



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, 2010

Dear Faithful Readers,

We would like to wish each of you a blessed Christmas! Thank you for faithfully reading and submitting to *The Bread of Life* this year. It has been our privilege to serve you.

Through all the hustle and bustle of activities during this busy time of year, remember to keep Jesus Christ first in your life. Start your day off by being in His Word and fellowshiping with Him. He so longs to spend time with you every day.

May the Lord distinctively bless you this Christmas and reveal Himself anew to you as the celebration of His birth permeates the season!

Merry Christmas!

The Bread of Life Staff

Wednesday
December 1

Jesus: The Central Focus of Christmas

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” 1 John 4:14

It has been disheartening to see how Jesus Christ is becoming less and less the focus of Christmas. To find a box of Christmas cards with a Christian message is a difficult task. Santa Claus, Rudolph, and Frosty appear to have stolen the show.

Yet, Jesus Christ **IS** the focus of this blessed holiday. With his birth, mankind’s hope of redemption became a reality. With his birth, the road was paved for every human being to spend eternity in Heaven. Jesus Christ became flesh so He could be the Saviour of the world! Now that is something to celebrate, not just on Christmas, but every single day that the Lord gives us breath!

Giving gifts to those you love at Christmas is a joyous time. Spending quality time with family and friends is invaluable. By no means do I want to undermine these Christmas traditions. But, I want to challenge you to think “outside the box” this Christmas. What can you give Jesus this year?

Several years ago, I heard of a family that bought donuts on Christmas Eve for the policemen and firemen in their community. Along with the act of kindness, they shared Jesus with the public service men and women. What an awesome way to spend Christmas Eve!

Morning: *Ezekiel 45-46*
Evening: *2 Peter 3*

Pray and ask the Lord what He would have YOU do this Christmas. How can you show the love of Jesus and His message of salvation? How can you make Christ the central focus this year? ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your conversation be without _____; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”
Hebrews 13:5-6

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- The disciples were first called Christians in what city? Acts 11:26
A. Antioch C. Capernaum
B. Berea D. Damascus
- “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be ____ him; for we shall see him as he is.” 1 Jn. 3:2
A. Like C. Beside
B. Close to D. None of the above

Quote of the Day

“A child of God should be a visible beatitude for joy and happiness, and a living doxology for gratitude and adoration. ~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

December 2

Sharing the Gospel

“Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” Galatians 1:3-4

One of the best testimonies you can have for God is to let people know who you are and what Jesus did for you. Paul was willing to share with all in his letters about his position in Christ: he was an apostle appointed by Jesus Christ and God the Father. We have an exalted position in Christ that can be shared with others. Look up the following verses, and write a brief description of each:

John 1:12 _____

Romans 8:17 _____

2 Corinthians 5:20 _____

Develop a lifestyle that enables people to see those positions in you. Paul was also willing to share what Christ did for others. Think of ways that you can share Jesus with others. Then, write your ideas down and share them with others. ~OV

Morning: Ezekiel 47-48

Evening: 1 John 1

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your conversation be without _____; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ leave thee, nor _____ thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Hebrews 13:5-6

Bible Quiz

Who Said It?: In the blank, label each quote with the Biblical author.

_____ 1. “Almost thou persuadedst me to be a Christian.” Acts 26:28

_____ 2. “The word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.” Num. 22:38

_____ 3. “Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.” 1 Sam. 1:17

_____ 4. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Lk. 19:9-10

Quote of the Day

“God . . . wants . . . us . . . to recognize that, so far as we are concerned, we cannot keep one letter of the Law. When you feel that, the Law has done its work.”

Friday
December 3

Love One Another

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34

The command we have from Jesus is to love one another. It is not a suggestion or simply a good idea. It is a command from the Saviour. Jesus not only gives us a command, but He also gives us the criteria for that command. Love as I have loved you. Let us take a moment to consider the type of love that Jesus had.

A Love He Initiated . . .

He first loved us.

A Love That Was Sacrificial . . .

He left eternity.

He lived in poverty.

He ministered constantly.

He gave His life willingly.

A Love That Is Inseparable . . .

“Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

A Love That Was Unmerited . . .

“While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

When we love like Christ loved others, we will see that unique kind of love and recognize that we belong to our Heavenly Father. What kind of love do you have? Jesus commands us to love like He loved. Only God can put that kind of love into our hearts. ~DLW

Morning: Daniel 1-2

Evening: 1 John 2

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your conversation be without _____; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ leave thee, nor _____ thee. So that we may _____ say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Hebrews 13:5-6

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

____ 1. Bezaleel

____ 4. Felix

____ 2. Cornelius

____ 5. Eliphaz

____ 3. Dorcas

A. A Roman governor (Acts 23:24)

B. Was given by God the ability to construct the tabernacle (Ex. 31:2)

C. Described as “A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:1-2)

D. A friend of Job (Job 2:11)

E. A woman of Joppa full of good works (Acts 9:36)

Quote of the Day

“Christ is not valued at all unless He be valued above all.”
~St. Augustine

Saturday

December 4

Walking in Darkness

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.” 1 John 1:6

If a person says that they love their spouse, they will spend time with them and try to do things that are good for the one they love. If the same person were to move half way around the world, never write, and never call, we would question their commitment. Can they really say that they love their spouse?

In essence, that is what John is talking about in this verse. Can a person walk, meaning a consistent pattern of behaviour, in darkness and still say that he is in fellowship with Christ? According to John the answer is no. To say that he is in fellowship when he walks in sin means he is a liar. Sin breaks our fellowship with Jesus. It does not remove our salvation, but it does hinder our relationship with Christ.

To imply that while a person is living in known sin that they are walking correctly with the Lord makes no sense. It is true, however, that as saved sinners we still fight our own sinful nature. Each day we much battle the flesh yielding to the Holy Spirit and fleeing from sin. If we fall then we confess it as sin, repent (turn from it), and get back on the path of obedience.

Someone who is truly saved will be actively seeking to please God. In doing so, they will try to avoid sin and be quick to confess it as such when they fall. Make sure your fellowship is right today. If you are in sin, confess it, and get back to work following Him. ~DJD

Morning: Daniel 3-4

Evening: 1 John 3

Scripture Fill-In

“Let your conversation be without _____; and be _____ with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will _____ leave thee, nor _____ thee. So that we may _____ say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not _____ what man shall do unto me.” Hebrews 13:5-6

Bible Quiz

Find the Relation: Use the word bank to find the friend or the relation that is most closely related.

| | | |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Aquila | Zophar | Martha |
| Jonathan | Saul | Orpah |

1. David (1 Sam. 18:1) _____
2. Paul (Rom. 16:3-4) _____
3. Job (Job 2:11) _____
4. Samuel (1 Sam. 16:1) _____
5. Mary (Lk. 10:38-42) _____

Quote of the Day

“Holiness is the architectural plan upon which God builds up His living temple.”

~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

December 5

The Lord's Day

*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
Exodus 20:8*

The first day of the week has been declared **The Lord's Day** for over 2000 years now. Have you actually said those words lately? The Lord's Day is a phrase that has become almost nonexistent among the finest of Christians. Try repeating it to your children at some point in the day, and look at the response on their faces.

Why are these words rarely used in our society anymore? It is because we have so declared the Lord's Day as a day for everything else except the Lord. To many, it is a family day, a recreation day, a shopping day, a catch up day, or just another working day. Do those words prick our conscience? How many of us live for ourselves Sunday afternoon and come back to church in the evening without even offering a prayer for the service? I do not believe revival will come to America until we once again decide to live like Sunday **is** the Lord's Day.

How can we get back to placing the proper importance on the first day of the week? First, plan for it. Make necessary preparations on Saturday. Plan to be in church Sunday morning and evening. Help your family members and extended family to understand that the Lord's Day takes priority in your life. Next, pray for your teachers and pastors to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Also, pray for yourself; pray that you will obtain the knowledge God wants you to have and that you will be receptive to His

Morning: *Daniel 5-6*

Evening: *1 John 4*

will. Bring a spirit of serving with you. Many would benefit from having an encouraging conversation with you. Lastly, be on the look for God at work. Expect something great to happen.

Remember, it is the Lord's Day; as the psalmist has stated and we sing so frequently: “I will worship and bow down.” ~*NBM*

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
Isaiah 7:14

Bible Quiz

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

1. **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”** was the fourth, fifth, or sixth commandment given in Exodus 20?

2. On what day of the week did Paul brake bread with the disciples and preach unto them? Acts 20:7 _____

Quote of the Day

“God does not want us to live our lives for Him, but to give our lives to Him.”

~*Anonymous*

Monday
December 6

Joy in Contentment

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” Philippians 4:11

While visiting a friend recently I noticed a picture frame she had with the oft quoted “Home is where the heart is,” engraved on the bottom. A self made label covered the word “heart” and said “house.” At first I was confused by her desecration of this feel-good saying. Upon further reflection, by her change to “Home is where the house is,” she was making a statement of contentment. Her heart may be in her hometown, in Colorado, in Maui, but the reality remains that she does not live any of those places.

Our desires do not always line up with the reality of our lives. Sometimes we deal with disappointment, not in epic ways, but in small things like the house we live in or the time we have to get up in the morning. Jesus does not say He will perfect us through perfect circumstances. There are many places in the Bible that present the reality that hardships, trials, and disappointments are a means of us becoming who we are to be in Christ.

I am the first to admit I would like a life of ease, but I also want to participate in the call of God on my life in Jesus Christ. The disciples of Christ all suffered painful circumstances and eventual death for their belief in Him.

Although contentment is not easy to learn, its reward is a joyful life. ~AJD

Morning: Daniel 7-8

Evening: 1 John 5

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

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. Salmon was in the birth line of Jesus Christ. Mt. 1
- _____ 2. Joseph questioned the angel about taking Mary as his wife. Mt. 1:19-24
- _____ 3. Bethlehem is located in Assyria. Mt. 2:1
- _____ 4. The wise men recognized that Jesus was born King of the Jews. Mt. 2:1-2
- _____ 5. An angel appeared in Joseph’s home and warned him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Mt. 2:13

Quote of the Day

“Do something that demonstrates faith. For faith with no effort is no faith at all. God will respond. He has never rejected a genuine gesture of faith. Never.

~Max Lucado
from *He Still Moves Stones*

The Christ of Christmas

By Norma Merrin

“And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Luke 2:38

Christmas has been penned in song as the “most favorite time of the year.” In a time when so many individuals are being stifled by corporations, schools, organizations, and the media to remove Christ from Christmas, I would like to propose that Christmas be your “most favorite time of the year” to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord.

People have talked about the Messiah coming to earth ever since Genesis 3:15. Christ was to come and crush the head of Satan in victory at the cross. In Daniel chapter nine, we are given the expected time span for His arrival. If calculated in lunar years of 360 days, the Prince would arrive in AD 30, the year of triumphal entry into Jerusalem.¹ In Micah 5:2, we are told that Bethlehem is targeted for the birthplace of the Saviour. In Zechariah 9:9, we see Christ’s first advent introduced as king riding on an ass. In the New Testament, we know the Jews knew their prophetic history. Why else would they be inquiring if John the Baptist were the Christ? Simeon spoke of Him in the temple when Mary and Joseph came to present Him to the Lord. Next in line was Anna, a woman who lived in the church to whom God providently revealed the Christ Child. This brings me to her profound testimony. Luke 2:38 claims that Anna spoke of Him to ALL them that looked for redemption in Israel. WOW! That is quite the statement.

Christmas is a perfect time to share Who Jesus is. What are we afraid of? Fear of someone’s reaction to us is usually the stopper. I recently heard Mark Cahill, author and Christian speaker, say that witnessing is a win, win, win situation. He said that if a person accepts Christ, that is a win; if the person rejects the Word of God, we have planted a seed, and that is a win; if they reject the Word of God, we may be persecuted, but we have glorified God, and that is a win.²

I was with my daughter shopping this past week, and she was led to give a Muslim woman a tract but felt some apprehension. I shared the win, win, win thought which encouraged her to go ahead. As a result, the woman graciously accepted the Christian literature and had in her hands a clear presentation of the Gospel.

From Adam and Eve to the prophets of the Old Testament to Anna in the New Testament, the Gospel and the promise of a Saviour has been handed down throughout centuries. Now, in 2010, it is our turn to continue to proclaim the arrival of the Saviour Who came to save mankind from an eternity of torment. This Christmas, do not be afraid to let others know why you celebrate this very special day. The Messiah arrived over 2000 years ago! Let’s rejoice and proclaim the good news!

¹ MacArthur, John. *Twelve Extraordinary Women*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2005. (pgs. 129-130)

² Cahill, Mark. *One Thing You Can’t Do in Heaven*. Rockwall: Biblical Discipleship Publishers, 2010. (p. 32)

Tuesday

December 7

Morning: Daniel 9-10

Evening: 2 John

A New Way

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Hebrews 10:22-24

The verses that proceed today’s Scripture tell us that God provided a way to Him through Jesus Christ. Because of this new way to God, the author of Hebrews exhorts his readers to do the following actions:

1. “Let us draw near.” (vs. 22)
2. “Let us hold fast.” (vs. 23)
3. “Let us consider.” (vs. 24)

First, draw near to Jesus Christ. When sin is in the life of a believer, the tendency is to draw away from Christ. So, in order to draw near to the Saviour, sin must be confessed.

Secondly, hold fast to the faith. Do not be swayed by every whim and doctrine of mankind. Instead, faith must be founded on the Word of God.

Finally, consider other believers. Help one another to grow in the faith. Encourage one another to keep serving Christ. Exhort one another to good works.

How are you doing? Are you drawing nearer to Christ on a daily basis? Are you standing firm on the Word of God and your faith? Are you encouraging the brethren? Be-

cause of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice, a new way was paved to come to God the Father. What are you doing in response to that gift? ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a _____; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

Bible Quiz

Who Said It?: In the blank, label each quote with the Biblical author.

_____ 1. “Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.” 2 Chron. 24:20

_____ 2. “Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them.” Exodus 18:10-11

_____ 3. “Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” Jn. 11:40

Quote of the Day

“I don’t care what happens to me, joy or sorrow, health or pain, life or death, so long as Jesus is glorified.” ~C. T. Studd

Wednesday

December 8

Paul Received the Gospel from God

“For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet please men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Galatians 1:10-12

As employees, we are to be loyal to our employers by giving them an honest day's work for an honest day's labor. We also need to honor our Lord and Saviour. Paul was a co-labourer with Christ, and he sought to please God in his daily life.

Sometime our allegiance to man and to God conflicts with one another, and we must meditate on the question Paul states, *“Do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men?”*

We must learn to labour first for God, then for men. Determine today who you are really labouring to please—God or man? *OV*

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a _____; Behold, a _____ shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

Morning: Daniel 11-12

Evening: 3 John

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- _____ 1. Drusilla
 - _____ 2. Zedekiah
 - _____ 3. Issachar
 - _____ 4. Jael
 - _____ 5. Jair
 - _____ 6. Matthew
 - _____ 7. Mehetabel
 - _____ 8. Elijah
- A. A king of Judah (Jer. 37:1)
 - B. Wife of Felix (Acts 24:24)
 - C. A son of Jacob and Leah (Gen. 30:18)
 - D. Son of Manasseh (Num. 32:41)
 - E. Wife of Heber (Jdg. 4:17)
 - F. Prophesied that dogs would eat the flesh of Jezebel (2 Ki. 9:36)
 - G. One of the twelve disciples, also called Levi (Mt. 9:9; Mk. 2:14)
 - H. Wife of Hadar (Gen. 36:39)

Quote of the Day

“Inbred corruption is the worst corruption. "Lord," said Augustine, "deliver me from my worst enemy, that wicked man-myself.”

~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

December 9

Show Me

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”
1 John 5:12

Have you ever heard a “show me” phrase? Not the motto of Missouri, “Show Me.” but “Show me a man who...” For example:

“Show me a thoroughly satisfied man, and I will show you a failure.” - Thomas Edison

“Show me a person who has never made a mistake, and I’ll show you someone who has never achieved much.” - Joan Collins

“Show me a man who is a good loser and I will show you a man playing golf with his boss.” - Jim Murray.

Many times the “Show Me” statements are meant to enlighten the listener into the unmentioned truths about a certain type of person. Basically, if the first comment about the person is true, the odds are pretty good that the following statement is true of him also.

The Apostle John could have easily used this format in 1 John 5:12. A paraphrased version of this verse might read, “Show me a man who has the Son of God and I will show you a man with Spiritual life.” “Show me a man without the Son of God and I will show you a man without Spiritual life.” The Apostle John passes on a very simple truth that all too often is neglected or forgotten. Without the Son of God (Jesus), Spiritual life is not possible. If “A” is true, then “B” is also true.

So, what about you? Do you have the Son of God?” If so, you have life; and not just

Morning: *Hosea 1-4*

Evening: *Jude*

physical life, but Spiritual life. If you do not have the Son of God, you may have physical life, but you do not have Spiritual life. Do you want real life? Accept Christ today. ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a _____; Behold, a _____ shall _____, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. ***“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you,”*** is found at which of the following references?
A. 1 Peter 5:7
B. Philippians 4:6
C. Hebrews 12:2
D. 1 Timothy 6:12
2. ***“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,”*** is located at which of the following references?
A. Romans 12:2
B. Romans 12:10
C. Romans 8:1
D. Romans 6:12

Quote of the Day

“It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannons to call attention to their shining—they just shine.” ~D. L. Moody

Love God or the World?

*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
1 John 2:15*

John begins this chapter by addressing his readers as “my little children.” As an elderly man, he was giving instructions to these believers. He was trying to guide them in their faith.

He says love not the world. When a person loves something, they will spend much of their time with it making it an important part of their life. John recognizes the danger that the world poses to these Christians, and so he gives this advice. Do not love the world. Do not make the evils that it contains a part of your life. Do not make the opulence of the temporary life your goals.

He takes things even further with the second sentence of this verse. He says that if we are in love with this world that the love of the Father is not in us. God will not share our affections with material gain, political power, or fame. He alone is to be the focus of our devotion. If not, then we do not really belong to Him.

We are to be in the world not of the world. With that in mind, the question of “what did you work for today?” begs to be asked. Did we work to survive, to be wise in providing for the future, to give back to our Saviour, or to simply fulfil our desires for more of this world?

What is your goal? To love God or to love the world? ~DJD

Morning: Hosea 5-8
Evening: Revelation 1

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a _____; Behold, a _____ shall _____, and bear a _____, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Answer the following questions truthfully, and evaluate your spiritual life.

- 1. Is your main goal in life to please the Lord? How is this evident in your life?

- 2. How could you love God more and more every day? What could you do more to demonstrate that love?

Quote of the Day

“The amount of power you experience to live a victorious, triumphant Christian life is directly proportional to the freedom you give the Spirit to be Lord of your life.” ~Anne Graham Lotz
from *Just Give Me Jesus*

Saturday

December 11

True Salvation

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

Do not overlook this important verse. Everyone that is making a lip profession of Jesus Christ is not going to Heaven.

Apparently some people believed in God’s existence, or they would not have been addressing Him. They are obviously religious to a degree. Also, by calling Him Lord, they are placing themselves under His authority. They thought they were saved, but they were wrong.

There are other examples of people like this in the Bible and others down through the ages. Judas cast out demons, but he never accepted Christ. Although a religious man, when Nicodemus met Jesus, he was told, he must be born again. Martin Luther was a Catholic monk, but he was not saved. John Wesley was a missionary to the Indians, but was not saved. Both Luther and Wesley accepted Christ after these “good deeds.” Nicodemus, Luther, and Wesley were all at one time in their lives counting on good deeds or feelings for their salvation.

Salvation comes through true repentance of your sin and faith in Christ’s blood atonement. If you have not experienced a true salvation, accept Jesus Christ today. Do you know of any one who is trusting in their good works to get them to Heaven. If so, make a point to daily pray for that person, and look for an opportunity to share with him the true Gospel. Amen!

Morning: Hosea 9-11

Evening: Revelation 2

Scripture Fill-In

“Therefore the _____ himself shall give you a _____; Behold, a _____ shall _____, and bear a _____, and shall call his name _____.” Isaiah 7:14

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Choose the correct answer to complete each verse.

1. *“Weeping may endure for a night, but _____ cometh in the morning.” Ps. 30:5*
A. Peace C. Sorrow
B. Love D. Joy
2. *“Thou hast turned for me my mourning into _____.” Ps. 30:11*
A. Dancing C. Trials
B. Praising D. Renewal
3. *“Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the _____.” Ps. 33:1*
A. Everyone C. Sinners
B. Upright D. Unrighteous

Quote of the Day

“God loves you just the way you are. If you think his love for you would be stronger if your faith were, you are wrong . . . Don’t confuse God’s love with the love of people. The love of people often increases with performance and decreases with mistakes. Not so with God’s love. He loves you right where you are.”

~Max Lucado
from *Just Like Jesus*

Sunday

December 12

The Handmaid of the Lord

“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” Luke 1:38

Mary had just heard some shocking news. There was going to be a remarkable change in her life, and things were never going to be the same again. What was the big change all about? Was there a death in the family, cancer, or loss of employment? No, something very different. Mary was just told that the plans that she had for her life were going to be changed because God had chosen her to perform a special task. Yesterday, she was no different than a hundred other teenage girls in her home town. Today, she became the most significant woman on the planet. God was going to do the most amazing thing that He had ever done. He was going to enter into her womb so that He could become a man.

How could she make Joseph understand that she had not been unfaithful to him? What would she tell her parents? What would people assume about Mary and Joseph? What about all of her life plans? Mary did not worry about all those things; she simply told the angel “I will do what ever the Lord asks of me.”

What if God decided to change your life today? What would your response be? Would you have the same attitude that Mary had, or would you argue with God to keep the plans that you created for yourself? Is He really the Lord of your life or is Lord just a meaningless title? As far as Mary was concerned, God had full control of her life. That day she had no idea what was going to happen in the days,

Morning: Hosea 12-14

Evening: Revelation 3

weeks, and years to come, but I am sure that today she is glad that she said *“be it unto me according to thy word.”* ~DLW

Scripture Fill-In

“And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 1:46-48

Bible Quiz

Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blanks to complete Mary’s song given in Luke 1:46-55.

“And Mary said, My (1)_____ doth (2) _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my (3)_____. For he hath regarded the (4)_____ estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me(5) _____. For he that is mighty hath done to me _____ things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that (7) _____ him from generation to generation. He hath shown (8) _____ with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the (9) _____ with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his (10) _____ for ever.”

Monday
December 13

The Tricks of Satan

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Genesis 2:16-17

God put Adam and Eve in the garden and gave them specific instructions on what to do and what not to do. The command of God was given in Genesis 2:16-17. They were NOT to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They only had one restriction! The command was NOT confusing or complicated. God even pointed the tree out to them. God wanted obedience from them, but Satan had other plans.

Satan chose Eve because the woman is the weaker vessel, and she was not there when God told Adam the specific instructions. Satan figured he had a better chance with Eve. He used THREE tricks...

1. Raised doubts about God’s Word (Gen. 3:1-3)
2. Lied about God’s Word (Gen. 3:4)
3. Told half-truths about God’s Word (Gen. 3:5)

Satan used the same three types of temptation on Jesus. (Matt. 4:1-11) First, Satan used the lust of flesh because of the fasting of Jesus. Second, Satan used the lust of the eyes because of Jesus’ safety. Third, Satan used the pride of life to try to make Jesus want the power of the world, but Christ knew that He would rule and

Morning: Joel
Evening: Revelation 4

reign eventually.

The next time Satan tries to use his tricks in your life ask the Lord for deliverance and the courage to say “NO!” ~AP

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 1:46-48

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.

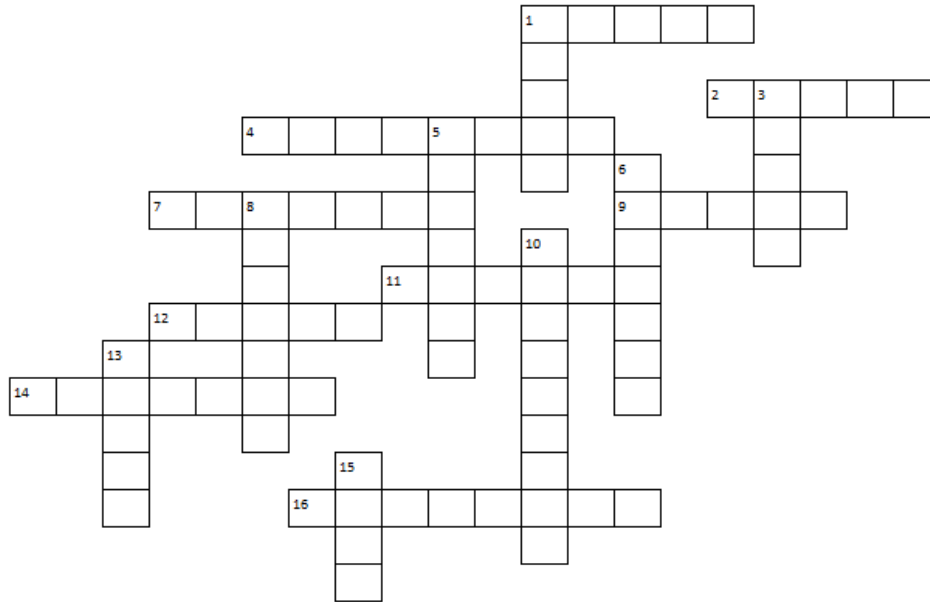
- _____ 1. When the people heard the music playing, they were told to come and bow down to the image Nebuchadnezzar had made. Dan. 3:5
- _____ 2. The men that accused the Jews of not worshipping the image were Chaldeans. Dan. 3:8
- _____ 3. The punishment for not worshipping the image was stoning. Dan. 3:19-20

Quote of the Day

“If God allows me with my foibles and failures to call him Father, shouldn’t I extend the same grace to others?”
~Max Lucado
from *When God Whispers Your Name*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Miracle of Christmas



ACROSS

1. Father of Joseph (Mt. 1:5)
2. Joseph was in the lineage of this king (Lk. 1:27)
4. Name means "God with us" (Mt. 1:23)
7. "Glory to God in the ____ and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Lk. 2:14)
9. Anna, an elderly widow, was from this tribe (Lk. 2:36)
11. Aged man who lived to see the Messiah (Lk. 2:25-35)
12. King at the time of Jesus' birth (Mt. 2:1)
14. Relationship of Joseph and Mary at Jesus' conception (Mt. 1:18-25)
16. Jesus was raised in this city (Mt. 2:23)

DOWN

1. Location of Bethlehem (Mt. 2:1)
3. Appeared to Joseph in a dream (Mt. 1:19-21)
5. "With God ____ shall be impossible (Lk. 1:37)
6. "Mary said, My soul doth ____ the Lord." (Lk. 1:46))
8. Angel who visited Mary. (Lk. 1:26-27))
10. City of Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:4)
13. Fled here to keep Jesus safe (Mt. 2:13)
15. Wise men came from this direction (Mt. 2:1)

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. "

Isaiah 7:14

Tuesday
December 14

Plan to Be Spiritual

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
1 Corinthians 15:58

It is hard to believe that it is Christmas time again! Christmas seemed to quickly sneak closer and closer. Isn't that how life goes? We get so involved in daily tasks that before we take time to breathe another whole year has passed. Our verse today encourages us to abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain. Spiritual treasure is being gained in Heaven.

Last December, I decided to divide my goals into categories: spiritual, career, physical, travel, and household. Now, I would like to say that I met every goal that was listed. I did not; however, I did accomplish a lot of them. Had I not made the list, probably some of them would have never been accomplished. Plus, it is encouraging to look back and see some highlights in the past year.

I have heard Pastor Russ Merrin say, “You have to plan to be spiritual.” Making a list of spiritual goals gives you a course of action. Here are some suggestions:

1. Read through the Bible in a year.
2. Determine to have daily devotions.
3. Commit to have a daily prayer time.
4. Work through a Bible study book.
5. Study in depth a book in the Bible.
6. Memorize a weekly Bible verse.
7. Witness to friends and family.

Morning: *Amos 1-3*

Evening: *Revelation 5*

8. Give a monetary gift to a missionary.

So, as we start a new year, I encourage you to abound in the work of the Lord. Try setting some goals that you would like to accomplish spiritually. During the year, read through the list and check to see how you are doing. Fellow Christians, stay strong in your walk and abound in the labor of our Lord and Savior! ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ said, My soul doth _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 1:46-48

Bible Quiz

Completion: Complete the following verses.

1. **Hebrews 6:10**—“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and _____ of love, which ye have shown toward his name, in that ye have _____ to the saints, and do minister.”
2. **Romans 14:8**—“For whether we _____, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.”

Quote of the Day

“Our lives are a manifestation of what we think about God.”
~Anonymous

Wednesday

December 15

Morning: Amos 4-6
Evening: Revelation 6

Do You Know?

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God: that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:13

Did you know that the infinity symbol is called a “lemniscate?” Did you know that most American car horns beep in the key of “F?” Did you know that goats eyes have rectangular pupils? Did you know that an ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain? Did you know that Panama Hats are actually made in Ecuador? Did you know that a group of flies is called a “business?” What percentage of all the knowledge in the world would you say that you know? Would you know 10% of all the knowledge? Two percent? Less than .001 percent? Of all the knowledge available to the human race, many are still struggling with if it is possible to know that they have eternal life.

The Apostle John enlightens his readers with a rather comforting fact about the afterlife. In a rather loose translation of this passage, John reminds his readers that “the reason why I wrote to those who believe on Jesus is so they can KNOW that they have eternal life.”

To many it is an obscure fact that eludes their practical outliving of life. So many people live with the “hope” of eternal life. Their actions portray that they must constantly do something to maintain eternal life. John, however, quiets the doubts by revealing that it is possible to know for sure that one has eternal life. According to John, those who believe on

the name of the Son of God know that they have eternal life. Do you know that you have eternal life? If not, could it be that you are trying to obtain it by some other source than Jesus Christ? Jesus said, “*No man cometh unto the Father but by me.*” Trust Christ today, and you will know! ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ said, My soul doth _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath _____ in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”
Luke 1:46-48

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions based on Luke 2:40-52.

1. Why did Joseph and Mary go to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old?

2. How long did it take Joseph and Mary to find Jesus? _____
3. What did Jesus tell his parents that He was doing? _____

Quote of the Day

“The word *grace* emphasizes at one and the same time the helpless poverty of man and the limitless kindness of God.” ~William Barclay

Thursday

December 16

Peace in His Presence

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.” Psalm 4:8

Don't you just love the Psalms! I am so thankful that God continued the good work in King David that he had begun, so that he could be used as the main author of this vivid poetic collection. That thought alone is noteworthy for an entire devotional. God used the good things in David's life and much of the bad to beautifully illustrate His loving care and provision for His people.

I just recently started rereading the Psalms in my devotions, and every time I do, it is as if scales fall from my eyes, and I see even more clearly than before. I read the old truths that I hid away in my heart previously, and invariably, I need them today. I generally write notes in my Bible about the nuggets I receive. I write dates and prayers in the margin by certain Scripture passages that relate to my prayer life. I also try to write quotes from other messages I have heard on the passage. In this particular reading of Psalms, I decided to read from one of my older Bibles. It has been awesome. Reviewing dates, prayers, quotes, and my own thoughts have been such a blessing.

Let's quickly look at Psalms 3-4. An overwhelming thought is written in my old Bible by these passages. It reads: "When I am in the presence of God, I gain His peace." We may not have thousands of enemies as David encountered; however, many troubles encompass us all. We are challenged in this Scripture to examine our conscience upon our bed. We are

Morning: Amos 7-9

Evening: Revelation 7

to consider our ways and confess our sin. This brings us into the presence of our Savior. Psalm 4:7-8 explains that gladness comes from our trust in Him which results in rest, peace, and safety.

Thank you God for the peace that comes by being in your presence. Amen! ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ said, My soul doth _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath _____ in God my _____. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 2:46-48

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following people was **NOT** in the line of Christ? Mt. 1
A. Asa C. Nebuchadnezzar
B. Rahab D. Jesse
2. Before the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, what was he going to do to Mary when he found she was pregnant? Mt. 1
A. Stone her
B. Put her away in private
C. Proceed with the wedding
D. None of the above

Quote of the Day

“The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances.” ~Elisabeth Elliot

The Consequences of Sin

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who

through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14-15

Sin always affects more than just one person. Sin affects everyone. Genesis 3:14-19 describes the lives of Adam and Eve and the beginning of the world’s greatest catastrophe as a result of their sin.

The serpent was cursed more than any other animal; he would crawl on his belly and eat the dust of the field forever. (Gen. 13:14) God put a great hatred between Satan’s seed and Eve’s seed. (Gen. 13:15) The conflict came to an end when God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the world. (Heb. 2:14)

There were two main parts of Eve’s punishment. (Gen. 3:16) First, there was pain in childbirth. Secondly, the husband would be the main decision maker in the family. This experience is one of the most difficult matters to deal with in marriage, because we are all selfish people.

The ground was cursed for Adam’s sake. (Gen. 3:17) Adam had to work by the sweat of his brow because of his sin. Adam had the responsibility now to provide food for his family. In Genesis 3:19, the curse for Adam’s future was given. Adam’s body would start to break down and get old, and eventually die.

Morning: *Obadiah*
Evening: *Revelation 8*

Sin always has negative results. What sin seems appealing to you today? What sin are you contemplating? Remember, there are al-

Scripture Fill-In

ways bad consequences to sin. ~AP
“And _____ said, My soul doth _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath _____ in God my _____. For he hath regarded the low estate of his _____: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Luke 1:46-48

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his description.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| _____ 1. Matthias | _____ 4. Trophimus |
| _____ 2. Reba | _____ 5. Philetus |
| _____ 3. Og | |

- A. Chosen as an apostle (Acts 1:15-26)
- B. A Midian king killed by the Israelites (Num. 31:8)
- C. King of Bashan, a giant (Deut. 3:11)
- D. A heretical teacher in Rome (2 Tim. 2:17-18)
- E. Accompanied Paul from Greece to Asia (Acts 20:4)

Quote of the Day

“If you have no will to change it, you have no right to criticize it.” ~Anonymous

Saturday

December 18

Faithful Prayer

*“Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.”
James 5:17-18*

Elijah was a man just like us. He was not perfect, but he prayed in faith and was persistent. His prayer turned his people back to God. Prayer power is greater than atomic power.

We should pray for the believer who strays from the truth. The Old Testament term for this is “backsliding”. This condition is dangerous because he may be disciplined by the Lord. (Hebrews 12). It is also dangerous because it may cause others in the church to wander. *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”
James 5:19-20.*

Who do you know today that is straying from truth? James 5:16 says, *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* Determine to pray for this fellow believer every day. ~OV

Morning: *Jonah*
Evening: *Revelation 9*

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ said, My soul doth _____ the Lord, and my spirit hath _____ in God my _____. For he hath regarded the low estate of his _____; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me _____.” Luke 1:46-48

Bible Quiz

Short Answer: Answer the following questions about the life of Esau.

1. What was the other name for Esau? (Gen. 36:1) _____
2. Was Esau the oldest or youngest son of Isaac? (Gen. 27:1) _____
3. At their father’s death, what did Jacob steal from Esau? (Gen. 27:32-40) _____
4. Esau’s parents were grieved when he married women of this people group? (Gen. 26:34-35) _____
5. After the deception and years of separation, how did Esau greet his brother Jacob? (Gen. 33:1-4) _____

Quote of the Day

“When a man who professes to be converted says that he goes into the world and into sin for pleasure? It is as if an angel went to hell for enjoyment.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Sunday

December 19

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

That's My Child

“For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 3-4

If you are a parent and you are reading this short devotional, can you think of a time when a teacher, a neighbour, a pastor, or another acquaintance approached you with some information about how your child had misbehaved, acted out, or simply did something inappropriate? How did that make you feel?

On the flip side of that situation, whether you are a parent or not, can you remember when the information shared to your parent by one of the afore mentioned people was about you? How did that make you feel?

A negative report to you about your child or to your parent about you, is always a let down. For those who receive this type of interaction on a consistent basis, no doubt the feeling of “Oh, great, what did he do this time,” comes over you.

Now pause for a minute and think of a situation in which the reported news was positive. (For some you might have to imagine that the news was positive.) How did or might your feelings change? Perhaps you thought, “That’s my kid.” Maybe it was “You talkin’ about my kid?” Regardless of the consistency of such news reports, any time positive news is reported about your child, a feeling of pride comes over you. For the Apostle John, he was excited to hear that his “children in the faith”

had a consistent lifestyle of walking in the truth. If you are a child of God, will you make it a habit today to walk in the truth? Not only will you make other Christians around you proud, but your Heavenly Father will be proud of you as well. Will today be the day that God can say, “That’s my child!” ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

“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.” Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Reflect on the following questions and answer truthfully.

1. What did you do last week that you knew made your heavenly Father proud?

2. What did you do last week that shamed Christ?

Quote of the Day

“Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes center in anything short of God and his will for us.”
~Billy Graham

Monday

December 20

As the Day Approaches . . .

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:25

Christ is coming! The day when He calls His children home in the rapture of the church is closer and closer every day. The second coming, where Jesus will come to rule and reign, will proceed after the rapture. Oh what a day that will be! 2 Timothy 3:1-7 paints a picture of what the world will be like in the end times, and that picture reflects society today.

Hebrews 10:25, the verse for today, says, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.”* This is referring to corporate worship. The author of Hebrews goes on to say, *“So much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* Some theologians believe that the “day approaching” was a day of destruction for the Jewish nation. Others believe that this is referring to the second coming. If you accept the latter interpretation, the verse is saying that as the second coming draws closer and closer believers are to worship together more and more.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in America today. Everyone is so busy, and attendance to Sunday School, Sunday evening, and Wednesday evening Bible studies has dwindled. Therefore, churches have cancelled services, sometimes only having one worship service a week. To find churches still meeting

Morning: *Micah 4-5*

Evening: *Revelation 11*

three to four times a week is becoming more and more rare.

As the day of Christ’s second coming draws closer, determine to make church attendance a priority. Matthew Henry said about corporate worship, “Communion of the saints is a great help and privilege, and a good means of steadiness and perseverance; hereby their hearts and hands are mutually strengthened.” ~*MFV*

Scripture Fill-In

“And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

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. Herod held a public meeting with the wise men to inquire about the location of Jesus. Mt. 2:7
- _____ 2. Herod was pleased with the response of the wise men. Mt. 2:16

Quote of the Day

“I have no hope beneath the canopy of Heaven, neither in time nor in eternity, save only in this belief—that Jesus Christ, in my place, bore both my punishment and sin.” ~*Charles Spurgeon*

Tuesday

December 21

Morning: *Micah 6-7*

Evening: *Revelation 12*

The Peace of God

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

Having the peace of God is an incredible thing. He knows the turmoils of the entire universe. From the gases spinning out of control in one corner, political unrest in the many countries, to the brokenness in your heart. Yet in the midst of it all, He is calm. Even when we are completely overwhelmed, He is peace. Never caught of guard, never late, and never worried; He is peace.

What is even greater than knowing all of this about God is that He offers such peace to us. We need only to receive it. We do not need to fully understand or perhaps even appreciate it at the time. Just lean on Him.

He will keep our hearts and minds with this peace. It is His promise. That does not mean that we will not have times of trial or disappointment, but because we know Who is in charge we can have peace. He will keep our minds that we may know that He is over all. He will keep our hearts that we can feel His very presence in our pain. ~DJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and _____ him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. What was the surname of the disciple Thomas? Jn. 11:16
A. Didymus
B. Darius
C. Matthew
D. Nibdon
2. Which of the following stones was NOT included in Aaron’s ornate breastplate? Ex. 28:1-20
A. Diamonds
B. Rubies
C. Onyx
D. Amethyst
3. What was the name of Felix’s wife? Acts 24:24
A. Drusilla
B. Jezebel
C. Dorcas
D. Martha
4. Where was the place of judgment in Jerusalem where Pilate passed judgment on Jesus? Jn. 19:13
A. Golgotha
B. Gabbatha
C. Calvary
D. Antioch
5. What was the name of Elisha’s who was smitten with leprosy? 2 Kings 5
A. Gehazi
B. Gershom
C. Eli
D. Galail

Quote of the Day

“Security is having the Word of God in your own language. Peace is having the Word of God in your own heart.” ~Corrie Ten Boom

Wednesday

December 22

Reason to Rejoice This Season

“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: but now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.” Ephesians 2:12-13

“But now” are simple, profound words. God seems to come through when things are the darkest. *Without Christ, no hope, without God in the world*, paints a bleak and desperate picture. And then those two words followed by the astounding proclamation that those who were far away are made near by Christ’s blood. He gave his life so that we would have Him and have hope, that we would not be left in a world without God. He came and lived a real, historical life. God humbled himself to his creation out of love.

This holiday season I urge you to rejoice in the fulfillment of the promise—the promise that gives meaning, definition, and life to our lives. Christ came as a baby and was killed as a man with the purpose to show God’s love and make the payment for our sin. To celebrate this un-aging truth we do not need to max out our credit cards, stress ourselves with activities, or decorating, and cooking. We need to contemplate, reflect, be silent and let the wonder wash over us anew. Where do we find the joy of our salvation again? That starts with the thought of Christ Jesus who broke the wall of partition and gave us who believe, access to God, right-

Morning: *Nahum*
Evening: *Revelation 13*

eousness we did not earn, and the promise of life eternal. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

“And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and _____ him in swaddling _____, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Unscramble: Unscramble the words to reveal the loved Christmas carol.

1. ojy ot eht orwdl :

2. o mceo lal ey aifhtluf :

3. ti aemc poun a dimghnit ealcr :

4. o olhy ignht:

5. thaw ilchd si siht:

Quote of the Day

“I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness that remains in him.”
~Charles Spurgeon

Thursday

December 23

Born of a Virgin

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:23

In my opinion there is no verse that captures the meaning of Christmas more than this one. It starts with the miracle of the virgin birth that allowed God’s seed to form a human Man. A Man Who would fulfill the demands of God’s righteous law, and die as our substitute, so that he could provide a way for us to get to Heaven.

What a magnificent idea for God to take on human form. For the Creator to become the creation. For the Son of God to leave the throne of God and spend his first night in a stable. For the spiritual light of the world to become a physical guide we can follow. For the invisible to become visible. For all the prophecies and promises to unfold in the little town of Bethlehem. For the Maker of the universe to become an embryo. For heavens greatest treasure to be entrusted to a teenage girl. For Jehovah God to sneak in the back door and to receive His first greeting from barn yard animals. For the long awaited declaration of the angels to be heard by simple shepherds. For all of mankind to wake up the next morning as if nothing had changed. What a wonderful plan God has chosen to reveal to us!

May we never cease to be amazed, and may we never stop proclaiming the truth to others.

Morning: *Habakkuk*

Evening: *Revelation 14*

Scripture Fill-In

“And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and _____ him in swaddling _____, and laid him in a _____; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following Scripture passages do NOT tell of Christ’s birth.
 - A. Luke 2
 - B. Matthew 1:18-24
 - C. Mark 2:18-28
 - D. Isaiah 9:1-7
2. Which of the following questions did Mary ask after the angel told her she would give birth to the Son of God. Lk. 1:26-35
 - A. How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?
 - B. What shall Joseph do unto me?
 - C. Shall I not be stoned when news of the child is heard?
 - D. Why have I been chosen and given such an honor?

Quote of the Day

“For what are the servants of the Lord but His minstrels who should raise the hearts of men and move them to spiritual joy.”

~Francis of Assisi

Friday

December 24

God with Us

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:23

My favorite part of this verse is the phrase, “God with us.” What an amazing thought to consider that God is with us in a physical sense. God came to walk among us, to identify with our experiences, to share our hurts, and to overcome where we have failed. He did come. He was one of us. At times He was tired, hungry, and weak. He went to church; He had birthday parties; He laughed with friends, rejoiced at weddings, and cried at funerals. He can completely understand us because He did more than create us; He became one of us.

He also is with us in a spiritual sense. It had been about four-hundred years since a prophet had penned a message from God. Roman soldiers occupied Jerusalem. The Pharisees had cloaked God’s grace with man-made rules. I am sure it would have been easy for the sincere Jewish person to ask where is God in all this? Today, war, unemployment, or sickness may drive some people to ask the same question. Two-thousand years ago God came to be with us, and today He is still that same Emmanuel. Soon He will come back, and we will be with Him physically and spiritually forever. ~DLW

Morning: Zephaniah
Evening: Revelation 15

Scripture Fill-In

“And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and _____ him in swaddling _____, and laid him in a _____; because there was no _____ for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Multiple Choice: Circle the correct answer.

- The line of Christ began with which of the following men? Mt. 1:1-2
A. Terah
B. Abraham
C. Isaac
D. Jacob
- Elisabeth was in what month of pregnancy with John when Mary came to tell her the good news? Lk. 1:1-56
A. First
B. Third
C. Sixth
D. Ninth
- How long did Mary stay with Elisabeth? Lk. 1:1-56
A. 2 weeks
B. 1 month
C. 3 months
D. 6 months
- What happened to Elisabeth when Mary arrived? Lk. 1:1-56
A. The baby leaped in her womb.
B. She was filled with the Holy Ghost.
C. She knew Mary would be the mother of Jesus.
D. All of the above

Quote of the Day

“When Christ was here upon earth, he distinguished himself, and made himself remarkable, by nothing so much as the instances of his humiliation.”
~Matthew Henry

Saturday

December 25

Morning: *Haggai*
Evening: *Revelation 16*

It's Christmas

The birth of Christ! That's what Christmas is all about. Can you recall the excitement of seeing a newborn infant? A newborn baby is so little, so soft, so tender, and so innocent. Don't you always find yourself examining the tiny fingers and seeing if the baby will grip one of yours? You note the baby's tiny lips, his startle reflex, and of course, the helpless cry. Think for a moment. What if you, today, could see the actual Christ Child on Christmas? How do you think you would feel to touch the tiny fingers of the promised Messiah?

There are only three verses in the Bible devoted to one lady who saw the actual Christ Child and knew Who He was. It was Anna, an elderly widow found in Luke 2:36-38. It seems that this unique lady was probably living in a small room of the temple similar to what might be a prophet's chamber. We are told she served God day and night with fastings and prayers. The fact that she saw Him was remarkable. It was a privilege and an honor to see the Light to the Gentiles and the Hope and Glory of Israel.

Mary and Joseph had brought Jesus to the temple to be presented. Simeon, a devout Christian, had just walked into the temple, being led by the Spirit of God. He had been promised by God to not see death until He had seen the Christ Child. Simeon had just glorified God and blessed the family when Anna walked in. Wow! The timing was perfect; it was not a coincidence. God chose to allow Anna to be in on this historical, prophesied moment. Why Anna? God only knows, but it seems she had given herself wholly and completely to the

Lord. She was dwelling in the house of God and was committed to prayer. Her past decisions had enabled her to be in the right place at the right time to see the face of the Messiah. What a wonderful example for us to ponder on Christmas Day! ~NBM

Scripture Fill-In

"And she brought forth her firstborn _____, and _____ him in swaddling _____, and laid him in a _____; because there was no _____ for them in the _____."
Luke 2:7

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: Read the Christmas story in Luke 1-2. Spend some time in prayer to your Savior. Use the spaces provided to write your thoughts on your quiet time with God.

"His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace ~Isaiah 9:6

selor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace ~Isaiah 9:6

Sunday

December 26

The Pride of King Xerxes

“In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and four-score days.” Esther 1:3-4

Pride lures us into living independently of God. The proud person depends on himself or herself rather than on God. This causes God’s guiding influences to leave his or her life. When God’s presence is welcomed, there is no room for pride, because He makes us aware of our true self. Pride undermines our faith (Mark 6:4-6). Jesus could have done greater miracles in Nazareth, but He chose not to because of the people’s pride. Pride distorts our view of ourselves and others (Eph. 2:14). Spiritual pride blinds us to our own faults and magnifies the faults of others.

In our Scripture for today, King Xerxes turned to drinking. Drinking is only a way of a temporary escape (Prov. 23:29-30). The Bible is very clear on the effects of alcohol. (Prov. 20:1; 4:17) Not only was he drinking in excess, but he also listened to the negative influence of his friends.

Our influence on others will be judged by God. How are you doing in this area? Pride can lead to many other sins. How is your heart today? ~AP

Morning: Zechariah 1-3

Evening: Revelation 17

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

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 2 Kings 5:9-14.

- ____ 1. At first, Namaan refused to wash in the Jordan River for healing.
- ____ 2. An angel talked prideful Namaan into washing in the Jordan.
- ____ 3. Namaan was completely healed of leprosy after dipping seven times in the Jordan.

Quote of the Day

“The labor of self-love is a heavy one indeed. Think for yourself whether much of your sorrow has not arisen from someone speaking slightly of you. As long as you set yourself up as a little god to which you must be loyal, there will be those who delight to offer affront to your idol. How then can you hope to have inward peace? The heart’s fierce effort to protect itself from every slight, to shield its touchy honor from the bad opinion of friend and enemy, will never let the mind have rest.”
~A. W. Tozer

Monday
December 27

Morning: Zechariah 4-6
Evening: Revelation 18

There Is No Other Gospel

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” Galatians 1:6-7

There are many false religious groups today perverting the Gospel of Christ. Paul gives us strict teaching about the Gospel which is true today. There is only one Gospel. Jesus Christ came to seek and to save all that is lost... God sent Him (John 3:16).

The message of salvation is clear (Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-10; 10:13). You can never lose your salvation (1 John 5:9-13; John 10:27-29). Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-5).

Stand firm in your belief and do not allow false religious teachers to tell you otherwise. If you keep your eyes on Him that called you into the grace of Christ, your faith cannot be perverted. Exercising your faith by Scripture memorization will help you stay strong.

How can so many be deceived into believing there is more than one gospel? What can you do to help others anchor their faith? ~OV

Bible Quiz

Matching: Match the Biblical character with his/her description.

- ___ 1. Phinehas
- ___ 2. Julia
- ___ 3. Hilkiah
- ___ 4. Shaphan
- ___ 5. Silas
- ___ 6. Dumah
- ___ 7. Dorcas

- A. A Christian woman in Rome, saluted by Paul (Rom. 16:15)
- B. Grandson of Aaron (Ex. 6:25)
- C. A high priest (2 Ki. 22)
- D. A scribe of King Josiah (2 Ki. 22)
- E. Raised from the dead (Acts 9:36-42)
- F. Imprisoned with Paul in Philippi (Acts 16:19-40)
- G. A son of Ishmael (Gen. 25:13-14)

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ 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

Quote of the Day

“Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except Heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness.” *Anonymous*

Tuesday
December 28

Morning: Zechariah 7-9

Evening: Revelation 19

How's Your Report?

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."
3 John 9-10

How do you want to be remembered? If someone was writing a book today and had to include your name and information about your life, what would they write about you? What someone will say at your funeral is probably not a good measure of who you truly are. Most funeral messages highlight the best parts of someone's life. When someone is lying in a casket at the front of a funeral parlour, most people can figure out something nice to say. If the true you were going to be recorded and those who outlive you and are born after your death would read the report of your actions, what would that report say?

In Third John, the Apostle John writes a rather blunt and shocking report of a man named Diotrephes. John reports that Diotrephes was "ambitious, proud, disrespectful, inhospitable, and rebellious." This is not exactly the report that most people would like others to remember about them. Unfortunately for Diotrephes, his report is recorded in the Bible; a Book that God said would never pass away. For all of time he will be remembered as an ungodly man. How will you be remembered? If

your current actions have not been what you would like others to remember about you when you are gone, what will you do today to change the outcome of tomorrow? ~PO

Scripture Fill-In

"And _____ there was with the angel a _____ 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

Fill in the Blank: Complete the following Scripture passages.

1. **Proverbs 3:34-35** – "Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth _____ unto the lowly. The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of _____."
2. **Philippians 2:3-4** – "Let nothing be done through strife or _____; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

Quote of the Day

"Unless our belief in God causes us to help our fellowman, our faith stands condemned. Our love for God is best proved by our regard for the needs of our neighbors." ~Billy Graham

Wednesday

December 29

Morning: Zechariah 10-12
Evening: Revelation 20

Divine Appointments

*“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”
Philippians 2:13*

Yesterday, in church, I heard a beautiful story of a rather bitter man who had been convicted about his lack of witnessing. So much so, that the simple song, “Lord Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart,” made him scowl at the worship leader for three weeks straight. When the worship leader confronted him, he said that he did not like to be reminded every week about his lack of witnessing. The next week, after the confrontation, the man was traveling on the Pennsylvania turnpike. His car broke down, and he was stuck at a service station. He saw a man in the station, and he felt that he needed to speak to the man about the Lord. Obeying the Holy Spirit’s lead, he approached the man and said something to the affect, “I think that you need to talk about the Lord.” The man said that actually he did want to talk about the Lord, and in the service station he prayed to get saved. At 2:00 A.M., the worship leader got a call from the man in his church who said, “I wanted you to be the first to know that I led a man to the Lord tonight.” AMEN!

God has divine appointments for each of us, times when He wants us to act on His leading and prompting. Esther was in the right place at the right time to save the Jewish nation. Noah obeyed God in building an ark in order to save the future of mankind. Joseph went through trial after trial to get him to the position of sav-

ing Egypt and the surrounding lands from famine.

Today, look for divine appointments. Maybe it is a conversation over lunch with a fellow worker; maybe it is an elderly lady who needs her driveway shoveled; maybe it is a phone call from a loved one. Look for the opportunities that God puts in your path, and let Him lead you to do His good will. ~MFV

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ there was with the angel a _____ 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

Completion: Complete the following verse.

John 4:34—“(1)_____ saith unto them, My meat is to do the (2) _____ of him that sent me, and to (3)_____ his (4)_____.”

Quote of the Day

“Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may on bravely do my part
To win that soul for Thee.”

~Ira D. Sankey & Leon Tucker

Thursday

December 30

Think on These Things

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Our mind can be easily swayed by temptation if left unchecked. So what is the follower of Christ to do? Paul gives some instruction here in this verse.

He tells us to think on what is true. Truth dispels all of Satan’s lies. When we are focused on the truth of God and His Word, we see things the way they really are. As we are honest with ourselves and then take an honest look at things from God’s point of view, we can be better equipped to protect our hearts.

Paul gave further guidance to think on things that are just and pure. Justice and purity are both pictures of God. Because He is completely pure, we can know that His decisions are just. As we think in a way that mirrors our Saviour, we will have pure thoughts that lead to behaviour that is just.

Things that are lovely and of a good report do not contain gossip or malicious conversation. Rather than tearing down, we should seek virtue and encourage ourselves and others to find ways to show the world Christ and strengthen the saints.

This passage ends with the directive to think on things that have praise. Praise rightfully be-

Morning: Zechariah 13-14

Evening: Revelation 21

longs only to Jesus Christ. If we spend our time thinking on Him, His praise, and ways to bring Him praise, we will be able to have His peace, know His strength, and bless His name. ~DJJ

Scripture Fill-In

“And _____ there was with the angel a _____ of the _____ host praising God, and saying, _____ 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. Refer to Judges 4.

- ____ 1. Deborah was a prophetess who lived on Mount Ephraim.
- ____ 2. The children of Israel would come up to her for judgment.
- ____ 3. Deborah went with Barak to fight Sisera.

Quote of the Day

“Emmanuel. God with us. He who resided in Heaven, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. He breathed our air, felt our pain, knew our sorrows, and died for our sins. He didn’t come to frighten us, but to show us the way to warmth and safety.” ~Charles Swindoll

Friday

December 31

Joseph

“Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.”
Genesis 45:5

When I contemplate the years of suffering Joseph endured at the hands of his brothers, it is hard to imagine how he could make the previous statement. He is comforting them about selling him into slavery. If my brothers had done that to me, I would want them to reap yucky emotions as a result. Joseph is turning the situation around and at the same time uplifting the sovereignty of God.

We don't have a record of Joseph's thoughts during the years of slavery and imprisonment. I wonder if he sat and let bitterness build as he contemplated how he would revenge himself on his brothers. I wonder if he thought of ways he would make their lives miserable if he could. Did God then bring a change to his heart as he surrendered his rights to hatred, bitterness, and revenge? If anyone deserved to be bitter, it would be Joseph. I struggle with resentment towards people who harm me without malicious intention! Therefore, I am thankful for his example. We see the powerful, cleansing grace of God at work in Joseph's heart. Those years taught him what a faithful, unchanging and just God he had. He did not allow the actions of others to destroy his life. That is what happens when we let bitterness take root. It destroys us, not the other person.

If you have even a hint of bitterness in you, *as justified as it may be*, take it to Jesus today;

Morning: Malachi
Evening: Revelation 22

ask for his grace and start down the road to freedom as you recognize God's sovereignty in all of life. It will not be easy, but it will be worth it. ~AJD

Scripture Fill-In

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

Bible Quiz

Thought Reflection: In the spaces provided, write some spiritual goals for your life for the new year.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Quote of the Day

“Shut out every other consideration and keep yourself before God for this one thing only—My Utmost for His Highest. I am determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and Him alone.”
~Oswald Chambers

Praying with Thanksgiving and Praise

By Monica Faith Vernot

Philippians 4:6 says, *“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”* Giving thanks to God should be a daily practice. Paul says in his letter to the church of Philippi that every prayer should be accompanied with thanksgiving. God is worthy of our praise, and He desires our praise and adoration. I would like to focus on a gift, a character quality, and an ability of God that His children should acknowledge and praise.

First, God **GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON**. This gift should be at the top of the thank-you list. Without this special gift, mankind would be forever doomed to eternal hell, but God sent His only Son to take the penalty of sin and give to mankind the gift of salvation. *“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

“Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” (Psalm 106:1) The American Tract Society Dictionary explains **MERCY** as, “The divine goodness exercised towards the wretched and the guilty, in harmony with truth and justice.” This character quality of our Lord is incredible. The idea that a perfect Saviour is merciful to wicked mankind is inconceivable. Plus, the psalmist says in Psalm 106 that His mercy endures forever; it does not cease.

God is **OMNIPOTENT**, meaning “all powerful.” He makes the decisions. In fact, Proverbs 21:1 says, *“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”* Our highest form of rule on earth is under the sovereign

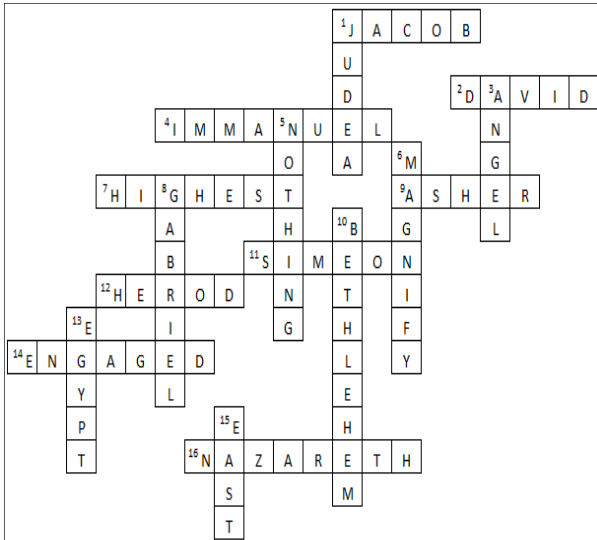
hand of the Lord, and someday every knee will bow to Him. *“We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”* (Revelation 11:17)

The gifts, character qualities, and abilities of God are innumerable. There is certainly plenty in which to give thanks. His gift of salvation, His character of mercy, and His all-powerful ability is just skimming the surface. Starting your prayers with praise, adoration, and thanksgiving is a great way to begin talking to the Lord. *“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”* (Matthew 6:9) In Jesus' example prayer, He began with praise. He said, “Hallowed be thy name.” Some other words that describe hallowed are the following: sacred, holy, blessed, sanctified, and consecrated. John Wesley says about the Lord's prayer, “He who best knew what we ought to pray for, and how we ought to pray, what matter of desire, what manner of address would most please himself, would best become us, has here dictated to us a most perfect and universal form of prayer.” God is pleased when we praise Him!

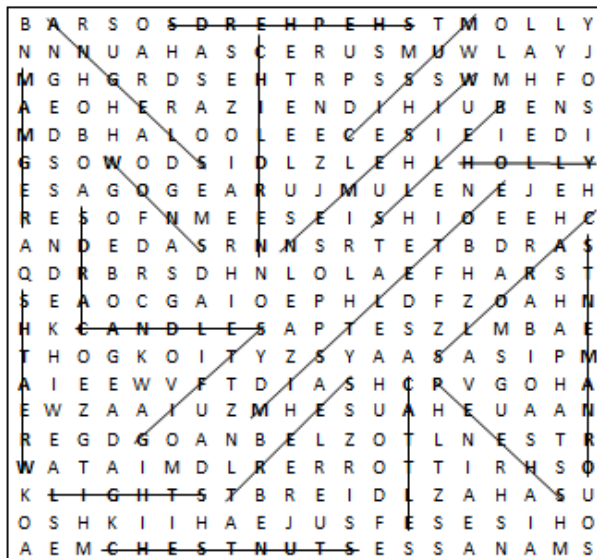
Make praise and thanksgiving a vital part of your prayer life. Start a list of the gifts, qualities, and abilities of God in which you are thankful. Then, use the list as you pray to your Heavenly Father. Another way to begin adding praise and thanksgiving to your prayer life is by reflecting on the character traits of God by going through the alphabet. (ie. A – Almighty, B – Believable, C – Caring) Whatever your method, sing the praises of our Saviour as you talk with Him on a daily basis.

Answers

Cross-Word Puzzle



Word Search



Have a blessed Christmas!

Bible Quizzes

- Dec. 1 Pg. 2 1. A 2. A
 Dec. 2 Pg. 3 1. Agrippa 2. Balaam 3. Eli 4. Jesus
 Dec. 3 Pg. 4 1. B 2. C 3. E 4. A 5. D
 Dec. 4 Pg. 5 1. Jonathan 2. Aquila 3. Zophar 4. Saul 5. Martha
 Dec. 5 Pg. 6 1. Fourth 2. First
 Dec. 6 Pg. 7 1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. F
 Dec. 7 Pg. 9 1. Zechariah 2. Jethro 3. Jesus
 Dec. 8 Pg. 10 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. E 5. D 6. G 7. H 8. F
 Dec. 9 Pg. 11 1. A 2. A
 Dec. 10 Pg. 12 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 11 Pg. 13 1. D 2. A 3. B
 Dec. 12 Pg. 14 1. Soul 2. Magnify 3. Saviour 4. Low 5. Blessed 6. Great 7. Fear 8. Strength 9. Hungry 10. Seed
 Dec. 13 Pg. 16 1. T 2. T 3. F
 Dec. 14 Pg. 17 1. Labor, ministered 2. Live
 Dec. 15 Pf. 18 1. Passover 2. Three days 3. His Father's business
 Dec. 16 Pg. 19 1. C 2. B
 Dec. 17 Pg. 20 1. A 2. B 3. C 4. E 5. D
 Dec. 18 Pg. 21 1. Edom 2. Oldest 3. His blessing 4. The Hittites 5. He ran to him, and he kissed and hugged him and wept.
 Dec. 19 Pg. 22 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 20 Pg. 23 1. F 2. F
 Dec. 21 Pg. 24 1. A 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. A
 Dec. 22 Pg. 25 1. Joy to the World 2. O Come All Ye Faithful 3. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear 4. O Holy Night 5. What Child Is This?
 Dec. 23 Pg. 26 1. C 2. A
 Dec. 24 Pg. 27 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. D
 Dec. 25 Pg. 28 Answers will vary.
 Dec. 26 Pg. 29 1. T 2. F 3. T
 Dec. 27 Pg. 30 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. F 6. G 7. E
 Dec. 28 Pg. 31 1. Grace, fools 2. Vainglory
 Dec. 29 Pg. 32 1. Jesus 2. Will 3. Finish 4. Work
 Dec. 30 Pg. 33 1. T 2. T 3. T
 Dec. 31 Pg. 34 Answers will vary