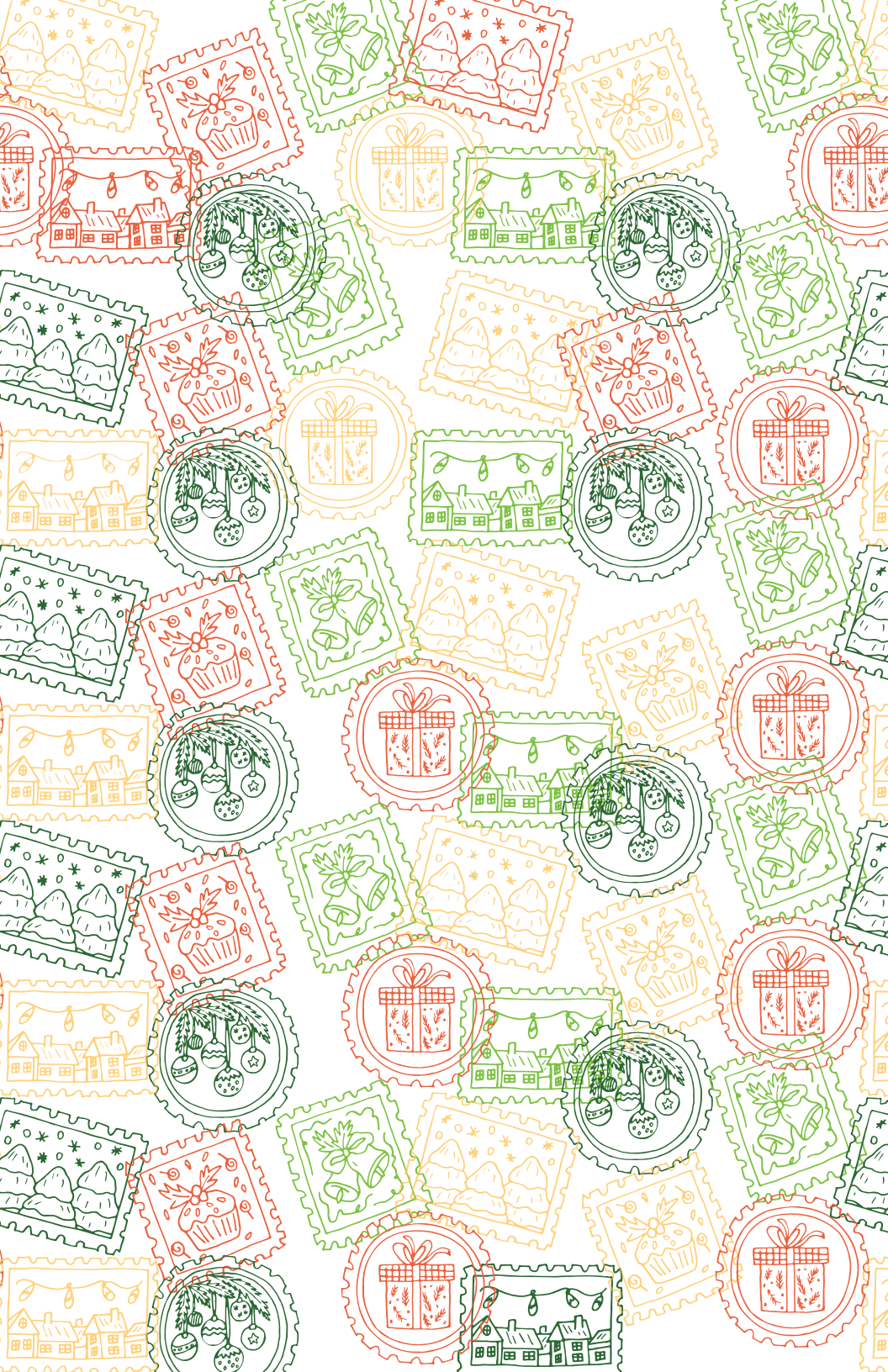
TrueKidz

ADVENT 2026



A CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE



What is Advent?

Christmas is such an exciting time of year! There is so much fun packed into one month; baking Christmas cookies, seeing lights, and putting ornaments on the tree. Among all the busy parts of celebrating this season, we want to make sure we don't miss the most important part of Christmas: Jesus!

Advent means "coming" or "arrival". It is a special four-week countdown to Christmas where we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. Advent is when we remember how the world waited for Jesus to be born. This month we get to practice waiting and getting our hearts ready, too. Each day, we'll discover more about the incredible story of God's love and how Jesus came to bring hope, peace, joy, and love to the whole world!

We encourage you to open up your advent book together as a family. Whether you're reading at bedtime, or over breakfast in the morning, we hope these moments help you grow closer to Jesus and to each other.

So gather your family together and get ready to countdown to Christmas as you remember the greatest gift God ever gave us, His son, Jesus!

Day 1

HOPE TO THE WORLD

Nov. 29

That's the hope we had when we were saved. But hope that can be seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have?
Romans 8:24

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

Every year before Christmas, my kids and I go through their toys to give away some of the old toys they don't use anymore to make way for the new ones they will get on Christmas. Maybe you and your parents do this too. My daughter often struggles to give away toys that she sees right in front of her. I try to remind her that Christmas morning she is going to receive brand new toys that she's never seen before and they are going to be so fun to play with!

It's hard to hope and believe in things we can't see. It's hard to know how happy the new toys we get will make us. Christmas is a great time to remember that our true hope comes from someone we can't see, but we know is always with us. Think about when you go outside, can you see the wind? No, but you feel it! God sent us Jesus so that we could be reminded to never lose hope. Jesus wants to be your friend forever!

He will never leave you, will always be with you, and He's better than any new toy you'll ever receive.

There are many people around our city who would love to hear about the hope of Jesus this Christmas. Think of some people that you could take Christmas cookies to! Go sing Christmas carols to people living in a nursing home! You could even donate some of the toys you outgrew and give them to other children in our community.

Dear God,
Help me to remember that You are always with me, and that is the greatest hope we could ever receive! Thank You that You want to be my friend forever.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

When is it hard to have hope?

How could you bring hope to someone this Christmas?

Day 2

HOPE TO THE WORLD

Nov. 30

Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows Me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."
John 8:12

Today Written by: Patricia Mills

I remember as a little kid being afraid of the dark. My mum would tuck me into bed, kiss me goodnight, and turn off my bedroom light. I would pull my favorite heavy blanket up to my chin, feel my heart beating fast, and squeeze my eyes shut. Even when the streetlights would come on after sunset, they weren't bright enough to light up my room. I shared a room with my sister so I knew I wasn't alone, but I was still afraid. I knew that the only way to overcome my fear of the dark, was to turn on the light. When the light came on, I could see where I was, and I didn't have to be afraid of the dark anymore.

Now I realize there was someone bigger than my fear of the dark. Someone who could protect me. Someone who loves me. Someone who could give me hope for a new day. That someone is Jesus. Jesus is our light.

He doesn't promise that everything will always be easy, but He does promise that He will never leave us because He cares for us. That's what makes Jesus our hope. Hope means trusting that God is with us and that He is good, even when we don't know what's going to happen. Jesus is the light that helps us keep going when life feels dark or confusing. So as we celebrate Christmas, let's remember that Jesus came into the world to be our Savior and our hope.



Jesus,

Thank You for being my light and my hope. When I feel worried, scared, or sad, help me remember that You are with me. Help me trust You and follow You every day. I'm so thankful You came to be our Savior. Amen.

When Jesus says, "I am the light of the world," what kind of picture do you see in your mind?

How does knowing Jesus is with you help you feel hopeful when you are scared or having a hard day?

Day 3 Dec. 01

HOPE TO THE WORLD

May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.
Romans 15:13

Today Written by: Harmony Smith

I had not seen my brother for over a year and I really hoped he would come home for Christmas. He had moved far away to work and live and I couldn't see him all the time like we used to when we were younger. I missed him. I missed the way he made me laugh and his big hugs. I missed the way he would spend time with me and didn't feel like it was rushed or he had somewhere else to be. When I asked him if he could come home for Christmas that year, his answer was "maybe."

Have you ever hoped for something that was a maybe? It's hard to hope sometimes. Hope in God is bigger than our own hope by itself. It's more than crossing your fingers or making a wish. Hope with God is a safe promise with a friend that will always

keep His Word. So I prayed every day until Christmas that God would bring my brother home, home to God's heart, and home for Christmas. Then I hoped God would answer my prayer. On Christmas Eve, I was singing at church, "I'll Be Home for Christmas." I looked up and there was my brother, the one I had hoped for and prayed for. My hope had brought him home.

God of Hope!
We are so excited about Christmas. We pray that we can find our true hope in You this season and what only You can bring. Jesus, You bring the best hope of all.
Amen.

What are you hoping for this Christmas season?

Is there anything you would like to pray to God about that you are hoping for?

Day 4

Dec. 02

HOPE TO THE WORLD

Be strong, all you who put your hope in the Lord.
Never give up.
Psalm 31:24

Today Written by: Katie Duke

When you think of the words strong and courageous, what comes to mind? For me, it's a lion! I have two daughters, Stella and Heidi, and they both love learning about lions. Lions are strong, brave, and they protect the members of their pride. They don't run away when things get difficult. They face challenges together.

When we put our hope in Jesus, we can be strong and courageous too! Being courageous doesn't mean we will never be scared or that hard things will never happen. It means we can face those things knowing Jesus is with us. God is our protector. He guides us, gives us strength, and never leaves us. Even when life feels hard or scary, we can have hope because Jesus is bigger than anything we will ever face. So when you feel afraid, remember Psalm 31:24(NLT): "Be strong and courageous...[put] your hope in the Lord!"



Dear God,
Thank You for always being with me. When I feel afraid or face something difficult, help me remember that I can put my hope in You. Give me strength and courage to trust You. Amen.

What comes to mind when you think of the words "strong" and "courageous"?

What is something you are struggling with that you can ask Jesus to help you be courageous about?



Day 5

Dec. 03

HOPE TO THE WORLD

You are the King and the Lord. You have always been my hope. I have trusted in You ever since I was young.

Psalm 71:5

Today Written by: Cheryl Davis

I recently went to Disney World with my grandchildren. We were so excited to ride lots of rides and see the Disney characters. My grandson, Grayson, was most excited to ride the Jungle Cruise. We had a Lightning Lane pass for it that evening, so as the time got closer, Grayson kept asking when we would get to ride it.

The rest of the family was excited about the fireworks, so we decided to skip the Jungle Cruise so we could find a good place to watch them. But Grayson never gave up hope that we would ride the Jungle Cruise. He kept asking his daddy, "When will we ride the Jungle Cruise?"

After the fireworks, we were tired and ready to leave the park and go home. But Grayson still didn't give up. He asked his dad one more time, "Can we go on the Jungle Cruise?" His dad checked and saw that there was no wait, so off we went! We all got to ride the

Jungle Cruise just before the park closed. Just like Grayson didn't give up hope, the hope Jesus provides us never gives up. But hoping in Jesus is even better than hoping to get something we really want. Our hope is knowing that we can always trust Jesus. God sent Jesus at Christmas to remind us that He keeps His promises and is always with us.

HOPE IS JESUS!

We can share this hope with others by reminding them that Jesus loves them, has a plan for them, and He can always be trusted.

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus so that we can have hope forever! Help us to trust You and to share the hope of Jesus with others this Christmas.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Have you ever hoped for something that came true?

Who can you share the hope of Jesus with this Christmas?

Day 6

Dec. 04

HOPE TO THE WORLD

With all my heart I wait for the Lord to help me.
I put my hope in His word.
Psalm 130:5

Today Written by: Katie Duke

Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something you were excited about? I have! When I was a little girl, I loved horses. I had horse posters covering my walls, horse T-shirts, and horse toys. More than anything, I wanted a horse of my own! But horses are a lot of work and can be expensive, so year after year went by, and I still didn't have one. I kept hoping and waiting. Finally, when I turned 10, my parents surprised me with a horse!

Psalm 130:5 says, "With all my heart I wait for the Lord to help me. I put my hope in His word." The writer was waiting and longing for the Lord, and they knew where to put their hope, in God, and His Word. We all have things we hope for. Sometimes we have to wait a long time for those things, and sometimes they don't happen the way we hoped. But the hope we have in Jesus is different.

Jesus is a hope we can always count on! No matter what we are waiting for or what happens, God is with us, He loves us, and His promises are true.

Dear God,
Thank You for being the One I can always put my hope in.
Thank You for sending Jesus, the greatest gift of all.
Amen.



What is something you have waited for with excitement and hope?

How can you remember the hope you have in Jesus?





Day 7 Dec.05

HOPE TO THE WORLD

We hope for what we don't have yet. So we are patient as we wait for it. – **Romans 8:25**

A child will be born to us. A Son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And He will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. – **Isaiah 9:6**

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

I'll never forget the Christmas my 3 brothers and I received the best gift we'd ever gotten! That year, we had all joined together to ask for a trampoline just like the neighbors had down the street. We dreamed about getting to jump, play games we made up, and have fun together on the trampoline. On Christmas morning, after everyone had opened all the presents, it seemed like we wouldn't be getting a trampoline like we asked for. My parents suddenly realized one of my brothers had one more gift under the tree. When he opened it, he found a dodgeball, and we knew it meant one thing, we must have gotten a trampoline because our favorite game to play on the trampoline was with a dodgeball. Sure enough, my youngest brother got to the window first and he yelled out,

"THERE IT IS, A TRAMPOLINE!" Our hope was satisfied, but it didn't come without waiting. We had to be patient all December long and all morning as we opened presents. God's people had to wait for 400 years from when they heard the prophecy that their Savior was coming to when Jesus was actually born. Now that's a LONG time to wait! What are you hoping for this Christmas? It could be a special gift like my brothers and I, it could be a visit from your grandparents, or a fun trip you go on with your family. We can have hope this Christmas because God proved He always keeps His promises by sending Jesus just like He said would through the prophecy of Isaiah!

God,
Thank You for keeping your promise to Your people by sending us Jesus! Help me to have patience when waiting is hard.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

What are you most looking forward to this Christmas?

How can we practice patience when waiting is hard?

Day 8 Dec. 06

PEACE TO THE WORLD

The Lord gives strength to His people.
The Lord blesses His people with peace.
Psalm 29:11

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

I can remember the first time I ever experienced the peace that comes from God. I was super nervous and worried about taking a math test. Math was my least favorite subject, and I did not feel like I knew the material as well as I should, even though my dad had practiced the math problems with me the night before. I remember sitting at my desk and asking God to help me to not be afraid, and I felt God's strength help me and remind me that He is with me!

Did you know that there are special people in the world who go to different places to tell others about Jesus? We call them missionaries. They help people learn that God loves them, that Jesus came to save them, and that everyone can have a relationship with Him. Some missionaries live far away in other countries and have to learn new languages.

One of my friends is a missionary and he once shared how God's peace had helped him when he was scared and didn't know what to do.

No matter where you are in the world, God's peace is available to you! Talk to God when you feel worried or afraid. God sent Jesus to be born as a reminder that we are not alone and that He has a plan for all people across the world. Jesus came to bring the ultimate peace and He saves us all from sin forever!

God,
Thank You for always being available whenever I need You. Please help me to trust You when I feel worried and afraid.
Amen.



Where do you need God's peace to give you strength this week?

How can your family encourage or pray for missionaries?

Day 9 Dec. 07

PEACE TO THE WORLD

"I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of Me. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."
John 16:33

Today Written by: Patricia Mills

The Bible tells us that Jesus came to bring peace. But the peace Jesus brings isn't only about feeling calm. Sin separated us from God, but because of Jesus, we can have peace with God. And when we understand the peace Jesus gives us, we can share that peace with the people around us. We can share Jesus' peace with our family, our friends, our teachers – anyone and everyone! We can be the person who says, "I'm sorry." We can forgive someone who hurts us. We can invite someone to play when they are left out. We can listen instead of arguing. We can choose kindness when it seems easier to be unkind. These are a few ways we can show Jesus to the people around us.

Imagine what it would look like if no one ever fought. No more getting mad at your siblings or friends. No more arguing, hurting each other, or making choices that cause pain. That's the kind of world Jesus came to bring. He came to make a way for us to have peace with God.

And one day, Jesus will come again and make everything right. He will wipe away every sin, every tear, and all the fighting that comes with it. Until that day comes, we will still have disagreements. We will still have hard days. But Jesus tells us to take heart because He has overcome the world. With this bright future in mind, we can walk in God's peace today. Christmas reminds us that Jesus came to bring peace – not just peace that we feel inside, but peace with God and peace with the people around us.

Jesus,

Thank You for coming to bring peace between us and God. Thank You for forgiving my sins and making a way for me to know You. Show me how I can bring Your peace wherever I go.

Amen.

Think about a time when you had a disagreement with someone. What could you do differently next time to choose peace?

Is there someone you can encourage, include, or say "I'm sorry" to today?

Day 10 Dec. 08

PEACE TO THE WORLD

Blessed are those who make peace.
They will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9

Today Written by: Harmony Smith

"MOM! He did it again! He took my stuff again!" My daughter screamed running down the hall to find me. She was furious as she should be. Her little brother had gone into her room and taken things he thought were really amazing for the third time this week. This time, it was an expensive skin care product that she had just bought with her own hard earned money. Without asking, he had used almost all of it to remove paint from a very important experiment he was creating. He could not understand why she could not see how important this new creation was to him and why he needed it. "She just yells at me, Mama! She is so mean!" Tears running down his red face in frustration, he held up his new creation wanting me to be proud. "It really takes the paint off your skin! It works!" He smiled through the tears. They both stared at me with anger and frustration leaking out of their hearts. How could we bring peace to this relationship? There were lessons that needed to be learned, but fixing the brother/sister relationship is what was most important.

That's what God's peace does. It helps us take our eyes off of our own way and looks to how we can make things right God's way. My son had to give up three of his favorite toys that week, not being allowed to play with them. At the end of the week he told his sister he was sorry and that she must really miss her special soap. He told her he would remember to ask next time. They hugged and she forgave him again. She decided to make peace with him by taking him to pick out some special soap of his own the next week that he could use for his up and coming experiments. They held hands down the aisle to pick it out together and I couldn't help but think how these peaceful hands being held were so much more important than toys or money or soap.

God of Peace,
Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive us of all our sins. Help us to forgive others the way You do and bring peace to our relationships.
Amen.

Is it hard or easy for you to be a peacemaker?

Who can you forgive today to make peace?

Day 11

Dec. 09

PEACE TO THE WORLD

In peace I will lie down and sleep.
Lord, You alone keep me safe.
Psalm 4:8

Today Written by: Katie Duke

About three years ago, we made the decision to add the cutest little puppy to our family. His name is Biscuit, and he is the sweetest guy! When we brought him home, he was so tiny and so scared. We picked him up and brought him to a new house, with new faces, and his mom and siblings didn't come with him. I can only imagine how scary that must have been!

Anytime we left him, even for a moment, he would cry and cry. We would go in, pick him up, cuddle him, and remind him we were there. He wasn't really alone, even though he felt like he was. Eventually he learned that we weren't going to leave him. He learned that we would always be there for him and that he didn't need to feel afraid.

Psalm 4:8 reminds us of something important: we are never truly alone. God is always with us. Peace doesn't mean we will never feel afraid or that nothing difficult will ever happen. Peace means that even when we are scared, we can trust that God is near. We can talk to Him, remember His promises, and know that He is with us.

So the next time you feel afraid, take a deep breath and remember: God is with me. I am not alone. I can trust Him.

Dear God,
Thank You for always being with me. When I feel afraid, help me remember that I am never alone. Fill my heart with Your peace and help me trust You. Amen.

When do you sometimes feel alone or afraid?

What can you do to remember that God is with you when you feel alone or afraid?

Day 12 Dec. 10

PEACE TO THE WORLD

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those He is pleased with on earth!"

Luke 2:13-14

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

I grew up in a pretty big family. There were four of us kids, we liked to talk, and we were loud! One night at the dinner table, my youngest brother stood up on the chair and yelled, "Will somebody listen to me?" He had been trying to get our attention all night to tell us about something that had happened in his day and through all the chaos and talking, no one had heard him.

I think we often think of peace as the opposite of chaos, that everything is calm and easy, but when I think of the story of Jesus' birth in the Bible, it's anything but peaceful. First, Mary and Joseph can't find a place to stay so they end up going to a barn with lots of stinky animals. Then, after baby Jesus was born, there was nowhere to put Him and Mary placed Him in the feeding tray for animals with some hay. Think about it, a baby is crying, cows, sheep, and other animals are making lots of noise.

Yet when the angels came to the shepherds they said, "peace on Earth." You see, peace is something that Jesus was going to bring. It doesn't mean things aren't going to be chaotic and difficult, but peace from Jesus means that no matter what is going on around us, He will always take care of us.

Jesus,
Thank You for coming to Earth to bring peace. Help me to remember that You are always with me, even on hard days.
Amen.



What's the most chaotic day you've ever had?

Does having Jesus' peace mean we will never have hard days? Why or why not?



Day 13

Dec. 11

PEACE TO THE WORLD

I leave My peace with you. I give My peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.

John 14:27

Today Written by: Cheryl Davis

What comes to mind when you think about peace? Maybe you picture everything being quiet, everyone getting along, and nothing going wrong. But is that what peace really means?

One Christmas, my grandkids and I planned to make gingerbread houses. I pictured all of us sitting together, listening to Christmas music, carefully decorating our houses with candy, and having a wonderful, peaceful evening. But that is NOT what happened! The houses wouldn't stay together. They kept falling apart. Kids were crying, candy was flying everywhere, and the floor was a mess! It was total chaos. Eventually, the grown-ups were left trying to put together what was left of the gingerbread houses. Sometimes life feels a lot like those gingerbread houses. We make plans and imagine exactly how everything should go—but things don't always turn out the way we hoped.

When Jesus was born, the angels announced, "Peace on earth!" Jesus came to bring us a different kind of peace. His peace can be with us when everything is going

wonderfully—and when everything feels like a mess. Jesus gives us peace when we are worried, disappointed, scared, or when our plans fall apart. PEACE IS JESUS!

When something doesn't go your way this Christmas, stop and talk to Jesus. Ask Him to help you remember that He is right there with you. Then share His peace with someone else. You can forgive someone, include a person who feels left out, comfort someone who is sad, or choose kindness instead of arguing. Christmas reminds us that because we have Jesus, we can have His peace—not only at Christmas, but all year long.

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for being my peace. When things don't go the way I planned or when I feel worried or afraid, help me remember that You are with me. Help me share Your peace by forgiving, including, helping, and loving others.
Amen.

Have you ever made a plan that didn't turn out how you expected?

How can Jesus bring you peace when things don't go your way?

Day 14

Dec. 12

PEACE TO THE WORLD

A child will be born to us. A Son will be given to us.
He will rule over us. And He will be called
Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.
He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever
and Prince Who Brings Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

Today Written by: Patricia Mills

Have you ever had one of those days when everything feels a little wild? Maybe your sibling is bothering you, your friends at the playground are arguing, or you have so much to do that you don't know where to start. Maybe your friend hurts your feelings or you're worried about something. You just can't seem to catch a break, and you're having a really bad day. Sometimes it can feel like there is a lot of noise and craziness happening all around you. But there are also moments when everything is quiet, and you suddenly feel calm. Everything might not be perfect, but you feel safe and at peace.

Long before Jesus was born, God promised that He would send Someone who would bring peace. Jesus is called the 'Prince of Peace' because He brings a kind of peace that we can have even when things around us aren't peaceful.

Being peaceful doesn't mean we will never have problems or disagreements. It means we can remember that Jesus is with us in the middle of them. We can talk to Jesus when we are worried, scared, angry, or upset. We can trust Him because He loves us and cares about what we're going through. When you're having a hard day, you can stop, take a breath, and remember: Jesus is with me. I can trust Him. That is one of the wonderful things about Christmas. Jesus came into the world to bring us peace – not just for one day, but every day.

Jesus,
Thank You for coming to be my Prince of Peace. When I feel worried, angry, scared, or upset, help me remember that You are with me. Help me trust You and fill my heart with Your peace. Amen.

How can you ask Jesus to help you have His peace?

What is something that has been making you feel worried, angry, or upset lately?

Day 15 Dec. 13

JOY TO THE WORLD

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!
Philippians 4:4

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

One of my favorite Christmas songs is "Joy to the World!" Do you know that song? It goes:

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

I've gotten the amazing opportunity to be a part of experiencing worship in different countries over the years. When I visited Kenya, Africa, I was able to lead missionaries in singing worship songs on a beach. In Chile, I sang in Spanish with other followers of Jesus in a big city. Getting to sing praises to God with people who are different from me reminds me of how true the lyrics of this song are.

Joy to the WHOLE WORLD!

Maybe you've attended a sporting event this year with lots of people in the stands. Think about the roar and the delight of the crowd when their team scores. People cheer, yell, and celebrate together! That's the same joy God wants us to have at Christmas time as we remember that King Jesus has come!

Dear God,
Help me to feel the same joy all the Earth felt when Jesus was born!
Show me how to find joy in each day!
In Jesus' name, Amen.

What brings you joy?

How can you share Jesus' joy with others this week?



Day 16 Dec. 14

JOY TO THE WORLD

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy some good food and sweet drinks. Send some of it to people who don't have any. This day is holy to our Lord. So don't be sad. The joy of the Lord makes you strong."
Nehemiah 8:10

Today Written by: Katie Duke

The first time I read this verse, when I was a little younger, I wondered, "How can joy be a strength?" I always thought strength meant being tough or being able to do something really hard. Joy doesn't sound very tough! But the more I've grown in my faith and relationship with Jesus, the more I've learned that the joy we have in Jesus really can make us strong.

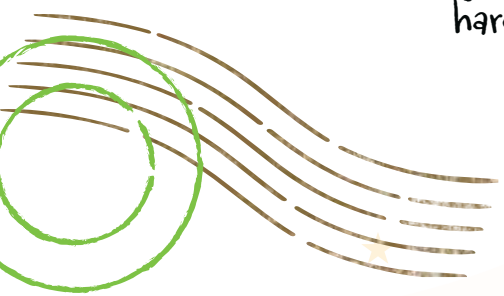
There will be days when things don't go the way we want. We might feel sad, disappointed, frustrated, or afraid. But when our joy comes from Jesus, we can still have joy even when our circumstances aren't joyful. Why?

Because our joy isn't based on what is happening around us. Our joy comes from knowing Jesus loves us, is with us, and has promised to never leave us. That kind of joy gives us strength to keep going, keep trusting, and keep following Jesus, even on hard days!

Dear God,
Thank You for the joy You give us through Jesus. Help me remember that my joy doesn't have to depend on what is happening around me!
Amen.

How do you see joy as a strength?

How can remembering Jesus help you have joy on a hard day?





Day 17

Dec. 15

JOY TO THE WORLD

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Today Written by: Cheryl Davis

Christmas is filled with things that make us happy—opening presents, eating Christmas treats, seeing grandparents and cousins, looking at beautiful lights, and laughing with our families. But there is something even better than happiness. It's called JOY!

Joy is more than just feeling happy when everything is going our way. Real joy comes from knowing that Jesus is with us. Even when things aren't easy or perfect, we can still have joy because we are never alone. God never promised that every day would be easy, but He gave us something much better—He gave us Jesus.

On the night Jesus was born, some shepherds were having an ordinary night when suddenly angels appeared! The angel announced, "I bring you good news of great joy!"

The Savior had been born! God had come to be with His people. That means when we are excited, Jesus is near. When we are worried, Jesus is near. When we feel lonely or sad, Jesus is still near. Christmas joy doesn't come from what is wrapped underneath the tree. It comes from the One who was lying in a manger. JOY IS JESUS!

This Christmas, whenever you see a manger, stop for a moment and remember: The Lord is near!

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for coming to be with us. Help me remember that true joy comes from You. When I am happy, sad, worried, or lonely, remind me that You are always near. Help me share Your joy with everyone around me.
Amen.

How can you spread joy this week?

Who could you encourage, help, or tell about Jesus?

Day 18 Dec. 16

JOY TO THE WORLD

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Today Written by: Patricia Mills

Every year on December 31st, people gather with friends and family to welcome the new year. They sing, dance, eat good food, celebrate, and count down the seconds until the new year begins. Maybe you stay up with your family until the clock strikes midnight. You see and hear all the beautiful fireworks right outside your window. There's something magical about it. Or maybe you go to sleep early and wake up in a new year, a new month, and a new day. There is something exciting about it. People celebrate because they are happy about what is coming and hopeful about what the new year might bring. But did you know there is an even bigger reason to celebrate?

On the night Jesus was born, some shepherds were watching their sheep when an angel suddenly appeared. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel had some very amazing news for them! The Savior that God had promised was finally here. Jesus had been born! When the shepherds saw Jesus, they were filled with deep joy.

Jesus came to bring us something we could never find anywhere else. He came to bring us joy, love us, and make a way for us to have a relationship with God. That is something worth celebrating!

So this Christmas, when you see Christmas lights, hear Christmas songs, open presents, and celebrate a new year with your family, remember the good news the angel shared with the shepherds. That we can celebrate with joy, not just at Christmas or New Year's, but every day.

Jesus,
Thank You for being our Savior and for bringing us great joy. Help me remember that joy doesn't depend on what happens around me. Help me share Your joy with the people around me because You are always worth celebrating. Amen.

How is the joy Jesus gives us different from being happy?

What is one way you can show joy to someone else today because Jesus is your Savior?

Day 19 Dec. 17

JOY TO THE WORLD

You always show me the path of life.
You will fill me with joy when I am with You.
You will make me happy forever at Your right hand.
Psalm 16:11

Today Written by: Harmony Smith

We looked out the window early one morning and there it was! A blanket of snow covered our whole yard. My brothers and I raced to put coats, hats, and gloves on to see who could get out and play in it the fastest. We were so excited it had finally snowed this winter. We spent the morning making snow angels, building a snowman, sledding, and having snowball fights! We felt so happy to have a chance to play in the snow, but the next morning when we woke up all the snow was gone. I felt like all my happiness had just popped like a balloon.

Did you know that feeling happy is different from the gift of joy that God grows in us? We can feel happy, sad, angry, or frustrated and still have joy that comes from God. The way we feel can be based on what happened to us that day, but God's joy is lasting, it's eternal. Joy from God is believing that He will bring good even when things go wrong.

When we spend time with God praying, reading His word, or even going to church; His presence fills us with joy. God's joy is not like happiness, it won't disappear like melted snow. God's joy keeps us strong and helps us keep looking forward to the snow He will bring again.

God of joy,
We thank you that the things that happen to us can't steal our joy. It's sad when the snow melts, but we can still have joy in You all year!
We love you God! Amen.

What is one thing that makes you feel happy or sad?

Can you still have God's joy when things go wrong?





Day 20 Dec. 18

JOY TO THE WORLD

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.
Matthew 2:10

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

One of my favorite parts of my day is coming home from work to see my children. As I walk in the door, I'm greeted with happy voices yelling, "Mama is home!" or "Mama, come watch me!" Think about when you see your parents after school or see your best friend at the playground. We feel joy when someone is happy to see us!

I think this is how the wisemen felt when they saw baby Jesus for the first time. The Scripture says they saw the star over where he was living, and were filled with joy! The wisemen traveled a long way to find the Savior, the Messiah, and finally, there He was! That's the kind of joy God wants all of us to experience this Christmas.

What brings you joy? God wants you to experience His joy and fun everyday. God is fun! He created fun and throughout the Bible we see how fun Jesus was as He laughed with His friends, made jokes,

and enjoyed life. This Christmas, try to find some joy together as a family. Whether that's going out to see lights, watching a special Christmas movie, baking cookies, or just spending time together playing. Experience the joy God has for each of us this Christmas season.

Dear God,
Thank You for creating fun!
Help me to find joy this
Christmas season!
Amen.

What part of Christmas is most fun to you?

What is something fun you can do as a family this week?



Day 21 Dec. 19

JOY TO THE WORLD

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Let everyone know how gentle you are. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to Him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood.

Philippians 4:4-7

Today Written by: Cheryl Davis

I'll never forget a special Christmas when I received one of the biggest surprises of my life. We had opened all the presents when I noticed one final gift for me under the tree. Inside was a scavenger hunt my husband had created. I was so excited! I was sure I knew where it was leading—a new car. But at the end was an even bigger surprise—a puppy! I can still remember the joy I felt that Christmas morning.

Joy often comes as a surprise. But joy is more than being happy because something exciting happens. Paul wrote Philippians while he was in prison, yet he told others to "Rejoice in the Lord always." How could Paul have joy when his circumstances were so difficult? Because his joy wasn't found in what was happening around him. His joy was found in Jesus. That's what makes Christmas so amazing.

On a quiet night in Bethlehem, God surprised the world with the greatest gift of all—a tiny baby lying in a manger. The angels brought "good news of great joy." That baby was Jesus!

Presents are exciting. Puppies are wonderful surprises. But those things cannot give us lasting joy. Christmas reminds us that real joy doesn't depend on everything going our way. Joy is a gift, and our greatest joy is Jesus.



Dear Jesus,
Thank You for being the Greatest Gift we could ever receive. Help us remember that true joy doesn't come from presents or perfect circumstances. Our joy comes from knowing You are with us and You love us. Fill our hearts with Your joy this Christmas. Amen.

What is a Christmas surprise that brought you joy?

How can we choose joy every day?

Day 22 Dec. 20

LOVE TO THE WORLD

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:7–8

Today Written by: Kayla Martin

Did you know that Christmas is celebrated all around the world? Different children in other countries celebrate Christmas in different ways. In Australia, Christmas happens during the summer, so the weather is warm. Families often go to the beach for a barbecue and swim in the ocean! In Japan, fried chicken is a popular Christmas Eve meal. Families order a special bucket of chicken and share a strawberry sponge cake.

Many countries also do things similar to us at Christmas time. People put up Christmas lights on their houses and give other people gifts. Maybe you love to celebrate Christmas by listening to Christmas music, eating candy canes, or watching Christmas movies, and I know you love the gifts! No matter how you celebrate Christmas, what Christmas is about is the same all across the world! Christmas is about love.

We celebrate because God loves us so much, He sent His son, Jesus! God is the one who created love and He created you to love others!

We aren't supposed to keep this love to ourselves, but share it with others! God wants us to show His love to others in how we talk with kindness to our friends and family. He wants us to forgive our brother or sister when they hurt our feelings. We can show God's love by giving other people hugs when they feel sad or celebrating with them when they feel happy! This Christmas, try to look for ways to show God's love to others.

Dear God,
Thank You that You love us so much that You gave us Jesus!
Help me show Your love to other people this week!
Amen.

How does your family love to celebrate Christmas?

Who can you show God's love to this week?

Day 23

Dec. 21

LOVE TO THE WORLD

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.

John 3:16

Today Written by: Harmony Smith

How do we know God loves us? From the very beginning of time, God loved you. He thought of how He would make you. He painted the color of your eyes. He saw the thoughts in your heart for your whole life. He made plans for all the special things He wanted you to do. Then with all His love, He sent you down to earth at just the right time so He could be friends with you forever. The best part is, He made you with a choice to be His friend or not. He did not make you a robot where you have to do what He says.

You can choose your own way, to walk apart from God in sin doing what you want. Sin is doing, saying, or thinking anything you know is wrong. God loved you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins on a cross and raise Him back to life. Jesus took all the punishment for your sins on the cross so that if you believe in Him, you don't have to stay far away from God forever.

You can accept God's gift of love, the love Jesus gave on the cross, and be friends with God again forever. You can tell God you are sorry for choosing our own way and sinning. You can turn away from your sin to Jesus and choose to follow God's love your whole life. This is how we know God loves us: God gave us Jesus so we could be friends with Him forever.

Thank You God for loving us so much to give us Your only Son Jesus! You proved how much You loved us and wanted to be friends with us forever. Help us to love like You. Amen.

How do we know God loves us?

Do you believe Jesus died for your sins?





Day 24 Dec. 22

LOVE TO THE WORLD

We love because He loved us first.
1 John 4:19

Today Written by: Katie Duke

I grew up in a big Italian family. Every Sunday afternoon, we would go to my grandparents' house for a homemade spaghetti lunch! The house was full of family! My aunts, uncles, great-grandmother, grandparents, cousins, and us. It was always so fun!

When I think of the word "love," my Grandma Maddie immediately comes to mind. She didn't always have to say the words, she showed me by her actions. She sent cards in the mail often! She called to check on me every week. She always made me homemade treats. As soon as I walked in the door, she would say, "You look hungry! Come on, let's eat!" Her smile lit up the room when she saw me. She gave the best hugs and always cheered me on in life. One of the reasons I grew up caring for others is because of the way she cared for me.

God does all of those things for us, and so much more! He tells us how much He loves us throughout the Bible. In His Word, He reminds us that He is always with us. But God didn't just tell us He loves us.

Just like my grandmother, He showed us His love. At Christmas, God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth because He loves us. We never have to wonder if God loves us. He made it clear through His Word and, most of all, through Jesus.

God loved us first! And because He loves us, we can share that love with others.

Dear God,
Thank You for loving me so much. Thank You for sending Jesus to show me just how great Your love is. Help me love others the way You love me. Amen.

What is one way someone has shown you that they love you?

What are some actions and words you can use to show others the love of God?

Day 25

Dec. 23

LOVE TO THE WORLD

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. It does not dishonor other people. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Today Written by: Cheryl Davis

"Love each other." That's what God asks us to do. But what does love really mean? At Christmas, we often think about love as giving and receiving presents. But love is so much more! Love is sharing your heart, your time, and your kindness with others. It's not just about receiving gifts—it's about giving to others and making them feel special.

Love can look like sharing your toys—even one more time! It can mean choosing a special gift for someone else, even when you would really like to keep it for yourself. Love is helping with Christmas chores, being kind when you don't feel like it, keeping your promises, telling the truth, and choosing to do what is right—even when it's hard.

LOVE IS GIVING, NOT JUST RECEIVING.

At Christmas, we remember the greatest gift of love ever given. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. LOVE IS JESUS!

This Christmas, think about how you can show Jesus' love to someone else. Try something fun: read 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 and put your own name wherever you see the word love. Does it sound like you?

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me and for being the greatest Christmas gift of all. Help me to love others with my words, my actions, and my choices. Help me to give love instead of only thinking about what I will receive.
Amen.

Why is it hard to show love to others sometimes?

What is one way you can be a good friend this week?



Day 26

Dec. 24

LOVE TO THE WORLD

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are! The world doesn't know us because it didn't know Him.

1 John 3:1

Today Written by: Harmony Smith

My son walked out of school with his head hanging down and his bottom lip poked out. "I don't like school, Mama. I got in trouble today," he said. He felt sad and ashamed because of the wrong choices he had made that day. I wrapped my arms around him, hugging him tight. "You know I love you always, right? There is nothing that you could do that would change my love for you."

Do you know that is how God loves us? He loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. We celebrate God sending Jesus to us as a baby at Christmas, but Jesus grew up to be a man that died on the cross for all the things we did wrong. God did this to forgive us, save us, and make us friends with God forever. We can tell God we are sorry. We can tell the people we hurt we are sorry, and then we can try to do better next time.

Even when we do things wrong, we are fully forgiven and loved by God. Now that is a special gift to talk about at Christmas, God's gift of love!

Dear God,
Thank You for always loving us!
Thank You for sending us Your Son Jesus, to forgive us of all the wrong things we have done so we can be friends with You forever. We love You God!
Amen.

Do you think God still loves you even when you do something wrong?

Why do you think God gave us His Son, Jesus?





Day 27

Dec. 25

LOVE TO THE WORLD

The Lord your God is with you.
He is the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you.
In His love He will no longer punish you.
Instead, He will sing for joy because of you.
Zephaniah 3:17

Today Written by: Patricia Mills

How do you know when someone loves you? Maybe it's the way your grown-ups make you your favorite breakfast in the morning. Or when someone cheers you on and it reminds you that you're doing a great job. Maybe it's when someone you haven't seen in a long time gives you a big bear hug. Or when someone sits with you and listens when you have something to say. Maybe it's when someone surprises you with a gift just because they were thinking about you. Sometimes people show us they love us with their words, but they also show us with the things they do. But what about the times we might wonder if we are still lovable when we make a mistake and get in trouble?

Well, the Bible tells us that God loves us more than we can ever imagine. His love is wider, longer, higher, and deeper than we can understand. Did you hear that? God delights in you. That means He knows everything about

you and He still loves you completely! God's love doesn't disappear when we mess up. His love is not based on being perfect or always making the right choice. That's why Jesus came. He came because God loves us and wants us to know Him. Christmas is a reminder of just how far God is willing to go to show us His love. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. You don't have to wonder if you are loved. You are deeply, completely, and wonderfully loved by Jesus.

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me so much. Thank You for forgiving me even when I make mistakes. Help me remember that Your love never changes. Help me to show Your love to the people around me today.
Amen.

Think about a time when you got in trouble. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus still loves you, even when you make mistakes?

Who is someone in your life that makes you feel loved and celebrated?

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