



the **bread** *of* **life** devotional guide

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” - Luke 4:4

December 1, 2011

Dear Friend in Christ,

Last month, we challenged you to make a list of daily blessings. How did you do? Isn't God great? *“It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”* (Lam. 3:23)

This month, we would like to challenge you to “think outside the box.” What can you do this Christmas to bring the love and joy of Jesus into another life? Maybe you can visit a nursing home on Christmas Eve. Perhaps you could stop by the police office and give the officers some Christmas cookies and tracts, thanking them for their service. What can you do to show God's love this holiday season?

We would like to thank you for your continued support of *The Bread of Life*. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. Each month, our staff learns and grows with you as we put together this monthly devotional. May the Lord bless you this holiday season!

Merry Christmas!
The Bread of Life Devotional Staff

Thursday

December 1

Act on God Given Opportunities

*“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
Philippians 2:12*

About a month ago, I had the opportunity to spend some time with an unsaved acquaintance. As we rode in the car, I prayed for an opportunity to share my faith. I asked about religious background and beliefs. My friend was very open, and the doors were open for me to share my testimony. It was very exciting to speak about my faith and how God had changed me. As far as I know, my friend did not get saved that day; but I was able to plant a seed.

In contrast, about eight months ago, I was out in my yard, and one of my neighbors started talking to me and asking questions. In all honesty, I had the perfect opportunity to share the Gospel; but I froze, and the opportunity was gone.

Each and every day, you and I have opportunities to “work out our salvation.” How we respond is our decision. We are approaching one of the busiest times of years. Don’t let all the rushing, traveling, and shopping distract you from the God-given opportunities.

The fact that God would count us worthy to do His work is absolutely amazing. Let’s not take the privilege lightly. Instead, each day let’s be on the lookout for His opportunities. *“Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing,*

Morning: *Ezekiel 45-46*

Evening: *II Peter 3*

*being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”(Col. 1:10)
~MFV*

Scripture Fill-In

“Let the _____ of Christ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And _____ ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
Colossians 3:16-17

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to Acts 8:26-39

- _____ 1. The searching eunuch in this passage was from Ethiopia.
- _____ 2. God specifically led Paul to help make this man a disciple, and Paul immediately responded to God’s prompting.
- _____ 3. The eunuch believed with all his heart and was baptized.

Quote of the Day

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” ~James 2:26

Friday

December 2

Morning: Ezekiel 47-48

Evening: I John 1

Having the Mind of Christ

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:5

There are seven steps listed in Philippians chapter two that Christ took in order that He might be what He ought to be, and do what He ought to do. Bear in mind that we are to have the same mind as Christ, so then we, of course, should follow His example. Let’s take a look at these seven steps:

1. He did not grasp after fame and position. (Phil. 2:6)
2. He made Himself of no reputation. (Phil. 2:7)
3. He became a servant. (Phil. 2:7)
4. He was made in the likeness of man. (Phil. 2:7)
5. He humbled Himself. (Phil. 2:8)
6. He became obedient unto death. (Phil. 2:8)
7. He was willing to die on the cross. (Phil. 2:8)

Philippians 2:9 starts with the word “wherefore.” This means because of Jesus’ willingness to take these seven steps down, God highly exalted Him. God will give us the reputation and fame He wants us to have if we will not exalt ourselves. May we step down as He stepped down and wait on Him to give us the name and reputation that He wants us to have. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“Let the _____ of Christ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And _____ ye do in word or deed, do _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Colossians 3:16-17

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is ____.” (Prov. 15:33)
A. Humility C. Destruction
B. Grace D. Darkness
2. “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is ____ in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 18:4)
A. Least C. Best
B. Greatest D. Known
3. “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in ____ time.” (I Pt. 5:6)
A. Some C. No
B. Due D. Good

Quote of the Day

“Those that are truly desirous to be owned and accepted by God will likewise desire not to be taken notice of nor applauded by men.”

~Matthew Henry

Saturday

December 3

Encouraged by His Presence

And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?" Luke 24:17

The disciples were discouraged because they were focusing on the circumstances around them. The fact is that the circumstances were rather bad. They had been following Jesus expecting Him to deliver them from Roman oppression and establish God's Kingdom. But now He was arrested and crucified. All that they hoped and dreamed for seemed to be gone. They were overwhelmed with disappointment and grief. Their problem was that they were so focused on their current situation that they did not look to the Scriptures.

Jesus, in His grace and mercy, came to them. He walked with them; He talked with them; He broke bread with them; and most importantly He revealed Himself to them through the Scriptures. He helped them to see God's plan; and when He left them, their hearts were burning with the truth that He had just shared with them.

We can find ourselves in the same situation as disciples. We can easily become completely overwhelmed with our circumstances if we focus on them. Fortunately, we can choose to take a step back from our circumstances. We can spend time focusing on His Word. When He reveals His will to us, we will find the strength and grace to do His will. ~DLW

Morning: Daniel 1-2

Evening: I John 2

Scripture Fill-In

"Let the _____ of Christ dwell in you _____ in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And _____ ye do in word or deed, do _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving _____ to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:16-17

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose the person(s) or creature(s) who does not fit in the following biblical account.

The Story of Jonah: Jonah 1-4

- A. Jonah
- B. God
- C. Mariners
- D. Shipmaster
- E. Big Fish
- F. Zachariah & Malachi
- G. The Ninevites
- H. King of Nineveh
- I. A Worm
- J. A swarm of angry priests from Tarshish
- K. A giant-sized bear

Quote of the Day

"This is the very essence of true religion: personally living with a personal Savior, personally trusting a personal Redeemer, personally crying out to a personal Intercessor, and receiving personal answers from a Person Who loves us, and Who manifests Himself to us."

~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

December 4

Morning: Daniel 3-4
Evening: I John 3

Give Thanks

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Why?

1. The Lord is good, and His mercy is forever. *“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.” (I Chron. 16:34)*
2. God is holy. *“Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.” (Ps. 97:12)*

When?

1. Give thanks now while there is opportunity. *“For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?” (Ps. 6:5)*
2. Give thanks at all times for all things. *“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph. 5:20)*

Where?

1. Give thanks among non-believers. *“Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.” (Ps. 18:49)*
2. Give thanks among your congregation of believers. *“I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.” (Ps. 35:18)*

How?

1. You can thank the Lord through your singing. *“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High.” (Ps. 92:1)*

2. Tell others about the great things God has done. *“O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.” (Ps. 105:1)*

What?

1. Thank the Lord for the gift of salvation. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)*
2. Give thanks for the attributes of God.
3. Give thanks for other believers. *“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” (II Thess. 2:13)*

~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Write a prayer of thanksgiving in the spaces below.

Monday

December 5

A Life Testimony

“So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.” I Thessalonians 1:7-8

What type of testimony do you have? If you are a true follower of Christ, you can, without a doubt, recite when you trusted Christ as your Saviour and how you know for sure that you are on your way to Heaven. Yes, that is a testimony; but what is your life testimony? The word “testimony” can be defined as, “a declaration of events as witnessed or experienced by an individual.” So, if someone was “witnessing” or “experiencing” what it was like to be around you, what would they “declare” about you?

The Apostle Paul spoke about the believers of Thessalonica in an extremely positive way. He told them that they were examples to believers in the area. With his next statement, he showed just how much of an example they had been. He told them that they had been such a good example that he had no need to speak. The lives of these believers was speaking the message of the Word of God loud enough. For Paul to bring a message with words would be redundant.

With this in mind, what type of testimony do you have? Would you say that your life is speaking loud enough for Christ at your place of employment that it would be redundant for your pastor to preach to your co-workers? Does

Morning: Daniel 5-6

Evening: I John 4

your testimony at school make a “Young Life” meeting seem unnecessary? Focus today on your life testimony. How can you be more like Christ? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with his description.

- ___ 1. Cleopas
- ___ 2. Micaiah
- ___ 3. Abihu

- A. A son of Aaron who offered strange fire and was smitten by the Lord. (Lev. 10:1-2)
- B. A disciple to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection (Lk. 24:15-19)
- C. Son of Imlah who was a prophet of God (I Ki. 22:8-9)

Quote of the Day

“Walk by new rules, towards new ends, from new principles. Make a new choice of the way. Choose new paths to walk in, new leaders to walk after, new companions to walk with. Old things should pass away, and all things become new. The man is what he was not, does what he did not.” ~Matthew Henry

Tuesday
December 6

Active Listening

*“Take heed therefore how ye hear.”
Luke 8:18*

Christopher Cox said, "Listening may be the most undervalued of the social gifts, the quiet key to success in professional—personal, and romantic encounters." Eighty percent of our waking hours are spent communicating over half of that time we are on the receiving end. We communicate (speak, read, write, or listen) eight out of every ten waking minutes, and 45% of this total time is spent listening. However, while listening time is high, comprehension levels are low. Immediately after hearing a 10-minute presentation, we may remember 50%; within two days, only 25%. Another authority says you only retain 25% immediately after hearing. I'm inclined to think that may be right.

All agree that good listening is "active listening." If we evaluate our current listening habits, we will see we could all improve if we took responsibility for our half of the transaction. To do this:

1. React not only to the speaker's words but also to his tone of voice and body language.
2. Interpret what is being said - sometimes rephrasing what we think they said.
3. When we reach an understanding, respond to what we have heard and appraised.
4. Determine the purpose of the conversation:
 - Small talk - just getting acquainted
 - Cathartic - releasing pent-up feelings, ventilation - requires empathy (In

Morning: *Daniel 7-8*

Evening: *I John 5*

listening to emotional catharsis - focus your complete attention on the speaker. Don't talk about yourself. Discipline yourself to hold back what you want to say in order to listen to another.)

-Informative - sharing of ideas

-Persuasive - to influence attitudes, produce action

5. Practice daily - If we actively participate in the listening process, our improved relationships will enrich our lives!

Try it out while hearing a sermon. Try it out on your husband or wife, and see if it works.
~CW

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be _____ with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. After God called to Moses through the burning bush, Moses said, “Lord, I am frightened.” (Ex. 3:4)
- _____ 2. In response to Moses’ statements of inadequacy, God said, “Certainly I will be with thee.” (Ex. 3:11-12)
- _____ 3. There is reference to the burning bush in Mark 12:26 and Acts 7:30.

Communication

By Celeste Wemp

A good definition is that communication is a process (either verbal or nonverbal) of sharing information with another person in such a way that he understands what you are saying. Talking, listening, and understanding are all involved in this process.

Most of the difficulties we face in interpersonal relationships are due to a lack of communication or a miscommunication. In some courses on counseling, we learned that it is always wise to restate what the person has said. "Do you mean to say that you hate your mother?" "Oh, no, that's not what I meant." When we are talking with another person, there are actually six messages that can come through.

1. What you mean to say
2. What you actually say
3. What the other person hears
4. What the other person thinks he hears
5. What the other person says about what you said
6. What you think the other person said about what you said

Husbands and wives often have this type problem. Neither are mind readers, so they do not know what the other person is thinking or meaning by the words said. It is easy to misunderstand.

A couple of causes of communication breakdown are that either one is not willing or able to talk about what is happening in his life. Not listening when the other person talks is another cause. The following are some reasons for not communicating:

1. Some don't have the ability - never learned to share.
2. They are fearful of exposing what they feel or think.

3. Their attitude towards communication is not correct- think talking will not do any good.
4. Some people do not believe that they as a persons have anything to offer - poor self image.

In his book Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am? John Powell says the premise of the book is that "I am afraid to tell you who I am, because, if I tell you who I am, you may not like who I am, and it's all that I have." Many of us have a facade that we put on like a mask because we don't want others to get too close to us, we are afraid they will not like us as we are.

Powell says there are five levels of verbal communication. Starting with the fifth level which is the surface level of most communication. I have paired them with five levels of friendship.

5. Cliché Conversation - what we would carry on with strangers
4. Reporting facts - about people or things - acquaintances
3. My ideas and opinions - casual friends
2. My feelings and emotions (gut level) - close friends
1. Peak communication - intimate friends - open and honest communication.

God bless each of you who reads this and I hope it will help you to be a better communicator. Be sure others understand the real meaning of your words and that you understand them. Have a wonderful Christmas season, remembering that Jesus Christ in His birth, death on the cross for our sins, and resurrection is the reason for the season.

Powell, John. Why Am I Afraid to Tell You Who I Am? 2nd Ed. (Niles: Argus Communications), 1990.

Wednesday

December 7

A Crown to Win

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” I Corinthians 9:25

A crown is an ornamental headdress usually worn by royalty. In the Bible you can earn five different crowns.

The incorruptible crown: I Cor. 9:24-25. This crown is given to believers who faithfully run the race, who crucify every selfish desire in the flesh and point men to Jesus.

The crown of rejoicing: I Thess. 2:19-20 & Dan 12:3. This is for those who faithfully soul-win and leads souls to Jesus. It has also been named the soul winner's crown.

The crown of life: James 1:12. This is reserved for those believers who endure trials, tribulations, and severe suffering, even unto death (Rev. 2:8-11). This crown is also referred to as the martyr's crown.

The crown of righteousness: II Tim. 4:8. This crown is given to those who have lived a good and righteous life for God while living down here on earth.

The crown of glory: 1 Pet. 5:1-4. This is the pastor's crown and will be given to the ministers who faithfully feed the flock of God.

How are you set for crowns in heaven? Will you be receiving one, two, or maybe none? Fellow Christians, it is never too late to serve the Lord. He has given each of us gifts for His service. By using our God given gifts, we can start building up treasures in heaven where no

Morning: Daniel 9-10

Evening: II John

moths or rust will destroy or thieves break in and steal. ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be _____ with _____, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answers.

1. What will the 24 elders in heaven do with their crowns? (Rev. 4:10-11)
 - A. Wave them through the streets of Heaven
 - B. Cast them before the throne of God
 - C. Refuse to accept them
 - D. None of the above
2. A crown of what substance was placed upon Jesus' head before his crucifixion? (Mt. 27:29)

A. Nails	C. Sticks
B. Thorns	D. Sharp teeth
3. “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy ____.” (Rev. 3:11)

A. Reward	C. Crown
B. Prize	D. Trophy

Quote of the Day

“Kindness is a language which the blind can see and the deaf can hear.” ~Anonymous

Thursday

December 8

The Prayer of the Lord Jesus

“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.” John 17:9

In John 17 Jesus is about to go on trial and then to the cross. He has just finished eating the “Last Supper” with the disciples. Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. Today’s daily devotion will be over the contents of His prayer.

1. The objects of His prayer—for the believer (Jn. 17:9)
2. The petitions in His prayer
 - He prays that God will keep us from the world.
 - He prays that we, as Christians, may be one. (Jn. 17:11)
 - He prays for our joy. (Jn. 17:13)
 - He prays that we should be kept from the devil. (Jn. 17:15)
 - He prays for our separation. (Jn. 17:17)
 - He prays for our maturity. (Jn. 17:23)
 - He prays that we may be with Him in Heaven (Jn. 17:24)
3. The gifts mentioned in His prayer
 - Eternal life (Jn. 17:2)
 - The Father’s name (Jn. 17:6, 26)
 - The Father’s Words (Jn. 17:8, 14)
 - His own joy (Jn. 17:13)
 - His own glory (Jn. 17:22)

To me it is obvious that Jesus loved His own. He prays for us seven times. He speaks of believers as given to Him by the Father. This is

Morning: Daniel 11-12

Evening: III John

found in verses 2,6,9,11, and 24. Jesus is God’s “Love” gift to the world (Jn. 3:16). Ah, how He loves us! Thank God for such love! ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be _____ with _____, seasoned with _____, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

Who Said It?: Label each prayer with the author.

_____ 1. “I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD God, even thou only.” (II Ki. 19:15-19)

_____ 2. “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.” (I Ki. 18:36-37)

_____ 3. “Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?” (Gen. 18:23)

Quote of the Day

“I would rather be the Master of the Art of Prayer than MA of both Oxford and Cambridge. He who knows how to pray has his hand on the leverage that moves the universe.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Friday
December 9

Spiritual Cancer

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18

Everyone has been touched by cancer, whether from personal experience or from a family member or friend who has fought it. When the doctor brings the diagnosis of cancer there is no thought like, “Well, this may not be as serious as he is making it sound; I do not need to deal with this right away.” That is foolishness. Instead the reaction is to immediately fight the potentially deadly cancer. Untreated cancer grows and spreads eventually weakening the whole body and causing death. We take it seriously because it is a matter of life and death.

The verse in Proverbs talks about a spiritual form of cancer. C.S. Lewis said “Pride is a spiritual cancer: It eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.” I admit that I do not take my pride problem as seriously as I should. Pride will destroy my life if I let it grow—and grow it will—yet I often just ignore it or think “I’ll deal with this later.” Pride is an evil, destructive seed that works deep in each of our beings. It blinds us to our sins; it blocks repentance and change. It weakens us spiritually and precludes a “fall.”

Sadly, there are many instances of pastors having adulterous relationships with a secretary or staff member. How does this happen to a man reading and preaching God’s Word full time? The answer is pride. Pride makes us say, “It will never happen to me, I would never do that.” Yet, the truth is that we are all capable of

Morning: Hosea 1-4

Evening: Jude

unspeakable evil. Pride is the root of cancer that destroys our spiritual selves leaving destruction and desolation.

Be aware of pride today, and start fighting it. Beg God daily to reveal your pride, and then repent of it. He will help, forgive, and cleanse you from your pride. ~AJH

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be _____ with _____, seasoned with _____, that ye may know how ye ought to _____ every man.”
Colossians 4:6

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses dealing with pride.

1. Proverbs 13:10—“Only by pride cometh _____: but with the well advised is wisdom.”
2. Proverbs 29:23—“A man’s pride shall bring him _____: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.”
3. 1 John 2:16—“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the _____ of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Quote of the Day

“There is nothing into which the heart of man so easily falls as pride. And yet there is no vice that is more frequently, more emphatically, and more eloquently condemned in Scripture.”

~Charles Spurgeon

Saturday

December 10

“Hidden” Sin

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

Such truth is displayed in these words. It is always better to tell the truth. Even in times when the result is punishment, the likelihood that it will be less if you are honest is great. As a child I can remember having done some things wrong and been quick to confess it to my parents. It always went better for me than the times that I attempted to fabricate a scenario where I did not look as bad (which also means I lied). I John 1:9 confirms this by telling us that *“if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”* Imagine that—confess it, and God will forgive it!

This passage of Scripture rings true in so many of the lives God has opened for us to see in His Word. In Adam, we see man begin to try to cover their sin. In the end, they could not; and God did. The result was paradise lost. Cain does the same; and again, man loses. Joseph’s brothers try to hide their sin against him, and they are left in a land of famine. Even great King David lost a son for having committed sin and trying to cover it with deceit.

We would be wise to live in the truth. Instead of being consumed by the covering of our faults, we should be real; confess them, and allow our merciful Father to remove the stain of our failures and give us the mercy we do not deserve. ~DJJ

Morning: Hosea 5-8

Evening: Revelation 1

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your _____ be _____ with _____, seasoned with _____, that ye may know how ye ought to _____ every man.” Colossians _____ : _____

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false. Refer to II Samuel 11-12:25.

- _____ 1. David slept with the wife of Jurah.
- _____ 2. In order to cover his sin, David ultimately had Bathsheba’s husband killed.
- _____ 3. David kept Bathsheba as his concubine.
- _____ 4. God sent the prophet Isaiah to confront David over his sin.
- _____ 5. As a direct result of David’s sin, his daughter, born from Bathsheba, died.

Quote of the Day

“We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin . . . But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of sin. The guilt is washed out not by time but by repentance and the blood of Christ.” ~C. S. Lewis

Sunday

December 11

He Came for ALL

“For God so loved the world.” John 3:16

I love Christmas! I love all the preparation that goes into making Christmas a memorable event. I love the crowded malls with consumers hustling about trying to find that perfect gift. I love stacking all my gifts for others, looking at all my “good deals,” and wrapping each gift. I love Christmas food! For the past couple years, we have made it a tradition to have a huge breakfast on Christmas morning, complete with giant sized omelets, fried potatoes and sweet rolls. I love Christmas music! The sweet, blessed carols and the fun Christmas songs are so uplifting when I drive on snow covered roads or when I listen to them echoing through the house on a cold, winter day. However, the Christmas’s that are most memorable to me are the ones in which I did something extra special for someone else. It’s so easy to get wrapped up in all our traditions that we lose sight of the big picture of the holiday—Christ came to save the **world**.

The heavenly host appeared to a rough, lowly group of shepherds. The wise men followed a star for miles upon miles in search of the Christ Child. Simeon waited years to see with his own eyes God in the flesh. Anna, a widow and prophetess, spoke of the Child as the Redeemer. You see, He came for ALL men—rich or poor, educated or illiterate, red or yellow, black or white.

Fellow Christians, let’s not miss this message during Christmas. Christ came for the world! Will you look past the Christmas

Morning: Hosea 9-11
Evening: Revelation 2

traditions, host of Christmas gifts, and many activities to find someone in your world that needs the love of Christ? Maybe your neighbor needs to hear the Gospel. Perhaps you know someone who needs a special visit over the holidays. Ask God to show you specifically how He wants to use you this Christmas.
~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble the following words found in today’s devotional which have to do with Christmas.

- _____ 1. F I S G T
- _____ 2. D I I O R T T A N
- _____ 3. A T R S
- _____ 4. H E S P D H E S R
- _____ 5. H T I R C S

Quote of the Day

“Jesus is not humanity deified. He is not God-head humanized. He is God. He is man. He is all that God is, and all that man is as God created him.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Monday
December 12

Morning: Hosea 12-14
Evening: Revelation 3

Exceeding Great and Precious Promises

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” II Peter 1:4

Peter has some encouraging words for His listeners. He reminds them of the promises that have been given to them. The promises are described with three words. The promises are both exceedingly great and precious.

The promises that we have are more than great; they are exceedingly great. They are great because of their origin. The promises come from God Himself. They come from the One Who is incapable of lying, and they are found in His infallible Holy Word. They are more than great; they exceed greatness because God is greater than our understanding. His abilities are inexhaustible and incomprehensible.

The promises in which we cling go beyond being great. They are also precious to us. They are precious because they are based on our relationship with God. They are His promises to us and are a result of His love for us. As we cling to them, He is clinging to us. They tell us that we belong to Him and that He will go with us and provide for us. They tell us that forgiveness for our sins is available and that we are eternally secure. They tell us that His church will prevail and that we will prevail as long as we are part of it.

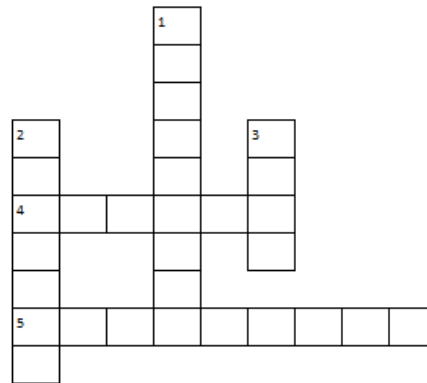
His promises are truly exceedingly great and precious. Are you clinging to them today?
~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“For God _____ not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Crossword Puzzle: Complete the following puzzle on some of the participants surrounding Jesus’ birth.



- DOWN**
1. A heavenly host appeared to these people. (Lk. 2:8-17)
 2. Herod wanted these men to tell him when they found Jesus. (Mt. 2:1-8)
 3. Prophetess at temple (Lk. 2:36-38)
- ACROSS**
4. Devout man who did not die until he saw Jesus (Lk. 2:25-35)
 5. Gave birth to John the Baptist months before Jesus’ birth (Lk. 1:5-60)

Tuesday
December 13

Morning: *Joel*
Evening: *Revelation 4*

Rebekah

To get the full story of Rebekah, read all these Scriptures relating to her: Gen. 22:23; 24; 25:20-28; 26:6-35; 27; 28:5; 29:12; 35:8; 49:31; Rom. 9:9-16.

Rebekah was the 20 year old beautiful great niece of Abraham, granddaughter of his brother Nahor. When Isaac was 40 and unmarried, his father wanted to secure a wife for him from among his relatives. He sent his trusted servant Eliezer to find her. On the way, Eliezer prayed that the Lord would lead him to the right woman and asked that she would offer to give water to his camels. When Rebekah was keeping her father's sheep and he appeared, she did just that. When she told her father about the man, he told her to invite him to their home.

Eliezer refused to accept their hospitality and offer of food and lodging until he had made his errand known to them. He explained his mission and who his master was; it was evident that the hand of the Lord was upon the whole affair. Without hesitation, Rebekah agreed to go with him. As they approached Isaac at the end of their journey, she veiled her face according the custom of the day. The Scripture says, she "became his wife and he loved her." (Gen. 24:67)

Rebekah later had Esau and Jacob. Esau, the first born, was a favorite of his father and was an outdoors man, while Jacob was Rebekah's favorite and more of a homebody.

Rebekah encouraged Jacob to deceive his father and covered him with a sheepskin so he would feel hairy like Esau since Isaac was old

now and blind. He felt and smelled of earth like Esau, but his voice was Jacob's. Isaac was persuaded to give him the birthright and the blessing reserved for the eldest son. Esau was so angry; Jacob had to flee the country and never saw his parents again and was estranged from Esau for many years. The parental favoritism was a source of all their problems for many years to come.

Let that be a lesson to all of us as parents—not to show favoritism to one of our children. God had already chosen Jacob and would have worked out His will. He did not need Rebekah's help. He is sovereign and knows what He is doing. It's up to us to trust Him.
~CW

Scripture Fill-In

"For God _____ not his _____ into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."
John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

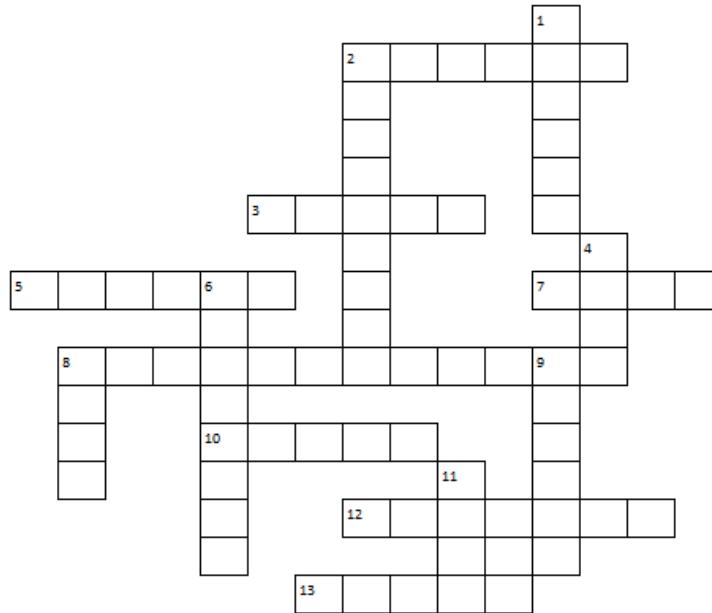
1. What was the name of Rebekah's father?
(Gen. 24:15) _____
2. What was the name of Rebekah's brother?
(Gen. 24:29) _____

Quote of the Day

"It is not marriage that fails; it is people that fail. All that marriage does is show people up."
~Anonymous

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Gifts in the Bible"



ACROSS

2. A gift from the Queen of Sheba to Solomon (I Ki. 10:10)
3. God gives this to the humble. (James 4:6)
5. Solomon asked God to give him this. (II Chron. 1:10)
7. Hannah gave this to Samuel when she visited. (I Sam. 2:19)
8. A gift, brought by the wise men, presented to Jesus (Mt. 2:11)
10. A gift, brought by the wise men, presented to Jesus (Mt. 2:11)
12. One of the gifts Isaac's servant gave Rebekah (Gen. 24:53)
13. One of the gifts given to Job by friends and family (Job 42:11)

DOWN

1. Every gift is given from this place. (Jn. 3:27)
2. This can be received from God by grace through faith. (Eph. 2:8)
4. One of Jonathan's gifts to David (I Sam. 18:4)
6. This gift was put in an alabaster box and poured on Jesus. (Mt. 26:7)
8. God gives this necessity to mankind (Ps. 136:25)
9. Gift given by Joseph to Benjamin (Gen. 45:22)
11. The Philistines gave golden emerods and these to the Israelites. (I Sam. 6:1-11)

Wednesday

December 14

Morning: Amos 1-3

Evening: Revelation 5

Diligence in Giving the Gospel

“For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.”
I Thessalonians 2:1-2

What would it take to stop you from sharing the Gospel of Christ? Among the church of today, quite possibly the most common reason that is given for failure to share the Gospel is fear. “I am afraid I would know what to say.” “I am afraid they will ask me a question to which I do not know the answer.” “I am afraid what they might think.” “I am afraid of rejection.” As you read I Thessalonians 2:1-2, it is easy to miss what the Apostle Paul is writing about without considering the background information of his statements. He says that coming to the people of Thessalonica was not in vain. Even after the way they had been treated in Philippi. To grasp that statement, one must understand that he is referring to the actions recorded in Acts 16. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown in prison because a group of rich guys were losing money as a result of their soothsayer, slave girl trusting Christ. After being thrown into prison for the Gospel’s sake, he continued to the city of Thessalonica and preached the Gospel to them. Despite the treatment he received, Paul did not stop preaching the Gospel. (By the way, read Acts 17 to see that the unbelievers in Thessalonica would run him out of town and follow him to Berea to run him out of town

again.) It is so easy to quit giving the Gospel when we are rejected one time by a person refusing to take a tract. The next time you are discouraged when you try to give the Gospel, remember the experiences of the Apostle Paul and remind yourself that your efforts are “not in vain.” ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“For God _____ not his _____ into the _____ to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the preacher to his message.

- ___ 1. John the Baptist
 - ___ 2. Jesus Christ
 - ___ 3. Peter
- A. “There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.” (Mk. 1:6-7)
 - B. “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:14-21)
 - C. “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” (Matt. 5)

Thursday

December 15

Walk with God

In Genesis we are told that everyday God would come into the garden and walk. As part of this walk, He would share time with Adam. We don't know exactly what they discussed; but if you would dream with me a bit, imagine God telling Adam about how he was formed and how much He loved him. It must have been amazing to have enjoyed that time.

Sin came and took this intimacy away, and Adam did not walk with God in the garden. How sad. God's plan continued to unfold; we see the death of Adam and Eve's son Abel, and their other son, Cain, did not walk with God. Oh but, how good God is as He provides another son, Seth. In Genesis 4:25-26, we are told that this birth of a son replaced the dead son Abel; and then began men to call upon the Lord. Adam and Eve had experienced the curse of sin and death, but their son Seth showed that men could again walk with God.

Many generations later Seth's great grandson, Enoch, walked so closely with God that he was taken home to be with his Father and to never experienced death. Their fellowship was so close that God just took him to be with Him in perfect union. No longer did he need to struggle with the sin and toil of earth.

Enoch's great grandson, Noah, had this same kind of relationship with God. In fact, the Bible calls Noah a just and perfect man. Noah was still a sinner, but he loved God and lived according to God's plan. He walked with God.

Morning: Amos 4-6

Evening: Revelation 6

We as followers of the risen Lord Jesus Christ should be described as "walking with God." We can do this in the same way the following men did that are named in Scripture:

1. Living Righteously – be just, honest, and holy
2. Being Spiritually Mature – living a spiritual life that is steadfast and not moved by changing times
3. Spending time in close fellowship with our God – prayer, Bible study, church attendance, and witnessing
4. Having faith and being obedient to all that our Lord commands.

Live like these, and "walk with God!" ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

"For God _____ not his _____ into the _____ to _____ the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the sentences with the correct place name.

1. Jesus was born in _____ of _____ . (Mt. 2:1)
2. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to _____ to escape from Herod. (Mt. 2:13)
3. When it was safe to return, they moved to the city of _____ . (Mt. 2:23)

Quote of the Day

"It is unnatural for Christianity to be popular."
~Billy Graham

Friday

December 16

Armour

***“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
Ephesians 6:11***

Armour is any habit worn to protect the body in battle. Armour weighed approximately thirty-three pounds. Definitely, a hefty load to bear, yet the wearer must have felt an extreme relief to be so protected.

Spiritual armour in the Bible consists of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace, a shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit.

Truth—Conformity of words to thoughts, which is called moral truth; stand firm in the truth of the gospel.

Breastplate of Righteousness—Conformity of heart and life to the divine law.

Gospel of Peace—The Word of God is the Gospel, that brings peace. In other words, believers are ready for battle because ***“the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”*** (Phil. 4:7). They can stand firm, with peace, even in hand-to-hand combat, because they know that they are doing right and that they are on the winning side.

Shield of Faith—Faith is the shield of the Christian soldier, defending him from the fierce attacks of the foe from within and without. The shield of faith is able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. This shield cannot be pierced or destroyed by the fiercest fires of hatred or malice. The arrows of the evil one, though flaming with cruelty, are stopped by the shield and extinguished.

Morning: Amos 7-9

Evening: Revelation 7

Helmet of Salvation—The hope of salvation; the hope of salvation from hell, and more importantly, salvation from sin.

Sword of the Spirit—The Word of God which is to be our one weapon is of noble origin; for IT IS “THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.” It has the properties of a sword, and those were given to it by the Spirit of God.

As important as it is to wear physical armour, it is more important to wear your spiritual armour, the armour of God! ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“For God _____ not his _____ into the _____ to _____ the world; but that the _____ through him might be saved.” John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose the person(s) who does not fit in the biblical account.

The Golden Calf: Exodus 32

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| A. Egyptians | E. Aaron |
| B. Israelites | F. Pharaoh |
| C. God | G. Joshua |
| D. Moses | |

Quote of the Day

“Jesus Christ is no security against storms, but He is perfect security in storms. He has never promised you an easy passage, only a safe landing.”
~Anonymous

Saturday

December 17

Living Out “Peace”

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . . and his name shall be called . . . The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Our *Sar-Shalōm*, The Prince of Peace, is viewed through the ages as the “benevolent ruler bringing eternal peace on earth through the establishment of His kingdom.” (Liberty Annotated Study Bible) Awe, yes, one day the world will know what peace truly is. We will worship The Babe, The Incarnate, in a theocracy here on this earth. Our mental pictures of the lion lying down with the lamb will become reality.

During the month of December, we fondly read many cards with the Scripture quote “Peace on earth good will toward men.” Definitely, the hope of the world and of Christians is that one day there will be peace.

Meantime, until Christ does come to set up His kingdom, we must live with all of mankind from every race and every culture. That is God’s plan. It is His plan that we try to live peacefully now. Romans 12:18 says, *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”* Wow! That even means family!

Yes, at holidays, we are generally with family. Each family is unique with their own set of habits, traditions, quirks, and hurts. Let’s take Romans 12:18 to heart this year and bring it right to our own fireplace. Christmas and New Years bring some extra responsibilities to our lives. Often the ones we want to please most, we end up hurting amidst our hustle and bustle. Satan, of course, would have it that way. This would be a good time of year to really concentrate on this verse in our homes and with our

Morning: *Obadiah*

Evening: *Revelation 8*

extended families. When the small stuff is about to stir up strife, just think of that simple word “peace.” God would like to have **you** be the peacemaker. It would be an excellent time to demonstrate to our families that The Prince of Peace does rule in our hearts here on earth.
~NBM

Dr. Jerry Falwell, Liberty University Copyright. The Liberty Annotated Study Bible, KJV. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1988.

Scripture Fill-In

“For God _____ not his _____ into the _____ to _____ the world; but that the _____ through him might be _____.”
John 3:17

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blanks: Complete the following verses.

- Galatians 5:22-23—“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, _____, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”
- Psalm 29:11—“The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will _____ his people with peace.”
- Isaiah 26:3—“Thou wilt keep him in _____ peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Sunday

December 18

Morning: *Jonah*
Evening: *Revelation 9*

Consequences from the Fall

After Adam sinned, and in him all mankind has sinned, there were several judgments that occurred. Every person born since then has been born with a sin nature. Sin always brings separation. They were driven out of the Garden of Eden lest they eat of the tree of life and live forever in their sinful state. God Himself provided a sacrifice for them and clothed them with the skin of the slain animal. Their coverings of fig leaves were a picture of their human works and were not acceptable. The moment they sinned, Adam and Eve began to die physically.

After sinning, Adam discovered that something was wrong. There was a fear of God, shown by his attempt to hide from His presence. Instead of confessing his sin, he sought to make excuses for it. He blamed Eve; Eve blamed the serpent. This blame game goes on to this present day.

The judgment on the serpent: Gen. 3:14-15

- Cursed above all cattle
- Would crawl on belly (had been a beautiful upright creature)
- Would eat the dust of the ground
- Enmity between serpents and women...and her seed

The judgment on the woman: Gen. 3:16

- Multiplied sorrow and conception
- In sorrow (pain) she would bring forth children
- Her desire would be to her husband
- He would rule over her

The judgment on the man: Gen. 3:17-19

- The ground would be cursed (no weeds before this!)
- He would have to do hard physical labor
- At death he would return to dust.

God's remedy for sin: Gen. 3:21

An innocent animal was slain and Adam and Eve were covered with its skin. This was a picture of substitutionary atonement which Christ Himself later fulfilled. He died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures. It says in I Corinthians 15:1-4 that THIS is the gospel! When you have opportunity to witness or teach, ALWAYS take a few minutes to present the gospel (the death, burial and resurrection of Christ for our sins) because *“it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” (Rom. 1:16).* ~CW

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. Name a specific time when you saw the direct consequences of sin in your life.

2. What did the Lord teach you through this experience? _____

Monday

December 19

Morning: *Micah 1-3*
Evening: *Revelation 10*

Backsliding

And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.” Luke 22:57

Peter was probably one of the best Christians who lived in his day. In every list of the apostles, he was always the first mentioned (see Mt 10:2; Mk. 3:14-19). Jesus gave Peter special honor when He gave unto him the keys of the kingdom of Heaven. Peter was also chosen to go to the mount of transfiguration with the Lord, yet Peter fell into sin. Notice some sins that Peter steps into so that we might avoid these steps in our own life.

1. A great sorrow had come into Peter’s life. (Mt. 16:22-23)
2. Peter was overconfident. (Mt. 26:33,35)
3. There was a lack of prayer in Peter’s life. (Mt. 26:40-41)
4. Peter followed afar off. (Lk. 22:54)
5. Peter sat down with the wrong crowd. (Lk. 22:55)
6. Peter denied the Saviour. (Lk. 22:57)
7. Peter denied the fellowship. (Lk. 22:58)
7. Peter denied that he was a Christian. (Lk. 22:60)

Let every one of us be reminded of the importance of depending on the Lord all the time; of meeting the Lord faithfully in prayer; of staying with the right crowd; of being inspired by the right things; of staying close to Jesus; and of doing all the other things that will keep us from backsliding. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the questions in the spaces provided.

1. Look at the steps that Peter took in the process of backsliding. Have you made steps in a backward direction?

2. What can you do TODAY to turn around?

3. Look up Jeremiah 3:12, and write the verse in the spaces provided.

Quote of the Day

“Looking at the wound of sin will never save anyone. What you must do is look at the remedy.”
~D. L. Moody

Tuesday
December 20

Morning: Micah 4-5
Evening: Revelation 11

God's Will for Believers

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour...that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter.” I Thessalonians 4:3-4, 6

A common discussion among Christians, especially teens and young adults, is the matter of the will of God. “What is the will of God for my life?” Many times the specific will of God is the information that is desired. “Who should I marry?” “Should I go to college or into the working world?” “Should I buy a house or rent and apartment?” “What career path should I choose?”

While many of the specifics are not directly addressed in Scripture, the will of God is addressed. It would be wise to begin with the revealed will of God; begin to practice what is known, prove oneself faithful in that while allowing the concealed will of God to be revealed in light of the fact that trustworthy faithfulness is being displayed. In more simple terms, “Be faithful doing what you know to do; and when you have proven yourself faithful in that, God can ‘open the doors’ to the specific things that He desires for your life.”

So, what is the will of God that is revealed to us? The Apostle Paul lists at least three specific things that are, without a doubt, the will of God for every believer: 1. Abstain from fornication (4:3). 2. Possess your body in sanctification and honour (4:4). 3. Do not de-

fraud a brother in Christ (4:6).

God's will in these three areas is enough to keep us busy until the answers to the more specific questions are revealed. Today, will you practice being faithful to these three areas of the will of God? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Find the Order: Label the following people in the line of Christ starting from ‘1’ for the first person to ‘10’ for the last person born. Refer to Matthew 1:1-16.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| ____ 1. Amram | ____ 6. David |
| ____ 2. Abraham | ____ 7. Phares |
| ____ 3. Jehosaphat | ____ 8. Eliakim |
| ____ 4. Isaac | ____ 9. Obed |
| ____ 5. Matthan | ____ 10. Sadoc |

Quote of the Day

“When your will is God's will, you will have your will.”
~Charles Spurgeon

The Christmas Holiday

By Norma Merrin

Many countries around the world will be celebrating the Christian holiday once again on December 25. To the Christian and the non-Christian, many would claim that it is the most favored time of the year. In spite of the commercialism surrounding the holiday, Christmas still represents the blessed hope of a Redeemer, Who came to be the Savior of the world.

It is rather doubtful that Christmas, a celebration of the birth of Christ, was conducted by the early church. Throughout the New Testament, we see the apostles focusing on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The uniqueness about Christ's birth was that He actually was born to die. He was the Messiah, the One Who was worthy to pay the sin debt of the entire world. Not only His birth, but the divine power of the resurrection emboldened Christianity and upset all of Rome.

Until about the 4th century, Christians were heavily persecuted and met in house churches and other secret places (like many other persecuted Christians around the world today). History tells us that Constantine the Great, emperor of Rome, was credited with freeing the Christians and may have declared December 25 as a holy day to honor the birth of Christ. History also indicates that Constantine merged the Nativity story with other pagan traditions occurring in December which likely resulted in Christmas. "Feasting, family gatherings, gift exchanging, and a birth celebrated were from the beginning of Christmas celebrations just like in the Roman and Persian festivities." (www.allaboutjesuschrist.org)

Even though the exact birth date of Christ is unknown and the holiday may be mixed with some pagan traditions, today, Christmas is recognized universally as a day that Christians set aside to remember, honor, and celebrate the birth of their Savior. *Wikipedia* registers

the holiday as a Christian observance of the Holy Nativity as recorded in Luke chapter 2. **Christians are not so concerned about the exact date of the birth, but about the fact that Christ came to earth as God Incarnate.** That is the issue that main Christianity embraces and celebrates on Christmas.

Gabriel's miraculous announcement to Mary that she would bring forth a son, and call his name JESUS never ceases to lose its wonder and power year after year. Luke 1:32-33 records: *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David. And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

It is vital to the Christian faith that this Christ Incarnate be born of a virgin. Matthew 1:23 says, *"BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL, which being interpreted is, God with us."* This later title implies God will come to dwell among His own people, which He did in the person of Christ. This is the theme of the Christian's Christmas.

No matter how one celebrates December 25, Christians have been called from darkness into His marvelous light, which is worth celebrating. One day, the Savior will come again in all His heavenly glory, and Christians from every continent will rule and reign with Him forever. Can we not all say as Mary did when she yielded to the salutation of Gabriel, *"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior"?*

www.Wikipedia/Christmas
www.allaboutjesuschrist.org/emperor-constantine-faq.htm
accessed 1 Nov. 2011

Wednesday

December 21

Morning: Micah 6-7
Evening: Revelation 12

Grace to Eternal Life

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:5-7

Paul uses the word “grace” with great frequency in his writings, beginning and ending many of his letters reminding his readers of its importance. Paul, perhaps better than many, understood what this word meant. Before his conversion, he knew only the law; and he worked diligently to destroy the early church and its trust in Christ alone. He put his trust in upholding the law for salvation. Unfortunately, none of us are capable of upholding the law. Paul saw his work of persecution as a work of righteousness. He was doing what he thought was for the glory of God, but it was vain and pointless because he was trusting in his own zeal for the law instead of the finished work of the cross.

Many people today are in the same position as Paul. They have trusted in their ability to be good and do good things as a source of salvation. They will work tirelessly in charities and self-denial in hope that their efforts will be rewarded with eternity in heaven. At the judgment seat they will bring in their hands a pile of good works and claim that God owes them salvation because of all that they have done for Him. Sadly, all they bring will be

burned up on the altar as wood, hay, and stubble.

As Paul writes to his friend Titus, we are reminded that all we bring to God for salvation should be empty hands and a contrite heart. We must realize that it is our faith in Christ alone that leads to our salvation. We fall upon His mercy and wait to be washed in the perfect sinless blood of the Lamb to be given new life in heaven. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered _____, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses.

1. Psalm 84:11—“For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give _____ and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”
2. I Corinthians 15:10—“But by the grace of God I am what I _____: and his grace which was _____ upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Quote of the Day

“Salvation is free for you because someone else paid.”
~Anonymous

Thursday

December 22

Morning: *Nahum*

Evening: *Revelation 13*

Identity—Rock or Feather?

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”
Romans 8:16*

Identity is an important issue. We deal with identity crisis, identity theft, losing our identity and finding our identity. Issues with identity are rooted in the fundamental questions of “Who am I?” “Why am I here?” and “To Whom do I belong?”

The expression “lightweight identity” refers to someone who does not know who they are or why they exist. They float about like a feather driven by the wind. A solid identity is like a rock, solid, unmoving, stable. Winds of change and chance will not alter the rock for it is anchored.

As Christians, we have the most profound identity for the Bible says we are the children of God. We have heard so many times the phrase “children of God” that it has become common and unmoving. Yet, ponder the great Creator of a universe so vast that we cannot find the end – the God Who has always existed and always will, Who created time and space and has all power. This God calls you His child. Not only that, but Romans 8:17 goes on to say *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...”*

It is nearly unfathomable that we should be made equal heirs with Christ. God has adopted us, and given us inheritance. We are children of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Now *that* is an identity worth having!

If we face trouble with identity, if we feel lost and confused about who we are and why we exist. We must memorize and dwell on Scripture that reminds us of who we are in Christ. We risk living shallow, light-weight lives because we have not taken the time to discover who we are from the pages of the Bible. Once you understand who you are in Christ and understand your identity in God your Father, then you will act like it. You can be a rock anchored to a loving, gracious Father Who upholds everything by His power. ~AJH

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered _____, but to _____, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. How many times did Moses hit a rock to get water from it? (Num. 20:1-13) _____
2. Psalm 62:2 refers to and describes God with what three terms? _____

Quote of the Day

“Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream. It is a glorious reality. It is a time of joy. Bethlehem’s manger crib became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God.”

~Billy Graham

Friday
December 23

Morning: *Habakkuk*
Evening: *Revelation 14*

Good Tidings

*“And they (the shepherds) came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.”
Luke 2:17*

The shepherds of Luke 2 were privileged not only to see angels and the glory of the Lord shining about them, but of course, they were instructed on where to find the central character of the story, the babe, the Son of God. The heavenly scene viewed from that pasture is one I really can't quite envision. Spectacular would come close to maybe describing it. As eventful as that was, can you imagine what awakened in their senses upon first glance of the face of the Messiah? These shepherds had an unimaginable privilege, for many would see the face of the Messiah in the future, but would not know Him or recognize Him as Lord.

Look at the text: *“...they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.”* The shepherds publicized the saying about Christ. What was that? In verse 10, they were told the good tidings were for all people. That fact was quite important; it was not for just a certain, select group. Then, in verse 11, they were told the babe was the Savior, Christ the Lord. The announcement was made: This was the person by which under no other name could man be redeemed. The shepherds thus broadcasted this joyous news throughout the land.

The world recognizes that Christians celebrate the birth of Christ; shouldn't we declare

the message boldly? It is a message that can soon be forgotten in a world that is becoming more hostile to Christianity. Many do not want to retain God in their knowledge as Romans 1:28 tells us.

As we celebrate Christmas, let's remember to publish the good tidings. Maybe we could pass out more tracts than we did all the other eleven months put together! Strike up a conversation with a stranger about what they have heard regarding the birth of Christ. Give a gift to an unsaved person you know and include some type of presentation of the Gospel. Put up a nativity scene in front of your home. Use gift tags made from old Christmas cards that proclaim the birth of Christ. Be innovative and help spread the news of *“the saying concerning This Child.”* ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered _____, but to _____, and to _____ his life a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. The Angel of the Lord and the heavenly host appeared to how many shepherds? (Luke 2:8-18)
A. Several C. 2 different groups
B. 56 D. Does not specify
2. How many wise men came to see the Christ Child? (Mt. 2:1-11)
A. Several C. 7
B. 3 D. Does not specify

Saturday

December 24

Written by the Prophet

“And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet.” Matthew 2:4-5

When the wise men questioned Herod regarding the birth of the Messiah, Herod went straight to the chief priest and scribes. They knew right where to look for the answer.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

This verse tells us that an eternal ruler of Israel would come from Bethlehem. This is just one of many prophecies concerning Christ. Other prophecies tell us that the Messiah’s name would be Emmanuel, that he would be born of a virgin, that He would die on a cross. As we celebrate this Christmas season we can have faith in the fact that our God is in control. As you read about the birth of Jesus, about Joseph and Mary’s trip to Bethlehem, about the shepherds, and about the wise men you see the hand of God. God was working His divine plan and accomplishing His purpose.

Now two thousand years later God is still in control, working His plan and accomplishing His purpose. Just as He was sure to fulfill the

Morning: Zephaniah

Evening: Revelation 15

prophecies regarding Christ’s first coming, He will make sure the prophecies regarding His second coming will be realized. Just as it is written. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“Even as the _____ of _____ came not to be ministered _____, but to _____, and to _____ his life a _____ for many.” Matthew 20:28

Bible Quiz

Who Said It? Label each quote with its author.

_____ 1. “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.” Luke 2:34

_____ 2. “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” Luke 1:38

_____ 3. “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” (Mt. 1:20)

Quote of the Day

“Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts: the gift of God to man—His unspeakable gift of His Son; and the gift of man to God—when we present our bodies as a living sacrifice and, like the Macedonians (II Cor. 8:5), first give ourselves to God. No one has kept or can keep Christmas until he has had a part in this two-way transaction.” ~Vance Havner

Sunday

December 25

Morning: Haggai
Evening: Revelation 16

The Christmas Story

*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
 Luke 2:11*

When most people think of Christmas, they think of Santa, Rudolph, and lots and lots of gifts. The essence of this event is commercialized and has become impersonal, with the sense that it is about what can I get out of this holiday.

If you are a born-again, blood-bought Christian, you have a different view of the magnitude of this auspicious occasion called Christmas. The birth of Christ is the whole foundation for our faith and the reason that we celebrate Him.

The Biblical account of Christ’s birth is found in Luke 2:1-20. Verses 4-7 say, *“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”*

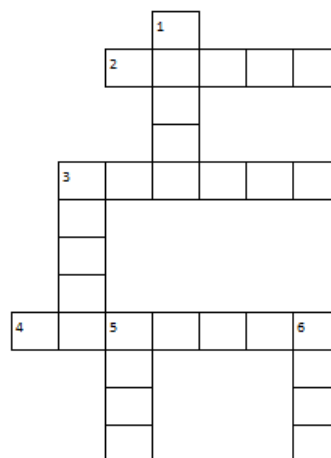
God became flesh, so that He could provide a way for us to live eternally with Him. Now that is something to celebrate. Today, set aside time as a family to read this whole story, and focus on the true meaning of this very special day! ~KAH

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
 Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

Crossword Puzzle: Complete the following puzzle on the relatives of Jesus Christ.



DOWN

1. A stepbrother of Jesus (Mt. 13:55)
3. Step grandfather of Jesus (Mt. 1:16)
5. Woman from Moab in the line of Christ (Mt. 1:5)
6. Mother of Jesus (Mt. 1:16)

ACROSS

2. A king, known as a man after God’s heart, in the line of Christ (Mt. 1:6)
3. Stepfather of Jesus (Mt. 1:16)
4. The lineage of Christ in Matthew 1 begins with this man.

Monday
December 26

Living Souls

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Genesis 2:7

The picture in this verse is beautiful and awe-inspiring. God has created a world, and now He makes a creature different than all the other ones. How did God make this one different? He breathed a soul into him. God did not breathe souls into the animals, waters, or mountains; but the man He formed from the dirt and then breathed life into him. The Creator has put a living soul—mind, will, emotions in each person who is alive. We walk about as walking talking images of our God. Each person we come into contact with has been touched and formed by God and is a creation of the most High and Holy God.

If we grasped what we are, we would treat each other and ourselves differently. We are eternal beings, placed in a temporal body. Most of our lives are spent caring for and catering to our physical body. We feed it, groom it, exercise it, rest it, and indulge it. The part of us that lasts the shortest amount of time is the part we often spend the most time on. I am not saying to neglect the physical body, for good health and energy are necessary to living; but we often neglect our spirits—that which will last forever. The more we cultivate and renew our spiritual beings the more we are preparing ourselves for eternity with God. I Timothy 4:8 says, *“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having*

Morning: Zechariah 1-3

Evening: Revelation 17

promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.” This passage is not saying that exercise is a waste of time, but that *in comparison* godliness is much more profitable because it is investing in the life to come.

Not only should we invest in our own spiritual lives but those of others. Each day we encounter people who we barely see because we are absorbed in trivial matters. We fail to see them as eternal souls given life by an awesome Creator. ~AJH

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

True or False: Put a *T* in the blank if the statement is true and an *F* in the blank if the statement is false.

- _____ 1. Psalm 139:17-18 says that God’s thoughts toward us are more in number than the sand.
- _____ 2. According to Psalm 19:1, the heavens declare the glory of God.
- _____ 3. God created man on the fifth day of creation. (Gen. 1:27-31)

Tuesday
December 27

Morning: Zechariah 4-6
Evening: Revelation 18

Doing His Will, Finishing His Work

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” John 4:34

In the context of this verse, the disciples had just gone into town to buy food. Jesus waited at Jacob’s well outside of town. He was there for a reason. A woman was coming to the well who needed help. He understood her need and wanted to change her life and eternity. So He stayed and ministered to the woman, and the disciples went on to buy food. When they returned and offered Him food, Jesus made the statement that is in our verse for today.

Notice three things in this verse. First of all, Jesus was doing the will of the Father and through doing His will He found spiritual strength. Next, notice that Jesus was sent by the Father. Finally, observe that the work must be finished.

Jesus made this statement to His disciples to teach them these truths. They also apply to us. The Father has a will for each of us. As we embrace His will and purpose for our lives, we find spiritual strength that is not available to the world. For the child of God, doing His will brings us a fulfillment that is spiritually nourishing. We are also called of the Father. We are called to be witnesses for Him. We must seek to bring others to Him for salvation. Finally, we must finish the work that the Father has called us to do. He will give us the strength that we need to finish His work if we will walk with Him and serve Him from the heart. ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the _____ host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the biblical character with his description.

____ 1. Haran

____ 2. Haman

____ 3. Jonadab

____ 4. Joses

____ 5. Hur

- A. An Agagite who was a wicked man that was promoted by King Ahasuerus (Es. 3:1-5)
- B. Father of Lot (Gen. 11:27)
- C. Helped Moses hold up his hands in the battle against Amalek (Ex. 17:12)
- D. A devious nephew of King David (II Sam. 13:3)
- E. One of Christ’s brothers (Mt. 13:55)

Quote of the Day

“Too often we attempt to work for God to the limit of our incompetency, rather than to the limit of God’s omnipotency.”

~J. Hudson Taylor

Wednesday

December 28

Morning: Zechariah 7-9
Evening: Revelation 19

Justification by Faith

Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God.” Romans 5:1

Paul is writing here to believers and reminding them that they are justified (just as if I had never sinned) by their faith in Christ. They were not justified for following some list of rituals or traditions. It was not even because they had been a good people or tried really hard. It was their faith alone in the finished work of the cross that saved them.

Paul goes even farther by reminding them that they were once at war with this God Who died for them. They lived contrary to His plan and as a result they did not have peace.

Before salvation, they were at war with God; and yet they were not living in peace with the world either. No visible beachhead exists for their conflict; but Satan has no intension for them to have peace. Even in the lives of those who follow his sinful lead, his plan is to destroy them.

So, for those consumed in their sin, there is neither peace with heaven or with hell. Sadly, without Christ the lost will never know the joy of a safe haven from the battle. When their fight here is ended their fight in eternity will begin.

For the believer this is not the case. Although the battle rages here, as we stand with Jesus, we can have peace with Him. We may raise our shield of faith moment by moment to stop fiery darts, but we can continually find peace with the Father because we trust His Son.

Do you have peace in your life? If not perhaps you need to surrender to the King and have peace with the One who has already won the war. If you are saved and not experiencing peace, you may need to make some changes so that you are at rest with the Prince of Peace.
~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the _____ host _____ God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. Why did Jesus not do many mighty works in his hometown? (Mt. 13:58) _____
2. Abraham was saved by what? (Rom. 4:20-25) _____

3. Job found hope in what fact? (Job 19:25-26) _____

Quote of the Day

“You have reason to open your mouth in God’s praises, both here and to all eternity, for His rich and sovereign mercy to you.”
~Jonathan Edwards

Thursday

December 29

Morning: *Zechariah 10-12*

Evening: *Revelation 20*

A Source of Comfort

“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:18

When the word “comfort” is used, it is bound to bring up a variety of thoughts in one’s mind. Perhaps, when reading the word “comfort,” you think of a recent stay at the Comfort Inn. Maybe your mind takes you to that place of safety you refer to as your “comfort zone.” It could be that your mouth begins to water as you think of your favorite “comfort food.” If you are “spiritual,” you might think of the Holy Spirit, who is the great Comforter. If you are sleepy, you might be longing for the comforter on the top of your bed.

One biblical teaching that may not come to mind when thinking of the word “comfort” is the return of Jesus Christ. Generally, the return of Christ dredges up the thoughts and future actions of the Book of Revelation. The return of Christ, all too often, is seen as a “scary” event. However, the Apostle Paul reminds his readers that the return of Christ should be talked about in such a way to bring comfort to the hearers.

According to his writings, Paul reminds his readers that: 1. The Christians that have already died will be caught up to heaven when Christ returns. 2. The Christians that are living when Christ returns will not go before them. 3. The Lord Himself will come from Heaven. 4. We will meet the Lord in the air.

What comfort to know that the return of Christ will include all who have trusted Him,

living and dead. It will not be a “spiritual” return, but a physical return of Christ Himself; and we will be with Him in heaven forever. All the “scary” happenings of the Book of Revelation cannot touch those who “meet the Lord in the air.” For God “has not appointed us to wrath.” So, who will you comfort with these words today? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the _____ host _____ God, and saying, _____ to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct word that completes the following verses.

1. “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the ____ of the Lord draweth nigh.” (James 5:8)
A. Wrath C. Judgment
B. Coming D. Reward
2. “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his ____ with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” (Mt. 16:27)
A. Presence C. Father
B. Light D. Holiness

Quote of the Day

“We are not a postwar generation, but a pre-peace generation. Jesus is coming.”

~Corrie Ten Boom

Friday
December 30

Morning: *Zechariah 13-14*
Evening: *Revelation 21*

Jehoram's Evil Reign Over Judah

"Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead." II Chronicles 21:1

Jehoshaphat is now dead. Three years before his death he took his son Jehoram with him, much as a co-partner. Recall the sad story of Jehoshaphat. He was a good man, one of the best men that sat on the throne. He made the mistake of associating with the wrong crowd. This affected his character and the reign of his son.

Do you remember Balaam? Balaam preached the truth, but he led the children into whoredoms. When one generation associates with a bad crowd, the next generation usually becomes a part of the bad crowd.

We should stomp our feet when we see something bad. Such was not the case in the life of Jehoshaphat; hence, his son Jehoram was not the only one who associated with evil men, and he became one if the evil men. It is interesting how a little David, growing up on the back side of the desert, can do more with a small start than a Jehoram, reared in the palace, can do with a great start.

May God help us to be wise with whom we associate. ~OV

Scripture Fill-In

"And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the _____ host _____ God, and saying, _____ to God in the _____, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14

Bible Quiz

Who Does Not Belong? Choose the person(s) who does not fit in each of the following biblical accounts.

1. The Twelve Spies Sent to Canaan: Numbers 13:1-17

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| A. Shammua | F. Joseph |
| B. Igal | G. Caleb |
| C. Palti | H. Raphu |
| D. Isaac | I. Ammiel |
| E. Gaddi | J. Susi |

2. Healing of Jairus' Daughter: Mark 5:22-43

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A. Jesus | E. Andrew |
| B. Jairus | F. James |
| C. Mourners | G. John |
| D. Peter | H. The Daughter |

Quote of the Day

"Insomuch as any one pushes you nearer to God, he or she is your friend." ~Anonymous

Saturday

December 31

Morning: Malachi
Evening: Revelation 22

A Purposed Heart

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8

Are you glad this year is over, or are you sad it is coming to an end? Like me, maybe you have a mixture of both emotions. The year 2011 has brought with it many joys and many sorrows. But hopefully, we can look back at the year and see growth in our spiritual lives.

Growth does not happen overnight. Parents, you don't just get up one Saturday morning and find that your three month old baby is now four feet tall. No. Growth is a gradual process. Recalling this past year of your life, do you see a gradual progression of spiritual growth? Take some time to reflect on this question.

Perhaps, you did some backsliding. Maybe you took a few baby steps and want to continue growing. Perhaps, you stayed stagnant. Whatever your situation, spiritual growth is at the tips of your fingers.

Daniel, a man of God who was captured and taken to Babylon, purposed in his heart not to eat the food given to him that would defile his body. I would imagine it took quite a bit of fortitude to stand up to the powerful king and eat vegetables while those around were enjoying steak. But, Daniel made a decision—a decision to be spiritual and stick to his convictions.

How about you? Will you purpose in your heart to be a man of God this year and to grow in your relationship with your Savior? It won't be easy. In fact, there may be days you want to “slack” and go back to old habits. Make the decision today to move forward spiritually this year, and then pour every ounce of energy into your resolve. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“And suddenly there was with the _____ a multitude of the _____ host _____ God, and saying, _____ to God in the _____, and on _____ peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14

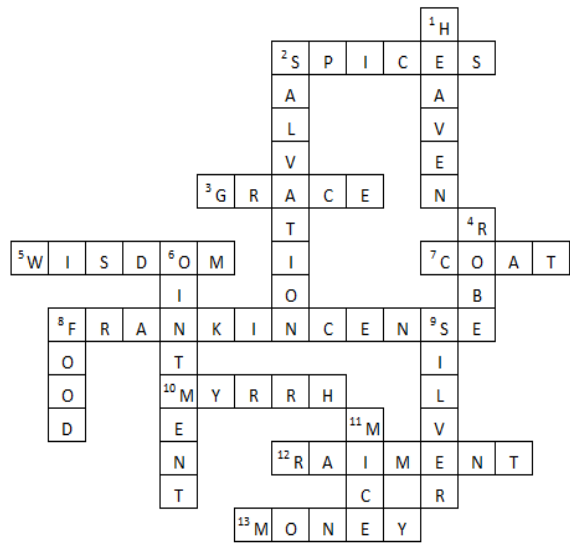
Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble the following words that relate to the new year.

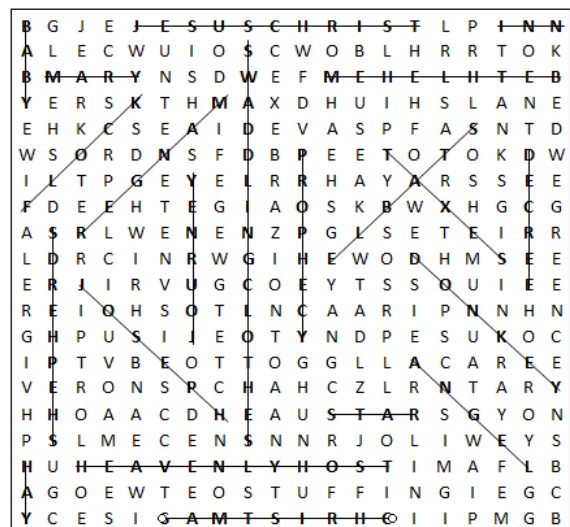
- _____ 1. N J Y U A R A
- _____ 2. E S O T L O N I R S U
- _____ 3. A G L S O
- _____ 4. W E T E L V
- _____ 5. O H I D L Y A
- _____ 6. U T C D W N O O N
- _____ 7. E W N Y A R E

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle



Word Search



Bible Quizzes

- Dec. 1 Pg. 2 1. T 2. F 3. T
 Dec. 2 Pg. 3 1. A 2. B 3. B
 Dec. 3 Pg. 4 F, J, & K
 Dec. 4 Pg. 5 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 5 Pg. 6 1. B 2. C 3. A
 Dec. 6 Pg. 7 1. F 2. T 3. T
 Dec. 7 Pg. 9 1. B 2. B 3. C
 Dec. 8 Pg. 10 1. Hezekiah 2. Elijah
 3. Abraham
 Dec. 9 Pg. 11 1. Contention 2. Low 3. Pride
 Dec. 10 Pg. 12 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. F
 Dec. 11 Pg. 13 1. Gifts 2. Tradition 3. Star
 4. Shepherds 5. Christ
 Dec. 12 Pg. 14 1. Shepherds 2. Wise men
 3. Anna 4. Simeon
 5. Elisabeth
 Dec. 13 Pg. 15 1. Bethuel 2. Laban
 Dec. 14 Pg. 17 1. A 2. C 3. B
 Dec. 15 Pg. 18 1. Bethlehem, Judaea
 2. Egypt 3. Nazareth
 Dec. 16 Pg. 19 A & F
 Dec. 17 Pg. 20 1. Peace 2. Bless 3. Perfect
 Dec. 18 Pg. 21 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 19 Pg. 22 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 20 Pg. 23 1. 4 2. 1 3. 7 4. 2 5. 10 6. 6
 7. 3 8. 8 9. 5 10. 9
 Dec. 21 Pg. 25 1. Grace 2. Am, bestowed
 Dec. 22 Pg. 26 1. 2 2. Rock, Salvation,
 Defence
 Dec. 23 Pg. 27 1. D 2. D
 Dec. 24 Pg. 28 1. Simeon 2. Mary 3. Angel
 of the Lord
 Dec. 25 Pg. 29 **Down:** 1. James 3. Jacob
 5. Ruth 6. Mary
Across: 2. David 3. Joseph
 4. Abraham
 Dec. 26 Pg. 30 1. T 2. T 3. F
 Dec. 27 Pg. 31 1. B 2. A 3. D 4. E 5. C
 Dec. 28 Pg. 32 1. Unbelief 2. Faith in God's
 Promise 3. His future in Christ
 Dec. 29 Pg. 33 1. B 2. C
 Dec. 30 Pg. 34 1. D, F, H, J 2. E
 Dec. 31 Pg. 35 1. January 2. Resolutions
 3. Goals 4. Twelve 5. Holiday
 6. Countdown 7. New Year