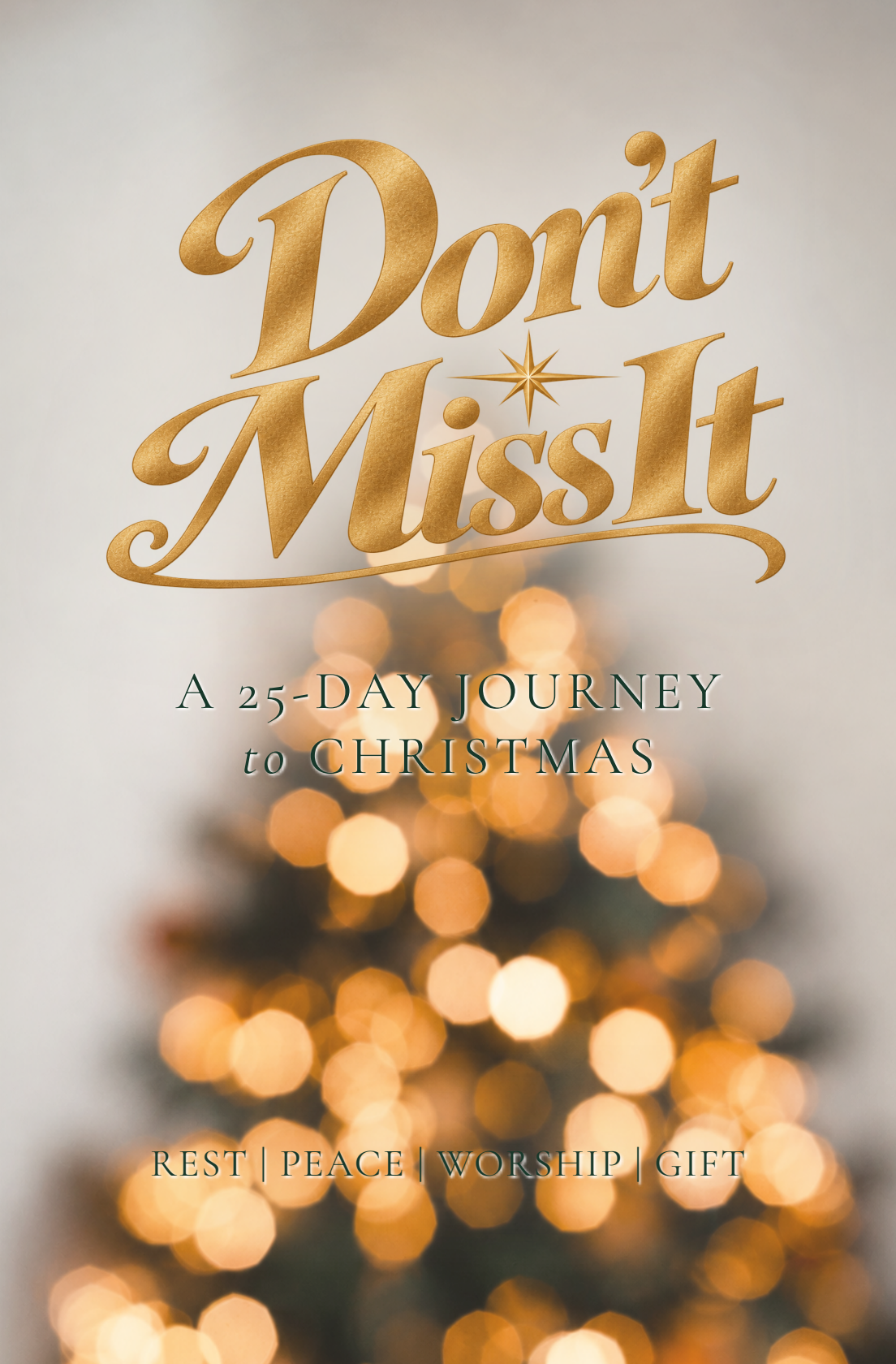
Don't Miss It
A 25-DAY JOURNEY
to CHRISTMAS
REST | PEACE | WORSHIP | GIFT



A Sacred Pause

Antioch Georgetown Family,

As we usher in the Christmas season, it can be easy to get caught up in the busyness, the pressure, and even the good things this time of year brings. What if we got to Christmas and missed *it*? What if we missed the truth that matters most? What if we missed *Him*—the Savior born unto us, Christ the Lord?

May that not be true of us this year! Instead, may our hearts be filled with expectant joy as we slow down to behold our King.

Over the next four weeks, this devotional will help us pause, fix our eyes on Jesus, and anchor our hearts in four key truths we don't want to miss: **REST**, **PEACE**, **WORSHIP**, and **GIFT**.

Here is how we will journey together each week:

Monday–Friday: Daily scripture, a short devotional reflection, and a guided prayer to center your day on Christ.

Saturday: A special family devotional with a hands-on activity for everyone to engage in together.

Sunday: Space to take sermon notes and reflect on God's goodness.

Our prayer is that this resource helps you and your family fully experience the wonder, peace, and abundance of our Promised King! Let's step into this season together with ready hearts.

In Christ,
The Antioch Georgetown Staff

WEEK ONE



Don't Miss The Rest

Day 1: Rest from Burdens

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Devotion by Heather Ferrell:
I love these words straight from Jesus. He knows our anxieties; He knows we are prone to carry burdens that are far too heavy for our human hearts to bear, and He knows just where to lead us for the true rest our bodies, minds, and souls need—to *Himself*.

Picture Jesus, His arms stretched out to you, offering to carry your worries—yes, even that one. Yes, that one, too. What do you feel as you imagine surrendering those heavy weights to Him? What stirs in your heart and mind as you hear His words reminding you that He is gentle and lowly?

This Christmas season and always, may we lay down our burdens at the feet of Jesus—the One who came so that we could find *true rest* in Him!

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for holding all things together so that I don't have to. Thank You for being so kind as to make a place for me to find true rest amid the heaviness this life often brings. Today and always, I lay down my burdens and choose to rest in Your perfect presence. In Your precious name I pray, amen!

Day 2: Rest in God's Sovereignty

"Stop fighting, and know that I am God,
exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."
(Psalm 46:10)

Devotion by Erin Franklin:
In Psalm 46, we are reminded of the vastness, yet personal nature, of God. He is the Lord of Armies and the God of Jacob. He is the God of all, strong and mighty. He is the One who makes wars cease, has authority over the earth, and reigns over all. He is **sovereign**.

And yet, God, in His abundant kindness, extends grace to His people, inviting them to rest. He is our refuge and strength. He is our helper and stronghold. He doesn't just reign over all things; He reigns over and cares for His creation.

An active battle is occurring all around us. We live in a world full of hurt, destruction, distraction, and conflict, all of which have the potential to create anxiety and fear. And yet, God speaks directly to His people, reminding them that He is in full control. The invitation for us in response is 'Stop fighting'. Other translations say, 'Be still' or 'Cease striving.' All are followed by the reminder, 'Know that I am God.'

The circumstances of the present moment may not change how and when we want, but the God who reigns over it all has claimed victory over all things and has invited us to rest in His sovereignty!

Prayer:
God, please remind me today of the ways I have seen You be sovereign over my life. Help me rest in that truth and walk in confidence, knowing You are Lord of Armies and the God of Jacob.

Day 3: Rest for the Weary Soul

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding. He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless . . ." (Isaiah 40:28-31)

**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotion by Stephen Castleberry:
If you're like me, you get weary. Your to-do list grows longer and longer, while your time seems to get shorter and shorter. There's always something else to do, somewhere else to be, or someone else who needs your attention. And if we're not careful, the things that matter most can get drowned out by things that seem urgent but aren't nearly as important.

That's why I love the reminder we find in Isaiah 40. Our God never grows tired. He never runs out of strength. He is never overwhelmed. And amazingly, He promises to renew the strength of those who trust in Him!

So in this season of busyness, responsibilities, and endless to-do lists, don't miss the rest that God offers. When we turn our attention to Him, He gives us the strength to keep going and the wisdom to focus on what truly matters.

This Christmas season, may we find our rest in the One who never grows weary, and may our hearts be renewed as we worship Him.

Prayer:
Lord, help us turn our hearts and minds toward You. Amid the busyness of this season, may we find true rest in Christ and never miss the beauty of Your presence. Amen.

Day 4: Rest in His Presence

"And he replied, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'" (Exodus 33:14)

Devotion by Abraham Magdaleno:
The Christmas season is often described as a time of peace and joy. But for many of us, it can feel like the exact opposite. I know I sometimes get so caught up with all the gatherings, shopping, and responsibilities that I reach Christmas feeling more exhausted than rested.

In Exodus 33, Moses finds himself leading God's people through the wilderness. The journey ahead is uncertain and overwhelming, and Moses knows he cannot do it alone. Moses seeks assurance from God about who will go with him.

God replies, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

Notice what God did not promise. He did not promise an easier journey or fewer responsibilities. Instead, God promises *His presence.*

We often think rest comes when our schedules clear up or when our circumstances change or when everything "settles down." But Scripture reminds us that rest is ultimately found in the presence of God. Rest isn't simply something Jesus gives us. It's something we find as we draw near to Him.

This season, may we not be so consumed with preparing for Christmas that we miss the One we're celebrating!

Prayer:
Lord, help us to slow down and recognize Your presence in the middle of this busy season. Remind us that true rest is found not in what we accomplish, but in being with You. Amen.

Friday, December 4

Day 5: Finding Sabbath Rest Together

"The Lord is my shepherd; I have what I need. He lets me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters. He renews my life; he leads me along the right paths for his name's sake." (Psalm 23:1-3)

Devotion by Kristal Hill:
Will you take a trip with me? We're going CAMPING! Our campsite is in a beautiful field. The grass is so green, so soft. No fairway grass here; this is the fluffy kind that makes us want to lie down and sink into it. And there are no bugs or critters or sharp rocks or thorns. Nothing to worry about at all! Nearby is a pond. The water is so still, so quiet. There's just a gentle lapping against the shore that can't be replicated by even the best sound machines on the market.

The man in charge is called Shepherd. He provides us with everything we need. He has food, clothing, extra toothbrushes, and a trail map guaranteed to take us on the adventure of a lifetime! He even promises to be our guide and lead us on the right paths!

Doesn't that sound like a wonderful, restful place to visit? That's the picture painted by the first three verses of Psalm 23. Guess what? We can go there without leaving the house! We can stand in the middle of the busyness, the chaos, the noise...and find *rest*. All we have to do is look to Jesus, the Shepherd. He has all that we need!

Family Activity: Unplug from the busyness. Pull out the cozy blankets, pour some hot cocoa, snuggle up, and talk about what makes each person feel rested and renewed.

Prayer:
God, thank You for being our safe place to rest. Thank You for giving us all that we need. Thank You for leading us on the best paths. Thank You for renewing us. We love You, and we praise You!

Day 6: Pause & Reflect

Take time today to pause and reflect on what God is teaching you. Use this space to take notes from Sunday's sermon or record your own thoughts, prayers, and reflections on this week's theme.

Sunday, December 6

WEEK TWO



Don't Miss The Peace

Day 7: The Peace of Jesus

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."
(John 14:27)

Devotion by Heather Ferrell:
In this verse, Jesus is speaking to the disciples who are still grappling with the truth that He would have to die and go to be with the Father. They had trouble understanding why Jesus would leave them and, more than that, why this would actually be a good thing for them. Jesus is preparing their hearts so that when their eyes saw all that Jesus told them, they would have what they need to believe and have peace.

What a kind and loving Savior we have in Jesus! Instead of just telling us to stop being fearful or stop having worries, Jesus assures us, just as He did the disciples, that He gives us *peace*. And this peace is not worldly peace—like having things go our way or finally understanding everything—His peace is perfect, a peace that is ours even in the midst of chaos.

Are you walking through a season that is hard to understand? Is there an outcome that you prayed for that didn't happen as you'd hoped? Is your heart troubled or afraid? Friend, I invite you to cling to the words of Christ in John 14 and let the peace of Jesus cover you in this season and always!

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for Your peace that You give to me. Help me to let Your peace rule in my heart, despite my circumstances. I trust Your peace!

Day 8: Peace Amid Anxiety

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6-7)

Devotion by Sterling Woodard:
What a request—"Don't worry about anything." Surely, there are things we should be anxious about! Yet Paul reminds us that *in everything*, we can bring our requests to God—with thanksgiving. Perhaps peace begins when we begin to invite God into everything, recognizing His goodness even amid our struggles.

Imagine Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem. Traveling nearly 90 miles with Mary nearing childbirth, they likely faced anxious questions: Where will we stay? Will the baby come along the way? When will we see our families again? Their journey may not have unfolded as they would have chosen, but God provided for them every step of the way.

This Christmas, whatever anxieties you carry, bring them to God alongside the everyday blessings you might overlook. His provision may look different than you expect, but He knows what you need and when you need it.

Prayer:
Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessing of this time of year. A chance to pause, center our thoughts on Jesus, and the incredible gift He is to us. Help me bring all things to You and trust in Your ability to bring peace into and over my life. Thank You above all for Jesus! Amen.

Day 9: Peace That Overcomes

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."
(John 16:33)

Devotion by Jess Bontrager:
In John 16, Jesus prepared His disciples for what was ahead. He told them He would soon leave and that they would face hardship. Understandably, this brought uncertainty. Yet Jesus offered them a promise: *"In me you may have peace."*

Notice what Jesus didn't promise. He didn't say life would be easy or that following Him would spare us from pain. He didn't promise healthy families, secure finances, or plans that would always unfold as we hoped. He was honest about suffering, but reminded His disciples that suffering would *not* have the final word.

The same is true for us today. Life brings things we cannot control, questions we cannot answer, and unexpected disappointments. But even when our circumstances catch us off guard, they never catch God by surprise.

Jesus declared, *"I have conquered the world."* Because of this, our hope rests not in everything going according to plan, but in His ultimate victory. Whatever you're facing today, remember that peace is not found in the absence of trouble. It is found in the presence of Jesus.

Prayer:
God, help me find my peace in You. Help me to trust Your goodness even when the way forward is uncertain. Give me courage to face whatever today brings, knowing that You have already overcome the world. Amen.

Day 10: Peace in God's Presence

"And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful."
(Colossians 3:15)

Devotion by Jena Rollins:
Advent comes with renewed anticipation as I experience the growth of my own long-awaited child. In the blessing, I have lingered over the fact that God goes before us, and it has shifted my heart to rest in the peace of Christ, filling my thoughts and pushing me to daily gratitude.

I had no idea how many risks and opinions people would share with me in my season of pregnancy. In the overload of information, it is easy to become overwhelmed and consumed by worry. Yet, that is not who Christ followers are called to be.

We were invited into the supernatural peace of Christ. This means we actively choose to *allow His peace* to rule our thoughts, guarding us from the voices that so easily ensnare us in fear and distraction.

Someone once told me that God gives grace for what is real and not what is imagined. I have clung to this truth as I face the unknown, asking for the peace of Christ to rule my thoughts.

May we trust that even when hardship is a reality, God will meet us in it and give us the peace that we need!

Prayer:
Lord, it is easy to fear, so help me in my unbelief. As You offer me Your peace, help me to choose to rest in it as I trust in Your guarding presence with gratitude.

Day 11: Peace with God Through Christ

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Devotion by Nathan Moore:
It's funny how much we talk about peace during Christmas, considering how hectic this season can feel. We sing about it, decorate with it, and maybe even find ourselves wishing we had a little more of it.

Truth is, the peace of God is an incredible gift. We can trust Him and experience peace through life's difficulties. But Romans 5:1 points us to something even deeper: *peace with God*.

There's a difference. The peace *of* God is the internal peace we experience as we trust Him. Peace *with* God means our relationship with Him has been restored through Christ.

Earlier in Romans, Paul explains that our sin puts us under God's wrath. But here we see a beautiful reality: if you have trusted in Jesus, you have been justified, declared righteous before God. Your standing before Him has fundamentally changed. You are no longer under condemnation.

As believers, we get to walk in that reality daily. We don't have to earn God's approval. Our worst moments don't define our standing before Him. Our assurance isn't found in the strength of our faith, but in the object of our faith: Jesus.

This Christmas, don't miss the peace Jesus came to bring. Peace with God.

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for making peace with God possible through Your sacrifice. Remind us daily that our standing before You rests on what You've done, not what we do.

Day 12: Sharing Peace with Others

"Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!" (Luke 2:13-14)

Devotion by Angela Asher:
Can you imagine what it must have been like the night Jesus was born? The shepherds were going about their usual routines, tending to their sheep, when suddenly the sky was filled with angels praising God and announcing the peace on earth! Can you imagine the wonder and excitement they must have felt in that moment?

I love that God chose to share this amazing news with ordinary people in the middle of their everyday lives. It's such a beautiful reminder that God is for each of us, right where we are, and God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world.

Because of Jesus, we can experience a peace that doesn't depend on our circumstances. A peace that reminds us we are deeply loved and never alone. And you know the beautiful thing about this gift of peace? It's not something we have to keep to ourselves! God gives us chances to share His love with the people around us.

Family Activity: As a family, think of someone who could use a little extra encouragement this Christmas. Bake cookies, put together a small care package, or create a homemade Christmas card with a handwritten note. Deliver it together and take a moment to pray for that person! Remember, sharing the peace of Jesus doesn't have to be something big. Sometimes, the simplest acts of kindness can be a beautiful reminder of the hope and peace we have in Jesus.

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for loving us so much that You came into this world. Thank You for the peace we have because of You. Help our family slow down, see the needs of others, and find joy in sharing Your love this Christmas. Amen.

Day 13: Pause & Reflect

Take time today to pause and reflect on what God is teaching you. Use this space to take notes from Sunday's sermon or record your own thoughts, prayers, and reflections on this week's theme.

Sunday, December 13

WEEK THREE



Don't Miss The Worship

Day 14: Mary's Song of Magnification

"And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble condition of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and his name is holy. His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him . . ."
(Luke 1:46-55)
**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotion by Melissa Bergeson:
Mary's song begins with her personal experience of God's grace. She was an ordinary young woman whom God chose to bear the Messiah. She recognizes that she is blessed, not because of anything she has done, but because of what the Mighty One has done for her. Her response is worship, magnifying the Lord and giving Him all the glory.

Mary's humble surrender begins with her response to the angel Gabriel: "May it happen to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38). She has found favor with God, not because she is the source of grace, but the recipient of it. She submits to His plans, trusting Him despite uncertainty, potential social stigma, and all she cannot yet understand.

Mary praises a God who sees the overlooked, humbles the proud, lifts the lowly, and shows mercy to those who depend on Him. Through Jesus, God is bringing a kingdom that turns the world's values upside down.

Mary's personal blessing is part of God's greater story of redemption and the fulfillment of His promises. Before Jesus is even born, she proclaims what His coming will mean for the world!

Prayer:
Lord, give us faith like Mary's to surrender our plans and trust Your goodness, even when we do not understand. May our lives magnify You as we rest in Your promises and worship You for Your faithfulness. Amen.

Day 15: The Shepherds' Wonder and Praise

"When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger."
(Luke 2:15-20)
**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotion by Larry Conner:
We live in a world filled with announcements and invitations, each competing for our attention. But in Luke 2, we read about one of the most extraordinary announcements in history: the birth of our Savior.

On an ordinary night, a group of shepherds encountered an angel, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel declared, *"Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord"* (verse 11). Suddenly, a multitude of angels appeared, praising God.

The shepherds responded immediately. They went to Bethlehem, found everything just as they had been told, and shared the good news with others. They returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard! Their response reminds us that encountering God's glory should move us to action. His Word is true, His promises are faithful, and His goodness is too wonderful to keep to ourselves.

John 1:14 tells us that *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."* Through Jesus, God came near so that we could know Him.

This Advent, may we respond like the shepherds—with hearts eager to seek Him, lives ready to share His goodness, and worship that gives Him all the glory.

Prayer:
Father, thank You for sending Your Son to "tabernacle" with us, because You want us to know You. Help us to experience Your glory and be faithful to worship You as modeled to us by the shepherds.

Day 16: Worshiping with Joyful Hearts

"Come, let's shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let's enter his presence with thanksgiving; let's shout triumphantly to him in song . . ."
(Psalm 95:1-6)
**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotional by Kert Prater:
Have you ever had a moment when you were so excited about something you let out a shout, a squeal, a dance, or even a song because you couldn't contain the excitement?

Notice how the author of this Psalm beckons the reader to come and join in the worship of the LORD and not hold back singing, shouting, bowing down, and kneeling. Each of these outward expressions begins with an internal motivation. Joy is something that begins on the inside and often brings about an outward expression. Joy is evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives and transcends even the most difficult circumstances we face.

This psalm is one of the most beautiful calls to worship! Notice how it is not an individual experience but one that is communal: *Let us sing* and *let us come before His presence*. Sing, O family of God, with all your heart in gratitude to the Lord!

What has God done in your life recently that should bring about a proclamation of praise? How might your joy this Christmas season inspire someone else to worship?

Prayer:
God, thank You for being a great God and for giving us joy. We have so much to be grateful for this season. (Take a moment and share some specific things you're grateful for). We love You so much and thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, so we may draw near to You. Amen.

Day 17: The Magi's Offerings of Devotion

"After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was — the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy . . ."
(Matthew 2:9-11)
**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotion by Tom Truss:
This account of the Magi going to see the newborn Jesus is not only true, but reminds us how we should approach this Christmas season. The Magi were focused on the child and were seeking Him. Although Christmas is often associated with trees, lights, and wrapping paper, our focus should always be on our Savior, seeking Him over everything else.

The Scripture says that the Magi were overwhelmed with joy when they found Him. This is a wonderful reminder that we should approach this Christmas with joy and celebrate our Savior's birth. Without the birth of Jesus, we would remain dead in our sins. What joy we have in Him!

The text goes on to say that the Magi fell to their knees and worshiped Him. This is a great example to us, that we should literally be on our knees in prayer and worship this Christmas.

The Scripture also describes specific gifts that the Magi gave to the newborn King. What gifts do we have to offer Him? Although not physical gifts, we can offer Jesus the gift of honor and praise for being our Savior. As a gift, we can also give Him thanks that our salvation comes through Him!

May we not miss this opportunity to seek our Savior, with great joy, on our knees in worship—that's a Magi Merry Christmas!

Prayer:
Father, thank You for providing Your Son to this world, who died in our place to pay for our sins. Thank You for the gift of eternal life to those who would place their trust in You!

Day 18: Worship in Spirit and Truth

"But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24)

Devotion by Mary Truss:
In this passage, "worship" is mentioned five times. God clearly wants us to know that worship is important! Before Jesus, worship was on a mountain or in the Temple. Location was relevant. But Jesus changed worship from a site, a ritual, to a place—your heart and mine.

Everything stems from the heart. True worship begins when we focus our heart on an intimate relationship of sincerity and fellowship, a life surrendered daily, living every moment for the Lord. Worship is a life of sacrifice—walking in obedience, in repentance, and in belief.

God is spirit. He is always with us. Worshiping "in truth" means approaching God sincerely and honestly, acknowledging Jesus as the way. God desires this kind of worship, from the heart, with a desire to give Him all the glory.

When we think of worship, our minds often go to the songs we sing together on Sunday mornings. And while music is a beautiful expression of worship, it is only one part of something much greater. Worship isn't limited to a moment in a church service or dependent on how we feel. It's a response to who God is and all He has done for us. True worship overflows into our everyday lives through prayer, obedience, love, and a heart that seeks to honor Him in all things!

Prayer:
Father, I desire to worship You more this Advent season, every day, every hour. Draw me close in a deeper relationship with You.

Day 19: A Night of Praise

"Let the whole earth shout triumphantly to the Lord! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God . . ." (Psalm 100)

**Scripture excerpted. Please read the full passage in your Bible.*

Devotion by Pat Conner:
Every Psalm was written as a song, but perhaps the happiest song of all is Psalm 100. In these five verses, the psalmist tells the whole world to focus on who God is, and to respond in the only reasonable ways—with joy and gratitude!

All the earth is called on to make a joyful noise and come before God with singing. This lets us know that God wants to see our hearts praising Him, not just on Sundays at church, but wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

There is an important reminder that God made us, and we belong to Him. We are His people. He takes care of us as a shepherd caring for sheep. He loves us, He guides us, He protects us.

How can we respond to that kind of love? With thanksgiving! We go to Him with thanksgiving and praise. We honor Him.

Why? Psalm 100:5 reminds us. The Lord is unchangingly good. He loves us in a way that lasts forever. His love is not conditional, based on what we do. He loves us, no matter what. God is forever faithful. We are His, no matter what, no matter when.

Family Activity: Provide strips of paper and markers. Ask each person in the family to write one thing they thank God for. After sharing, put the papers in a container. Continue to do this activity each day through Christmas.

Prayer:
God, You are an awesome God! Thank You for loving us, for providing for us, for calling us to belong to You. We worship You. Amen!

Day 20: Pause & Reflect

Take time today to pause and reflect on what God is teaching you. Use this space to take notes from Sunday's sermon or record your own thoughts, prayers, and reflections on this week's theme.

WEEK FOUR



Don't Miss The Gift

Day 21: The Gift of His Holy Spirit

"In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Devotion by Greg Strickland:
When Jesus told the apostles that it was better that He go away, otherwise the Helper wouldn't come, I'm sure they had a difficult time believing Him at first. After all, what could be better than Jesus physically being with them? That's all they really knew.

But we know now the importance of having the Holy Spirit. Not only is His presence a guarantee of our future with Christ, but He is that still, small voice that leads and guides us each day.

When we truly grasp the gift of salvation and the assurance we have in Christ, it should change how we live. And if we have doubts, the Holy Spirit is there to reassure us as He walks closely beside us throughout this life.

Stay continually in God's Word and pay close attention so you don't miss Him. He is there to comfort, convict, and counsel us on our journey.

What a wonderful gift of God's presence! To Him be all praise and glory!

Prayer:
Jesus, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Help me to listen for Your voice and follow as You lead me, experiencing Your loving counsel. Amen!

Day 22: The Father's Generous Love

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)

Devotion by Darrell Hudson:
What a wonderful gift from God! He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to the world.

What Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:7, *"You must be born again,"* refuted the popular Jewish understanding of the way to salvation. Jesus also challenged the prevailing understanding of the scope of salvation: *"For God so loved the world..."*

God's love is greater than we can fully comprehend. It is not limited to one nation or people, but extends to the whole world. And He demonstrated the depth of that love by giving us His very best—His one and only Son, Jesus. What an extraordinary gift, freely given so that we might have eternal life through Him!

This Christmas, may we never lose our wonder at the gift of a Savior who came for the whole world, including you and me.

Prayer:
Father God, You have given Your Son, Jesus, to save me and to ensure eternal life. Help me to live my life, leading others to follow Christ in a life-changing way! Amen.

Day 23: Immanuel, God With Us

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."
(Matthew 1:21–23)

Devotion by Mela Knight:
She was young, unwed, and now pregnant with the male child who was already labeled as the Savior of the world. Can you even imagine the fear of this situation and what all it could represent, or the chaos that could come from such a scandal?

Mary humbly took on this new role, as a teen mother, to bring forth the Son who would save us all from our sins. Yet she was never alone. His name, Immanuel, meaning God with us, had been prophesied and then confirmed by the angel in person. God chose her.

He provided all the peace and comfort she needed for the precious task of being the one to feel those first movements within her belly of the coming Savior as He grew. Intimately knowing Him, as only a mother can. His name spoke everything she needed to know of His perfect nature—*God is with us!*

We too are now gifted with this perfect peace from the Lord as we accept Him into our hearts. He creates within us a new life that is continually changing us from within. Praise Him today for the new identity that He is growing within you!

Prayer:
Heavenly Father, You alone are worthy of our praise for all that You do to keep us close to You. We are so very grateful for Your perfect love, mercy, and protection in all that this season brings. May we glorify and live up to all that You have created us to be, in the mighty name of Immanuel, Your Son, our Savior. Amen!

Day 24: Grace Made Visible

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works." (Titus 2:11–14)

Devotion by Marlon Rains:
Yes, the Christmas gift is for everybody. We have three choices. We can accept the gift, we can reject the gift, or we can neglect the gift. But here is a gift, with my name on it, wrapped in love. It's such a great gift that Paul writes, *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift"* (2 Cor. 9:15).

This gift of grace is *"instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous and godly way in this present age"* (Titus 2:12). This gift transforms us! Out with the old; in with the new! *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come"* (2 Cor. 5:17).

This gift of grace is loaded with hope—*"... the blessed hope, the appearing of... Jesus Christ"* (Titus 2:13).

In addition, Christ will "*cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works"* (Titus 2:14). This gift of love makes us want to love others. It's a gift too good to keep to ourselves!

So what we have this Christmas is a rich salvation, newness of life, a blessed hope, and a spiritual cleansing which makes us eager to serve Christ by loving others. Thanks be to God for this gift!

Prayer:
Lord, thank You for Your amazing gift of love and salvation. We receive Your gift with joy! Amen.

Day 25: The Light of the World

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:1–5)

Devotion by Andy Comer:
Today, we celebrate the Light of the World who came to us in a manger—our Savior, Jesus, who was, and is, and is to come, was born so that we might not walk in darkness, but have the *light of life*.

What a precious gift that we don't want to miss—Jesus, the very Word of God, in whom all things were created, is the same Jesus who was born in a lowly stable. He blots out darkness; He is our very life itself; in Him all things were created and are held together. What a Savior!

Are you longing to hear from God? Jesus is the Word of God, revealing His heart to us. Do you feel the weight of trying to hold everything together? Remember, Jesus is the One who holds all creation together. Are you searching for purpose or direction? Jesus is the source of life itself. Are you walking through a season of darkness or uncertainty? Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome Him.

This Christmas and always, may we revel in these truths about who Jesus is and let our hearts take great comfort. Let's celebrate the Light of the World together!

Prayer:
Jesus, today we celebrate You—the Light of the World. Thank You for coming to us so that we might have life, light, and hope. We worship You, we rest in You, we have peace in You, and we thank You for being the only gift we need. Amen!

Pause & Reflect

Take time between now and the New Year to pause and reflect on what God taught you this Advent. Use this space for your own thoughts, prayers, and reflections.



“May the LORD bless you
and protect you; may the LORD make
his face shine on you and be gracious
to you; may the LORD look with favor
on you and give you peace.”
(Numbers 6:24-26)

ANTIOCH
GEORGETOWN

© 2026 Antioch Georgetown Church. All rights reserved.
This booklet is for congregational use and may not be reproduced or sold without permission. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB).