

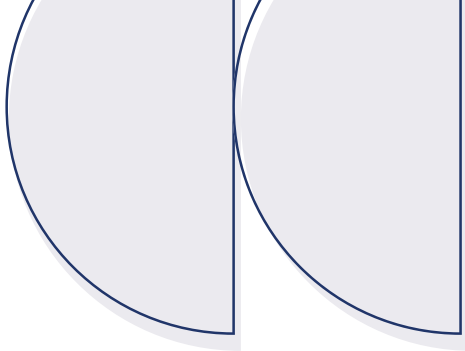
DAY 6

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21 NIV

There are tons of words we use to describe the important people in our lives. Whether it's bestie, fam, or squad, you've got a category to define all the people in your life. Well, the same is true with Jesus. We are all His people—people He loved so much that He came to join us here on Earth thousands of years ago that first Christmas. Why? Because He wanted to be with us, to rescue us, to save us from our sins. All we have to do to experience the joy of Jesus' presence is to accept His invitation to walk with Him

This Christmas, thank God for the gift of Jesus! Pray that you'll remember the joy that comes from Jesus' presence with us this season.



DAY 7

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests
Luke 2:14 NIV

As we move through the Christmas season, it's important to remind ourselves often what we're celebrating: the gift of Jesus in our lives! To help you keep the joy of this season in your heart and mind, memorize this verse.

Set a timer for two minutes and grab a Bible or open your Bible app. Try to find this verse as quickly as you can! Then, read it aloud when you do. Repeat it as many times as possible before the time is up!

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

SHAKE IT UP / WEEK 2

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NLT

Hope, joy, and peace are all words we see everywhere during the Christmas season. When was the last time you stopped to think about what those words actually mean for us? As Scripture reminds us, hope, joy, and peace are all things we can have when we trust in God. Why? Because God is actually the source of all those things! .

Where in your life do you feel like you need more hope, joy, or peace? Memorize this verse, inserting your own name where you see the word "you." Then, pray it that way, asking God to completely fill you up with the hope, joy, and peace promised this season and beyond.

DAY 2

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6 NLT

Do you have nicknames—things that only your closest friends and family call you? When you hear those nicknames, you know that they're coming from someone who really knows and loves you, right? Before Jesus was born, people knew what He would be called. They knew exactly what many names He would go by. And according to the Bible, the names He would be called represented the important things about who He was. They were the things that we would love about Jesus—the things that represent His love for us.

Look at this list of names for Jesus in this verse. Which one means the most to you? What are some ways you can share that part of who Jesus is with your family or friends this Christmas?

DAY 3

For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.

Proverbs 2:10 NLT

Do you have a big decision coming up? A choice you need to make this holiday season? Something that you need a little wisdom to guide you through? Remember, being wise means actually doing the things we've learned are right. If we want to be wise, we have to do more than just know; we have to act on what we know. Because, when we act in wisdom, we'll find ourselves full of joy. What better way to experience the joy God promises this Christmas than by choosing to use the wisdom God gives to help us do what's right?

Today, talk to someone older and wiser than you about how they make wise choices. Ask them for help finding joy in doing what's right.

DAY 4

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NLT

What is Christmas really all about? That's not as easy of a question as it seems! There are so many different opinions about what Christmas should be all about, and sometimes, hearing all of them can make Christmas feel anything but joyful. Thankfully, Jesus Himself told us what Christmas was really all about when He told us who He truly is. When we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the fact that Jesus provides a way for us to connect with God, our Heavenly Father. He is the way toward all truth and life in this world, and that's definitely something worth celebrating this Christmas season.

Write this verse down somewhere you'll see it often this Christmas. Each time you see it, stop and read it aloud, asking God to remind you of all that Jesus came to give us.

DAY 5

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NLT

Written by Quintin, age 16, from Bowling Green, Indiana, USA

What do you think of when you hear the word Christmas? Maybe presents, Santa, reindeer, and elves. While all of these things are part of Christmas, there's another huge part too. The Christmas story about the birth of Jesus in the town of Bethlehem! We hear this story at church, in storybooks, and even in the Nativity scenes in the Christmas aisle at Walmart. I don't know about you, but the one thing that stands out in every single one of those nativity scenes is this: Jesus is in the center.

When I was a kid I always only cared about the presents and the good food on Christmas day. I didn't think about the actual meaning behind it. It wasn't

until I was older that I fully understood the importance of the season and that Jesus is really at the center of it all. And more than that, Jesus can be the center of our lives too!

Today, take a minute to pause and thank God for this year, and for the most amazing gift ever: Jesus. Then, ask God to help you focus on Jesus as the center of your life too.