

CLOSER TO CHRIST

ADVENT STUDY

INTRODUCTION

"Closer to Christ," is an advent devotional journal crafted to guide you through the profound themes of providence, presence, pain, person, and path as we immerse ourselves in the wonder of Christ this Christmas season. As we embark on this spiritual pilgrimage together, we should prepare our hearts to encounter the timeless story of God's divine plan unfolding through the birth of His Son.

May this devotional serve as a guide, leading you into a deeper, more meaningful connection with the profound mysteries of Christmas. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may our hearts be filled with awe, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose on this sacred journey to Bethlehem.

This book is a gift, so feel free to print and distribute this e-book freely!

OUTLINE

PROVIDENCE

Christs Birth Foretold

PRESENCE

Christs Birth Realized

PAIN

Christs Future Known

PERSON

Christs Glory Displayed

PATH

Christs Salvation Obtained

25 DAYS OF ADVENT

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival."

During this Advent, we will reflect on the anticipation of the Messiah's coming, looking back to the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem, and looking forward to His promised return.

Through daily reflections, prayers, and moments of contemplation, we will traverse the sacred landscape of Advent, immersing ourselves in the rich tapestry of biblical narratives and timeless truths. May this journal serve as a compass, guiding you through the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth, illuminating the profound significance of the Incarnation in our lives.



"In the season of Advent, we embrace the providence of Christ—a divine tapestry woven with threads of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we anticipate the birth of the Savior, we trust in the unwavering providential care that leads us through the quiet moments of waiting to the radiant dawn of Emmanuel, God with us."



THE PROVIDENCE OF ADVENT

As we delve into this devotional journal, we invite you to explore the profound providence of Advent—a season that spans the spectrum of human experience. From the quiet humility of the Bethlehem stable to the triumphant promises of a future redeemed, Advent is a tapestry woven with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Providence is the belief that God is actively involved in the affairs of the world, providing for and sustaining His creation. It encompasses the idea that God's wisdom and benevolence are at work, even in times of challenge or adversity. The "providence of Advent" refers to the divine care, guidance, and purpose behind the birth of Christ.

Together, let us embrace the providence of Advent—a divine journey that invites us to ponder the mysteries of faith, kindle the flame of hope, and prepare our hearts to welcome the Light of the World into the depths of our being.

Day 1 "A Star" - Numbers 24

Day 2 "A Stable" - Micah 5

Day 3 "A Sign" Isaiah 7

Day 4 "A Prophet" Deuteronomy 18

Day 5 "A Son" Isaiah 9

PROVIDENCE - DAY 1

A Star

Read: Numbers 24

Focus Verse:

“I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.”

(Numbers 24:17)

In the book of Numbers, we encounter a profound oracle that unveils a glimpse of divine foresight. Numbers 24:17 captures a moment when Balaam, a non-Israelite prophet, is inspired to speak a message beyond the immediate context of his interactions with the Israelites.

This verse serves as a mysterious and poetic proclamation, foreshadowing future events with captivating imagery, and the anticipation of a significant figure yet to come.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PROVIDENCE - DAY 2

A Stable

Read: Micah 5

Focus Verse:

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.”
(Micah 5:2)

The ancient prophecy of Micah echos through the corridors of time. Ripe with Messianic significance, we have a poetic portrait of Bethlehem, the seemingly small village among the clans of Judah, that was destined for a role far grander than meets the eye.

The prophet's words transcend the historical moment, pointing to a future ruler whose origins are before eternity itself.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PROVIDENCE - DAY 3

A Sign

Read: Isaiah 7

Focus Verse:

“All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).” (Isaiah 7:14)

"Immanuel" is a powerful affirmation of the Incarnation—the belief that God took on human form in Jesus. It underscores the profound Christian understanding that, in Jesus, God came to dwell among humanity. The name emphasizes the closeness of God to humanity, indicating that in Jesus, God is with us, sharing in our human experience, joys, sorrows, and struggles.

His birth is as much a sign, as His life and death are to our salvation.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PROVIDENCE - DAY 4

A Prophet

Read: Deuteronomy 18

Focus Verse:

"I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him." (Deuteronomy 18:18)

In Acts 3:22-23, the apostle Peter, speaking to the people after a miraculous healing, refers to this passage to emphasize the connection between Moses' prophecy and the ministry of Jesus.

"For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.'"

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PROVIDENCE - DAY 5

A Son

Read: Isaiah 9

Focus Verse:

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.” (Isaiah 9:6)

We must come before God with hearts full of gratitude and reverence, reflecting on the profound words of Isaiah 9:6. In the promise of a child, He bestowed upon us a Wonderful Counselor, a Mighty God, an Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.

We thank God for the gift of the Son, Jesus Christ, who embodies these eternal truths. May his presence guide our steps, and may we, in turn, reflect his love and light to those around us.

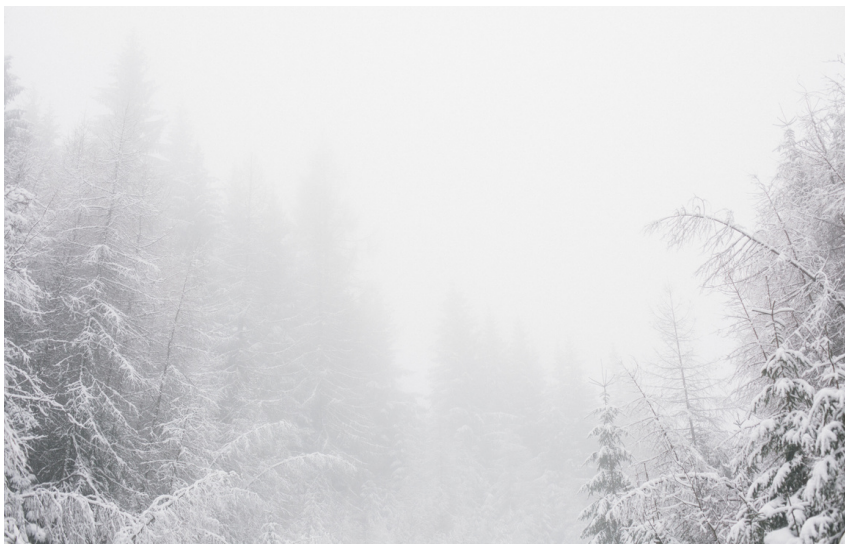
What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

"In the quiet anticipation of Advent, we unwrap the greatest gift—the tangible presence of God. The manger becomes our sacred treasure, reminding us that the most profound present is not found in boxes adorned with bows but in the gift of Emmanuel, the Divine Presence in our midst, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary, the darkness into light."



THE PRESENCE OF ADVENT

Central to Christian belief is the concept of the Incarnation of Christ. When He, being both fully God and fully human, became a humble, vulnerable and helpless infant. The Incarnation is more than just fulfilled prophecy or a historical moment, it is the very turning point of existence, and the most pivotal moment in our entire universe.

Jesus, was the “image of the invisible God” and the one with whom the “whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”. By his face, we can know God!

This is what creation waited for. God drew near to us, bridging the infinite gap between divinity and humanity

As we contemplate the miracle of Christ's birth, we humbly acknowledge the significance of His presence among us. May our hearts be stirred anew by the miracle of that holy night. In the midst of our bustling lives, help us carve out sacred moments to reflect on the profound truth that Christ entered into the fullness of our human experience, to become what no man could.

Day 1 “The Woman” - Genesis 3

Day 2 “The Fathers” - Genesis 12

Day 3 “The Scepter” Genesis 49

Day 4 “The Light” Isaiah 42

Day 5 “The King” Psalm 24

P R E S E N C E - D A Y 1

The Woman

Read: Genesis 3

Focus Verse: "And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

(Genesis 3:15)

Mary was chosen to carry and deliver the Savior of the world. She arguably knew His presence closer than any other. Like any loving mother, She would have cared for Jesus as an infant, child and young adult, wanting only the best for Him.

Mary knew He would give us victory over that ancient curse in the garden. Yet, she knew of the hostility He would face. She knew He would be loved and worshiped but also feared and hated.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P R E S E N C E - D A Y 2

The Fathers

Read: Genesis 12

Focus Verse:

“I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

(Genesis 12:3)

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is central to God's plan to bless all peoples. The Christ-child, born of the lineage of Abraham, becomes the embodiment of the divine promise, fulfilling the ancient declaration that through Abraham's offspring, all the families of the earth would be blessed.

With hearts attuned to the cosmic significance of Jesus Christ's birth and divine presence—reflect on how God's love and redemption now flow to every corner of humanity.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P R E S E N C E - D A Y 3

The Scepter

Read: Genesis 49

Focus Verse:

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." (Genesis 49:10 NASB)

The "scepter" is a symbol of royal authority and leadership. This prophecy of Jesus Christ, who is described as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" in the book of Revelation (Revelation 5:5), points to Him as the ultimate ruler, whose authority extends universally and eternally.

Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His presence is a reclamation of His throne.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P R E S E N C E - D A Y 4

The Light

Read: Isaiah 42

Focus Verse:

“I, the LORD, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations. You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.”
(Isaiah 42:6-7)

In the revelation of Christ, the Light, our hearts are stirred with hope. He is the covenant, the embodiment of your steadfast love, shining brightly for all to see.

In the profound darkness that may shroud our world, we look to Jesus. May His light shine not only in our hearts but also in the darkest corners of the earth, bringing healing, justice, and reconciliation.

May His presence be known to all.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P R E S E N C E - D A Y 5

The King

Read: Psalm 24

Focus Verse:

“Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The Lord Almighty—
he is the King of glory!

(Psalm 24: 8-10)

Matthew 2:2 (ESV) states: "Saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"

The act of worship by the Magi underscores their acknowledgment of Jesus as a king, worthy of adoration and honor. They bowed down in His glorious presence.

Who is he? He is the King of Glory.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

"In the hushed echoes of Advent, we contemplate the future pain Christ willingly embraced for our redemption. As we await the joyous celebration of His birth, let us also acknowledge the profound sacrifice embedded in the manger—a reminder that the cradle points not only to joy but to the cross, where love endured its deepest pain for our eternal gain."



THE PAIN OF ADVENT

Through the seasons of life, we all cross through different valleys of suffering, where the weight of pain and the sting of sorrow can feel overwhelming. During advent, it is good to reflect on the purposes of pain and suffering.

Jesus was born to be the Suffering Servant, and he was intimately acquainted with the depths of human anguish. He is the beacon of hope in the midst of pain and His earthly journey was marked by betrayal, rejection, and ultimately crucifixion. Jesus birth, life and death stand as a testament to the reality of suffering.

The hardship, brokenness, suffering, and pain that are universally experienced are in tension with the promise of future healing and restoration. In the light of Jesus's birth this advent season, we have hope. Our pain becomes a passage, and sorrow becomes a sacred space for God's comfort. Let us meet him in the tension of pain and promise.

Day 1 "Rejected" - Psalm 118
Day 2 "Hated" - John 15
Day 3 "Sorrowed" Isaiah 53
Day 4 "Separated" Psalm 22
Day 5 "Sacrificed" 1 Timothy 1

P A I N - D A Y I

Rejected

Read: Psalm 118

Focus Verse:

“The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.”

(Psalm 118:22)

While many accepted Jesus as the Messiah, not all did. Many rejected Jesus during His time of public ministry. Even today, many reject the Lord, and His gift of salvation.

Jesus is the rejected Messiah who, in His suffering and death, became the cornerstone of salvation.

This advent, we are not rejected because of His great love for us.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PAIN - DAY 2

Hated

Read: John 15

Focus Verse:

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first."

(John 15:18)

Jesus was hated, and yet still graciously forgave His enemies. We should desire the humility to forgive those who have wronged us, recognizing that forgiveness is not weakness but a testament to the resilience of love. In the spirit of Advent, we need to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

May our forgiveness be a beacon of Christs light, drawing others to His redemptive love.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PAIN - DAY 3

Sorrowed

Read: Isaiah 53

Focus Verse:

“He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down.”
(Isaiah 53:3-4)

Advent, with its warm glow and hopeful melodies, invites us to sit with the quieter notes of the nativity narrative. Picture the manger scene not only as a cradle for an innocent baby but also as the beginning of a journey marked by the weight of our sorrows. Jesus, from the very beginning, was acquainted with the grief woven into the human experience.

May embrace the deeper melodies of grace that resonate from the heart of the Man of Sorrows

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PAIN - DAY 4

Separated

Read: Psalm 22

Focus Verse:

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?”

(Psalm 22:1)

Amidst the joyous anticipation of His birth, there lies a shadow—the foretelling of a separation that would pierce the cosmic tapestry. We glimpse into the heart-wrenching moment on the cross where Jesus, bearing the weight of our sins, cried out to God.

May we marvel at the unfathomable love that bridged the gap, reconciling humanity with God through the One who experienced both separation and union—Jesus, the Savior of the world.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PAIN - DAY 5

Sacrificed

Read: 1 Timothy 1

Focus Verse:

“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost.”
(1 Timothy 1:15)

Consider the depth of Christ's sacrifice. Reflect on the mercy extended to you, just as Paul marveled at the mercy he received. In the midst of the festive preparations, take a moment today to contemplate the significance of Christ's sacrifice—how His birth marked the beginning of a journey leading to the ultimate act of love on the cross.

May this be a time of profound gratitude, as we embrace the truth that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

"In the gentle whispers of Advent, we encounter the timeless mystery of the person of Christ—a symphony of divinity harmonizing with humanity. As we draw near to the manger, may our hearts be attuned to the profound melody of Emmanuel, God incarnate, inviting us into a sacred dance with the One who embodies love, hope, and everlasting joy."



THE PERSON OF ADVENT

Now we fix our gaze on the earthly glory of Jesus Christ. In the ordinary scenes of Bethlehem, the extraordinary unfolds as the glory of God is revealed on earth.

In the revelation of Jesus', we encounter a love that knows no bounds. His glory is the manifestation of God's love poured out for humanity.

He was more than Mary's Son. He is the Son of God. The prophesied Son of David. The only-begotten Son. He is the Shepherd-Servant of the world.

The glory of Christ is not just a display of dazzling brilliance but a revelation of God's character. In Hebrews 1:3 (ESV), it is expressed that Christ is "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature." Christ's glory reveals God's love, mercy, justice, and holiness in a way that is comprehensible to humanity.

Day 1 "Son of God" - Psalm 2
Day 2 "Son of David" - 2 Samuel 7
Day 3 "The Given Son" Isaiah 9
Day 4 "Shepherd" Isaiah 40
Day 5 "Servant" Isaiah 42

P E R S O N - D A Y I

Son of God

Read: Psalm 2

Focus Verse:

“The king proclaims the LORD’s decree: ‘The LORD said to me, “You are my son. To I have become your Father.”’” (Psalm 2:7)

In the embrace of Mary, a young and humble woman, the eternal and the temporal converged, revealing Jesus as both the Son of Mary and the Son of God. Heaven stooped low, and the eternal Word takes on the vulnerability of infancy.

In this sacred mingling of heaven and earth, we discover the profound truth that Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P E R S O N - D A Y 2

Son of David

Read: 2 Samuel 7

Focus Verse:

“Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.” (2 Samuel 7:16)

The child born in Bethlehem carries the royal lineage, a fulfillment of God's covenant with David, ensuring an eternal kingdom.

Consider the humble beginnings in a manger—a seemingly simple setting for the birth of a king. Yet, in that manger, the echoes of David's legacy and God's promise converge. Jesus, born into the lineage of David, brings forth a kingdom not bound by earthly limitations but established for eternity.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PERSON - DAY 3

The Given Son

Read: Isaiah 9

Focus Verse:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

In Jesus, the son who was given for us, we find the Wonderful Counselor—our source of wisdom and guidance in every season. He is the Mighty God, whose power transcends earthly limitations, bringing comfort and strength to weary souls. As the Everlasting Father, Jesus offers an unending, tender embrace to all who come to Him. And in a world yearning for peace, He stands as the Prince of Peace, bringing reconciliation and hope..

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P E R S O N - D A Y 4

Shepherd

Read: Isaiah 40

Focus Verse:

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.” (Isaiah 40:11)

Imagine the vastness of the wilderness in your life—the challenges, uncertainties, and the weariness that sometimes accompanies the journey. In the midst of this landscape, there stands Jesus, the Shepherd who tends, gathers, carries, and gently leads.

Consider the lambs in need of gathering—the moments of vulnerability and uncertainty in our lives. Jesus doesn't merely point the way; He gathers us close, carrying us in His embrace.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

PERSON - DAY 5

Servant

Read: Isaiah 42

Focus Verse:

“Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.” (Isaiah 42:1)

This passage that unveils the identity of Jesus as the Servant of All. In a world often driven by self-interest, Isaiah's portrayal of a humble servant challenges us to reflect on the nature of Christ.

Consider the attributes Isaiah uses to describe this Servant—gentleness, persistence, justice, and a tender care for the weak and broken.

May we ever be inspired by the selfless love of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

"Advent is a sacred journey, a pathway illuminated by the promises of old, paved with the anticipation of the present, and leading to the eternal embrace of the Savior. In the hallowed footsteps of hope, peace, joy, and love, we discover the radiant path of salvation, winding its way from the manger to the cross, inviting every heart to find redemption and restoration."



THE PATH TO ADVENT

As we embark on the last few days of our sacred journey to Advent, we traverse a path marked by the whispers of prophets, the echoes of angels, and the tender cries of a newborn Savior. In the stillness of this season, let us reflect on the path to salvation revealed in the Christ of Christmas.

This has been a path of hope, peace, joy, and love—and ultimately a path to salvation found in Christ. May the nativity story be more than a historical account; may it be a transformative expedition that leads us to encounter the Savior afresh, igniting a flame of gratitude for the salvation He brings.

Moreover, let us remember this good news which brings great joy to all nations needs to be brought into every corner of this world. His light must be thrust into the lingering darkness.

This is the rising dawn.

Day 1 “In Safety” - Isaiah 8
Day 2 “In The Spirit” - Isaiah 61
Day 3 “In Joy” Malachi 4
Day 4 “In Worship” Luke 1
Day 5 “For Good News” Luke 2

P A T H - D A Y 1

In Safety

Read: Isaiah 8

Focus Verse:

“He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that makes people stumble, a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.” (Isaiah 8:14)

Consider the cultural themes and current events that may stir fear and anxiety around us. In the safety of Jesus, we are called to a different path—one marked by trust, courage, and unwavering faith.

May we be intentional about walking in the way of our Savior, finding security in the truth of His promises.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P A T H - D A Y 2

In The Spirit

Read: Isaiah 61

Focus Verse:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.”

Isaiah 61:1)

Consider the broken areas in your life and the lives of those around you.

This Advent, may we echo the prayer of Isaiah, inviting the Spirit to anoint us afresh. As followers of Christ, we are called to continue the work of bringing good news, binding up the brokenhearted, and proclaiming liberty to those held captive.

This is not a work done by flesh, but only by the anointing of the Spirit.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P A T H - D A Y 3

In Joy

Read: Malachi 4

Focus Verse:

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.” (Malachi 4:2)

Our hearts need be drawn to the promise of joy proclaimed in Malachi 4:2. Our beacon of hope emerges—a promise that finds its fulfillment in the arrival of Jesus, the Radiant Dawn.

As we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth, let joy be the anthem that resounds in our hearts—a joy that springs from the assurance of healing, redemption, and the dawn of a new era ushered in by the birth of our Savior.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P A T H - D A Y 4

In Worship

Read: Luke 1

Focus Verse:

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” (Luke 1:31-33)

Jesus came not just to be born, but to reign. Consider how Mary responded to the angel—with humility, surrender, and a heart of worship. May we emulate her response.

Worship is not just a ritual; it is a heartfelt acknowledgment of the greatness of Jesus and the eternal nature of His reign.

May our worship be characterized by awe and reverence.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

P A T H - D A Y 5

For Good News

Read: Luke 2

Focus Verse:

“But the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all the people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born to in Bethlehem, the city of David!’”
(Luke 2:10-11)

Imagine the shepherds, tending their flocks by night, receiving the angelic proclamation. In the ordinary quietude of their surroundings, extraordinary news shattered the silence—the Savior had come.

May we also pause in the midst of life's ordinary moments to receive the extraordinary gift of Jesus, born to be the Savior of the World.

We must bring this good news and great joy to all people.

What truth about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit is in this passage?

What is my disbelief with this passage?

How does this verse change my heart of worship this advent season?

Write a prayer, reflecting on what you have read and meditated on:

A CHRISTMAS LITURGY

LEADER: WELCOME, DEAR FRIENDS, TO THIS SACRED TIME OF WORSHIP IN OUR HOME. AS WE GATHER IN THE WARMTH OF LOVE AND JOY, LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD AMONG US. IN THE GLOW OF THESE CANDLES, SYMBOLS OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE, WE USHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST. LET US LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE, REPRESENTING HOPE, AS WE ANTICIPATE THE ADVENT OF OUR SAVIOR.

[LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE]

LEADER: AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE NOW LIGHT THE CANDLES OF PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE.

[LIGHT THE REMAINING CANDLES]

LEADER: MAY THE RADIANCE OF THESE FLAMES REMIND US OF THE ETERNAL LIGHT THAT ENTERED OUR WORLD ON THAT HOLY NIGHT.

LEADER: LET US TURN OUR HEARTS TO THE TIMELESS WORDS OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, AS WE HEAR THE ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

[READ LUKE 2:1-20]

LEADER: LET US JOIN OUR VOICES IN A SONG OF WORSHIP, LIFTING PRAISES TO THE NEWBORN KING.

SILENT NIGHT

LEADER: LET US BOW OUR HEADS IN PRAYER, OFFERING GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

[LEAD IN A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION]

LEADER: AS WE CONCLUDE THIS TIME OF WORSHIP IN OUR HOME, MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST FILL EVERY CORNER, AND MAY THE JOY OF HIS BIRTH RESONATE IN OUR HEARTS. GO FORTH WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT EMMANUEL—GOD WITH US—CONTINUES TO DWELL AMONG US.

ALL: AMEN.



JESUS IS COME!

SHARE THIS GOOD
NEWS AND GREAT JOY!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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