan for all people, and that is still true today! With God, that's something we can trust every day!

What's one thing you need help trusting God with in your life? Right now, tell God about that thing. Then, ask for help in trusting God's plan for it in your life.

# DAY 2

Romans 15:13 NIV

From big dinners and class parties to church services and over-packed schedules, Christmas is often the busiest season of the year! And while all of those things are good and fun, when we fill our time with too many of them, we miss the chance to focus on what makes Christmas the best thing ever. We miss the chance to focus on Jesus!

**Every day this week, find some time to spend with Jesus. Maybe journaling, praying, listening to music, or reading the Bible. Whatever it is for you, give yourself time to remember what Christmas is all about this year.**

## DAY 3

**Psalm 147:11 NIV**

One of the reasons that Christmas can be so special is that it shows us just how much God loves us. As this verse reminds us, God delights in all God's people! It's a love that's unending. And to show us that love, God sent Jesus to Earth to rescue us. His life is the ultimate example of God's unending love for us, and it's certainly something we can remember and celebrate not just at Christmas but every day!

**So, try to remind yourself how much God loves you and remember what Christmas is all about. Read a little more about the very first Christmas in the Bible this week. Check it out in Luke 2:1-20. You can even ask a friend, small group leader, or your whole small group to read it with you!**

## DAY 4

**Hebrews 11:1 NIV**

There may be moments when it's hard to put your faith in a God you can't actually see. That's a very real feeling! But the good news is, God gives us so many ways we can see God's Spirit at work in our lives. Christmas is a great reminder of just that! In the lyrics of the songs we sing, in the love we feel from the people around us, in the generous gifts we receive, in the time we celebrate together at church, and in the Son that God sent to save us—all these things and more show us God at work in the lives of all people.

**This Christmas, make a list of ways you see God working in your life. Come back to it when you need a reminder that Christmas is a reminder of the good God does for all God's people.**

## DAY 5

**Isaiah 9:6 NLT**

*Written by Tori, age 20,  
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Oh Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year. Let's be real though, Christmas can also be the most hectic time of the year. Writing cards for our friends, getting presents for our family, and the pressure of socializing with extended family can be high-key stressful. When I feel overwhelmed by Christmas, I take a minute to think about why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. I remember that God sent Jesus to be with me through all my stress and anxiety. For me, that thought brings the joy back in Christmas.

The writer of this verse says that "a child is born to US; a son is given to US." Another name for Jesus is Immanuel which literally means "God with us." Jesus was born to be with us. God wanted to have a relationship with us so much, that God came to Earth to be with us.

God cares about you deeply. God is there for you in your stress. God is mighty enough to take on your fear. God protects us and gives us peace when there is chaos. That's the best Christmas present any of us could ever imagine!

**So in the busyness of Christmas, take a second right now to just breathe. As you inhale and exhale, remember that God is with you always, no matter what.**