



10 Days of

Christmas

Devotional



Abundant Life
Pastors Jim & Samantha Herring

Dear Friend,

This devotional is based on the Christmas gospel. The Christmas gospel is a passage from the Bible in Luke 2. It tells the story of Jesus' birth and the supernatural events surrounding it. As you spend time reading through each day, I pray that this devotional will remind you of God's incredible plan to save mankind from sin and restore our relationship with God. The message of Christmas is love and giving. In fact, true love always involves giving, because you can't genuinely love without it.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

As you prepare for the holiday season, make this little devotional a part of your plans. Spend a little time each day thinking about all that God has done to let you know how loved you are. You may want to share this with your friends or read it with your family. It would be a great way to mark the holidays and be more aware of why we are celebrating. God Bless you and Merry Christmas!

Day 1: Scripture: Luke 1:76-77 - And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

One of the greatest things about Christmas is the anticipation. I remember being a kid, counting the days until Christmas on the calendar, crossing off each day before bed. When you're excited about something coming, you think about it, talk about it, and anticipate its arrival.

The same thing happened in the Bible before Jesus came. For thousands of years, prophets foretold the Messiah. Then, about 400 years before his arrival, there was a period of silence, no messages from God. When John the Baptist was born, he brought a message to Israel, preparing the way for the Lord. His message of hope reawakened the people and created excitement about the coming Messiah.

Christmas reminds us that God loves us and sent his Son as a gift to the world. Jesus came to save and restore our relationship with God. As you wait for Christmas this year, remember: Jesus has come, just for you. He is the greatest gift ever given.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am filled with excitement as we celebrate Christmas, a time to focus on Jesus' coming to save mankind from sin. Thank you for loving us and giving your only Son as the Savior of the world.

Day 2: Scripture: Luke 1:78-79 - because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

This scripture describes the sun rising on those who live in darkness. Today, we see that darkness all around us: in the news, on the internet, and on social media, people are weighed down by troubles. The world is broken by sin, and many feel hopeless, but it doesn't have to stay that way. Just as the sun rises each morning, darkness gives way to light. When Jesus comes into your life, he brings hope that the world cannot provide. He can push back the darkness and bring light.

No matter what you face, God's power is greater. He loves you and sees your needs. He sent his Son, Jesus, full of compassion and rich in mercy. When you rely on him, he brings your life into a place of peace. We can take comfort in the scriptures that darkness will not last forever. 2 Corinthians 4:18 - while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. The troubles we face are temporary; they will not last forever. Trust God to bring you through and let his light shine on you. Look for the places where Jesus is shining in your life and let that hope guide your steps.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you that Jesus brings light into my world. He shines on my relationships, my finances, and all the circumstances of my life. I thank you that when I trust in him, I can have peace and hope that lasts. Help me to walk each day in the light you provide.

Day 3: Scripture: Luke 2:1 - In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Sometimes God's plan doesn't make sense to us. The Bible tells us to live by faith, not by sight. That means believing even when what we see doesn't make sense. I'm sure Mary and Joseph felt that way when they had to travel to Bethlehem for the Roman census. Mary was nine months pregnant, and they had to walk over 100 miles. Yet God had a plan for them to be in Bethlehem. This was the fulfillment of a prophecy given hundreds of years earlier: Micah 5:2 - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Outwardly, it looked like the government was forcing them to go to Bethlehem, but it was the hand of the Lord guiding them to accomplish his will. God took care of them, and Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. We are reminded that God is always working things out for us (Romans 8:28).

You may not understand all the circumstances going on in your life today, but you can choose to trust God. He is working on your behalf, and his plan is being accomplished in your life. Trust that God is guiding you, even when the path seems unclear.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are mindful of every aspect of our lives. You said you plan to bless us with hope and a future (Jer 29:11). Thank you for working out the details of your plan in my life. Help me to trust you even when I don't understand, knowing you are working everything for my good.

Day 4: Scripture: Luke 2:6-7 - So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered, And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sometimes when we hear the Christmas story, we forget these were real people. Mary and Joseph were about to become first-time parents, far from home, alone in a strange place, staying in a barn. This is where Mary gave birth to a son and laid him in a makeshift bed, a manger. In this humble stable, we see the first glimpse of Jesus, the King of Kings. The Son of God entered the world in a simple, unassuming way, resting in an ordinary feeding trough. Mary and Joseph surely did their best to prepare it, though it was still far from fit for a king.

One of God's greatest attributes is that he can take ordinary things and make them holy. His presence transformed that feeding trough into something extraordinary. From holding food, it now cradled the Bread of Life, (John 6:35). Like that manger, we might see ourselves as unfit for a King. We could never clean ourselves up enough or be good enough on our own. But when Jesus comes into our lives, he can do what we cannot, purify, transform, and make us holy before God. He can repurpose us for his use and turn ordinary things into extraordinary things.

Inviting Jesus into your heart gives you divine purpose. He brings meaning to everything you do and guides every aspect of your life. When God looks at you, he doesn't see past mistakes; he sees a place where he can dwell and let the world see Jesus in you. Open your heart and invite him inside.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you sent your Son into the world to save me, not to condemn me. I know there is nothing I can do to make myself worthy of your presence, yet you choose to dwell in me. Only by your power can I be transformed. Thank you for loving me and making me holy. May my life bring you the honor you deserve.

Day 5: Scripture: Luke 2:8-15 - 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."

In today's high-tech world, important news is everywhere: newspapers, local news, the internet, it's all right on our phones, in our hands, every day! We don't need to go anywhere to find out what's happening. In biblical times, God usually spoke through prophets, priests, or kings. But when he wanted to announce the arrival of his Son, he chose an unexpected group: shepherds.

God sent angels to the outskirts of Bethlehem, in the middle of the night, to share the news with ordinary shepherds. In Jewish culture, shepherds were not prominent; they were ordinary people, often overlooked, even though their work was necessary. God chose to speak to them to show that he cares about all of us, not just those with titles or special positions. Jesus came for everyone, and God delivered the message of his birth to humble shepherds.

You are precious to God. Jesus came for you! God wants you to experience his love, hope, forgiveness, healing, restoration, goodness, and peace. It's not reserved for a few; it is for all. Everything Jesus has is for YOU!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I am so thankful that Jesus came to show your love for all people. Thank you that I matter to you and that you sent Jesus just for me. Help me understand all that Jesus has done, and I open my heart to receive it now.

Day 6: Scripture: Luke 2:11-12 - 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 manger.

Signs are important; they point us in the right direction and guide our steps. After the angels announced Jesus' arrival, they gave the shepherds a sign to lead them to the newborn King. God didn't just want the shepherds to know Christ was born; he wanted them to come close and experience him. God cares about his people and desires the same for us today. He is always guiding us, speaking through the Bible, through others, and even through ordinary moments.

God can use almost anything to speak to our hearts: a text from a friend, a story in a sermon, words of encouragement from a stranger, a thought that pops into your mind, a scripture verse you know and have forgotten, or a beautiful sunset reminding you he is there. These signs are invitations to engage with a living God, to experience his presence and care firsthand. God knows where you are and wants to lead you to Jesus so that you can receive his love, peace, and hope. Our part is to pay attention and follow the signs that guide us to him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for always leading me each day. Help me recognize the signs when you are guiding me. Draw me near to Jesus. I want to know you more and personally experience your presence.

Day 7: Scripture: Luke 2:13-14 - 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!” So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

That night, the angels announced the birth of Jesus, an extraordinary moment. In the Old Testament, the prophecies concerning the birth of Christ had been recorded for centuries. But now on this night, God chose angels to deliver the incredible news: the promised Messiah had come! Jesus’ coming changed the relationship between God and humanity forever. Sin separated us from God, but through Christ, we now have access to Him. In the Old Testament, only the high priests could enter God’s presence. Now, through Jesus, every believer can personally connect with God.

Jesus is our eternal High Priest, allowing us to approach God. He is also our Prophet, through whom we hear God’s voice Jesus is also our King, who reigns over every part of our lives. In every situation, family, work, finances, or emotions, he is greater, and we can live victoriously because he has come. Each of us can invite Jesus into our lives and recognize him as our High Priest, Prophet, and King. Allow his presence to transform how you think, act, speak, and live.

***Prayer:** Thank you, Father, for sending your Son to save us and to restore our relationship with you. Help me focus on you and all that you are to me during this holiday season. I am so thankful that Jesus is the Savior of the world.*

Day 8: Scripture: Luke 2:15-17 - When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

Have you ever visited a great restaurant or gone on a fantastic trip? When you return home, the first thing you do is tell everyone about it. It’s natural to share something wonderful, describing the best parts, because joy is contagious. This is precisely what happened with the shepherds. After encountering the angels and seeing Jesus, they experienced the moment of a lifetime and wanted everyone to know.

Take a moment to reflect on your first encounter with Jesus. How did it feel to discover God’s love, receive his forgiveness, or sense his presence? Think about all he has done and continues to do in your life. Remembering the good things God has done helps us share his love with others. The world needs to hear about God’s goodness. Who can you share it with today? Take time to tell someone about all that God has done for you!

Prayer: Father, I thank you that you have changed my life so completely. Thank you for loving me the way you do. Help me take this love to others and share your goodness with them.

Day 9: Scripture: Luke 2:18-20 - and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Many of you remember Kodak, the camera and film giant. Their slogan, “Capture a Kodak Moment,” describes those special, once-in-a-lifetime experiences we treasure, birthdays, weddings, graduations, or the birth of a child. When the Bible says Mary pondered these things in her heart, she was having her own “Kodak moment.” She carefully remembered every detail of Jesus’ birth, from the angel’s visit months earlier to the shepherds’ worship of her newborn son. She realized this baby was not just hers; He was the Savior of the world, the King for all people.

We, too, can take in this moment and cherish Jesus. Even without an angelic visitation or shepherds in fields, we are part of the story. Two thousand years later, we are still amazed at Jesus in the manger and in awe of all he has done. At Christmas, hold these truths dear, remembering all that Jesus has done for you and the sacrifice he made to save you. Give thanks and honor him as Lord and King!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus. Help me see all that he has done to save me. Help me understand his sacrifice and hold onto each moment and detail from his life. Thank you for doing it all for me.

Day 10: Scripture: John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Jesus came to save the world. God desires that no one be lost and that all come to repentance. He cares about every person, and He is NOT willing to lose anyone.

This was foretold in the scriptures. John the Baptist preached that the Son of God would come to save mankind: Luke 3:4-6 - as it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Jesus came to bring salvation. The Greek word *sozo* means to save, rescue, deliver, heal, preserve, and make whole. Salvation is not just avoiding eternal punishment; it is freedom in every area of life. God desires to make you whole, free from all harm and the enemy’s bondage.

We see this in Jesus' ministry: Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Think of the gift of salvation and all it means. God wants you free, healed, and whole. That's why he sent his Son. Open your heart and receive all God wants to give you this holiday season.

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of salvation. Jesus, thank you for coming and laying down your life so I could live. I make you the Lord of my life and am forever grateful for all you have done for me. I open my heart to you and ask for help to live for you.*