

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The season of Advent marks the beginning of each new liturgical year and is celebrated during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word “advent” comes from the latin ad venire, meaning “to come” or “to arrive”. For the last 2,000 years during Advent the church has celebrated both the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ when He returns to establish His Kingdom forever. Historically, Advent was a season of self-reflection, repentance and “recompense” for wrongs against others. Over the past 100 years Advent has become less about self-reflection and more about preparation, celebration and hope.

May these readings both strengthen us to receive Jesus by faith and prepare us to meet Him face to face when He returns.

How to Use this Devotional Guide

- Before you read the Scripture, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to the meaning of Scripture.
- Read the Scripture twice. Write down or reflect on what you have read.
- Close in prayer for yourself and others, asking to God to grow you in your knowledge and love of Christ this Advent season.

Questions to Ask

- *What does this scripture teach me about Christ?*
- *How does this scripture teach me about myself and my need for Christ?*
- *How might the scripture help me to apply my faith in Christ to my life?*

WEEK I

November 28–December 3 Advent: A Season of Hope

“Hope is having confidence that God is who He says He is, does what He says He will do, and in the end will work everything out for our good.” ~Anonymous

Monday 11/28 | Isaiah 40: 27–31

What about God provides us a foundation for hope?

Tuesday 11/29 | Habakkuk 3:16–19

How can we have hope in our suffering?

Wednesday 11/30 | Psalm 33: 16–22

In whom or what do you place your hope?

Thursday 12/1 | I Corinthians 15:14–28

How does Christ’s resurrection give us hope?

Friday 12/2 | Romans 5:1–8

How do we grow in hope?

Saturday 12/3 | Romans 15:5–23

How does the “God of hope” encourage us daily?

WEEK II

December 5–December 10 Advent: A Season of Faith

“For without faith it is impossible to please God because those who come to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” ~Hebrews 11:6

Monday 12/5 | Hebrews 11: 1–16

In what ways can you practically trust God today?

Tuesday 12/6 | Philippians 3: 7–14

What does having faith in Christ gain for us?

Wednesday 12/7 | Mark 6:1–6

How might a lack of faith in Jesus affect your experience of Him?

Thursday 12/8 | Ephesians 2:1–10

What is the relationship between faith and works?

Friday 12/9 | 2 Chronicles 20:14–21

Where is God calling you to have more faith in Him?

Saturday 12/10 | Hebrews 11:24–40

What are you still waiting for by faith?

WEEK III

December 12–December 17 Advent: A Season of Joy

“Joy is the serious business of heaven.”
~C.S. Lewis

Monday 12/12 | Isaiah 9:1–7

Who were the recipients of increased joy?

Tuesday 12/13 | Deuteronomy 16:13–17

Why was God throwing a seven-day party for his people?

Wednesday 12/14 | Psalm 4

While the psalmist was suffering, what was their greater joy?

Thursday 12/15 | Zephaniah 4:14–17

What is the source of our joy?

Friday 12/16 | Isaiah 12

What might “drawing waters of salvation with joy” mean for us?

Saturday 12/17 | John 15:1–17

What does it mean to experience the complete joy of Jesus?

WEEK IV

December 19–December 24 Advent: A Season of Love

“Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy; love does not boast. It is not proud; it is not rude; it is not self seeking. Love is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs.”

~Paul

Monday 12/19 | Deuteronomy 6:4–12

What does God want from us?

How do we give it to Him?

Tuesday 12/20 | Psalm 44

How does God’s love affect the way we relate to Him?

Wednesday 12/21 | Luke 6: 27–36

How can we learn to love our enemies?

Thursday 12/22 | I Corinthians 13

What is the relationship between faith in Christ and love?

Friday 12/23 | Romans 8: 35–39

What keeps you from experiencing the love of Christ?

Saturday 12/24 | John 3: 16–21

How can you respond to God’s love for you?