



A December To Remember *~A Baby Changes Everything~*

Take a few minutes with your family each day to think about Advent and the amazing prophecies, people and events that led up to the birth of Jesus. Advent is a time of expectation and hope and it means “arrival” or “coming”. Each Sunday in Advent will help us remember that God made a promise from the beginning that He would send a Savior. Let’s pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. Our family Christmas traditions are a wonderful way to share Christ with friends, family and people we come in contact with. A Baby truly changes everything! Unwrap the beautiful gift of His Presence and find joy in knowing that Jesus is the real reason for the season. God orchestrated every moment of Jesus’ life and He has a plan and a purpose for yours too.

<p>Sunday, November 29</p>	<p>Advent Focus: Hope Advent is a time of waiting and a time of hope. Jesus is our hope for forgiveness, for salvation, for a future, in times of need, and He's also our hope for eternity with God. Start this advent season reading verses that tell of hope such as Isaiah 40:31 and Jeremiah 17:7. Think about those you know that need God's hope and pray for them today.</p>
<p>Monday, November 30</p>	<p>Baking cookies to give away is a favorite holiday pastime. Find your favorite recipes and bake some this week with your family. Share scripture with the people on your cookie list. <i>"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth."</i> Psalm 119:103 <i>"Taste and see that the Lord is good!"</i> Psalm 34:8</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 1</p>	<p>Whether you pull out an artificial tree or pick out a fresh Christmas tree, take time today to think about the Tree of Life. The following verses mention the Tree of Life: Genesis 2:9, Proverbs 11:30, 13:12, 15:4, and Revelation 22:1-2, 14 and 19. Think about what the Tree of Life means to you.</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 2</p>	<p>Decorating the tree can be fun and joyful. Be sure to include ornaments that share your Christian faith with friends and family. Most of us have several ornaments that are unique and special to us that we enjoy seeing each year as we decorate. Read about how unique and special God has made you today. Psalm 139:14, Ephesians 2:10, Isaiah 64:8</p>
<p>Thursday, December 3</p>	<p>Nothing makes a Christmas tree sparkle like lights. Matthew 5:13-16 says we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Be inspired to <i>"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."</i> Shine bright for the Lord by glorifying him before others. Shine bright!</p>
<p>Friday, December 4</p>	<p>Do you place an angel or a star on top of your tree? Read about the angels guarding you in Psalm 91:11 and the stars God has set in place in Psalm 8:3-4.</p>
<p>Saturday, December 5</p>	<p>Every Christian home should have at least one nativity scene. Your faith should be on display for all to see. The Wise men traveled a long distance to see the King of Kings. <i>"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."</i> Jeremiah 29:13. Read Psalm 40:16. Wise men still seek him! Be willing to "go the distance" for the Lord.</p>
<p>Sunday, December 6</p>	<p>Advent Focus: Love As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ, let us not forget the reason for His coming. Jesus put on skin to come to us as a baby, but He was put on a cross to be our Savior. John 3:16 describes how much God loves us. <i>"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i> If you have not already memorized this verse, do this with your family today. Pray that God will give you an opportunity to share the good news of His love with someone this Christmas season.</p>
<p>Monday, December 7</p>	<p>Christmas cards are such a blessing to give and receive. Save the cards you receive this year and pray over the people that sent them during the year. <i>"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."</i> III John 1:2</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 8</p>	<p>Christmas caroling is such a joy to be a part of and to share the love of Jesus. Gather around the windows of shut-ins or residents of nursing home and assisted living facilities with cheerful, smiling faces and sing songs about the birth of our Savior. <i>"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations."</i> Psalm 89:1</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 9</p>	<p>As you prepare your gift list this year, think about ways you can share the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. Write a verse on your Christmas cards and even on the outside of the envelope telling about Jesus' birth. Share His love with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, shut-ins, and any random people you meet. Read I Peter 4:10</p>
<p>Thursday, December 10</p>	<p>Read Philemon verse 6. Take the month of December to intentionally tell about Jesus' birth. Lay small cards telling about Jesus' birth in public places and pray for the people who will find and read them. Ask the Lord to touch their hearts with joy and peace.</p>

Friday, December 11	<i>"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"</i> II Corinthians 9:15 Some gifts can't be bought in a store. Share the gift of encouragement with someone today. Hugs and smiles are free, and kindness is contagious.
Saturday, December 12	<i>"A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great."</i> Proverbs 18:16 Do you get excited just thinking about what you might get for Christmas? Take time today to think about what you might give someone. Giving is a blessing.
Sunday, December 13	Advent Focus: Joy Joy is from the Lord. Joy is remembering that God sent Jesus, the Light of the World, so He could be with us. During Advent, pray that you may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and the joy that gift brings to all people. What is the most perfect gift you have ever received? Have your family take turns telling each other about a gift that was very special to them. <i>"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."</i> James 1:17
Monday, December 14	A long time before the birth of Jesus, God revealed important pieces of His story to Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah. Today, think about what was foretold by Isaiah. <i>"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel."</i> Isaiah 7:14
Tuesday, December 15	Micah's prophecy from God tells about Bethlehem being the place of a very important birth. <i>"But you, Bethlehem, 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."</i> Micah 5:2. Read Acts 17:26-28 and realize God knew where you would be born and the exact place where you would be living right now. Wow!
Wednesday, December 16	God gave Jeremiah a message of hope to share with the people. <i>"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."</i> Jeremiah 23:5 Ask the Lord to increase your faith and help you believe the promises in His Word are true. For 400 hundred years the people remembered what the Prophets (Isaiah, Micah and Jeremiah) had said. All their prophecies of doom had come true, surely their prophecies of hope would too. <i>Lord, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word. Help us to stand strong on your promises. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen</i>
Thursday, December 17	An angel appeared to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph calling them each by name. Today, think about the childless couple Zechariah the priest and Elizabeth (Mary's cousin). <i>"The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you are to call him John."</i> Read the whole story in Luke 1:5-25
Friday, December 18	When Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) was 6 months pregnant, the angel appeared to the Virgin Mary. <i>"Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High, the Son of God."</i> The angel also told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was pregnant. Read the whole story in Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, December 19	Mary went to visit Elizabeth and the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Mary had not even announced her pregnancy! <i>"But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."</i> Read Luke 1:39-45
Sunday, December 20	Advent Focus: Peace When God sends an angel with a message, the words "do not be afraid" are always spoken first to bring peace to the one receiving the message. There is no reason to fear when you know God is in control. Just as the angel spoke to Zechariah and Mary, God also sent one to Joseph so that he would be at peace with the miraculous work God was doing. <i>"The angel appeared to Joseph saying, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."</i> Matthew 1:20 <i>Thank you, Lord that You can do great things with ordinary people. Help us to trust that You are in charge of our lives and will bring good out of everything that happens. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.</i>

Monday, December 21	<i>“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”</i> Romans 15:13 May you be blessed with overflowing hope, joy and peace by trusting in the God of hope.
Tuesday, December 22	Today, imagine a pregnant Mary and Joseph traveling for 60 miles to Bethlehem. Cars weren’t invented yet. The land consisted of steep hills and rocky mountains. There were also wild animals to watch out for, but God brought them safely to the place where it had been prophesied that Jesus would be born. Read Luke 2:1-5
Wednesday, December 23	Today, think about the Innkeeper. Someone at the Inn had to tell Mary and Joseph there were no rooms available. Do you have “room” in your heart for Jesus? <i>“You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”</i> Jeremiah 29:13
Thursday, December 24	Think about how Mary and Joseph trusted God with their accommodations for the night. Mary was about to have a baby and God provided the stable. <i>“For our light affliction, which is for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...”</i> Read II Corinthians 4:17-18. Realize that God has a plan and a purpose in our lives as well. God can use everything in our lives for His glory.
Christmas Day	Joy to the World, Jesus the Savior of the world is born! Happy birthday, Jesus! Take time today to thank God for sending his Son Jesus to save the world. Make it a family tradition to read the Christmas story in Luke 2 at your family gathering. Jesus could have been born in a palace, but his humble birth was part of God’s perfect plan. He experienced the struggles and heartaches of ordinary people just like us. Light a candle today in honor of the Light of the world, Jesus. Be a bright shining light for the Lord. God has the perfect plan for your life, too!
The Angel’s Announcement To the Shepherds	Imagine the brightness of the glory of the Lord shining around the shepherds as the angels appeared to them in the field announcing the birth of Jesus. God chose to announce the incredible news of Jesus’ birth to the humblest people on earth. <i>“Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord.”</i> Read Luke 2:8-14. <i>Lord, thank You that no life is insignificant in Your eyes and that You see value in all of us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.</i>
The Wise Men	Read Matthew 2:1-12. The Wise Men followed the star by camel for several thousand miles to see the Christ child. When they saw Jesus, they immediately bowed down to worship Him. Wise men still seek him today. <i>Thank you, Lord that You can be found by those who seek You and that those who follow You will never walk in darkness. Thank You for meeting us right where we are, extending Your love and grace to all. You are the Light of the world and we love You, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen</i> <i>“Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.”</i> Psalm 34:5

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