

# Christmas



from

## COVER TO COVER

An Advent Devotional

The story of Christmas does not begin with Mary and Joseph in Israel and it does not end a few chapters later when Jesus begins his public ministry. Christmas - the coming of a promised Savior into the world - is a story littered throughout the Bible with implications that extend even to us today. The story of Christmas stretches from Genesis to Revelation; from cover to cover.

In this 25-day devotional, you'll discover the Christmas story from one end of the Bible to the other.

## Christmas Promised

To fully understand the meaning of Christmas, we must begin the story long before Mary is even pregnant. Before we ever get to the pages of the New Testament, the people of God are waiting and anticipating a Savior promised by God.

### December 1

“I will put 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 (CSB)

The story of Christmas truly begins on the first few pages of the Bible. God has created the heavens and the earth and all that is within it. The land, the sea, the animals, and the birds are all part of God’s good creation that showcase his power and glory. On the sixth and final day of creation, God uniquely makes mankind after his own likeness and image. For a brief time, there is a perfect, whole, and happy relationship between God and his people. But trouble comes quickly when Adam and Eve listen to the lies of the devil and rebel against God’s good commands. A chasm now exists between a holy God and an unrighteous people. How will this relationship ever be restored? God explains His plan in Genesis 3:15. Speaking to Satan He says, “One day, there will be a son born that crushes your head, even if you manage to strike his foot on the way down.” That son is Jesus! This is the first mention of Christmas in the Bible. Satan may think that he has won the battle, but he will ultimately be defeated. Jesus is coming to destroy the power of Satan and restore the relationship between God and his people. As quickly as the problem arises, God makes a way.

**Reflection Question:** How does this passage help shape your view of the significance of Christmas?



## December 2

“The scepter will not depart from Judah  
or the staff from between his feet  
until he whose right it is comes  
and the obedience of the peoples belongs to him.” Genesis 49:10 (CSB)

As an old man lies on his deathbed, he calls his sons together one final time. Jacob, the father of the new nation of Israel, blesses each of them. It is here in Jacob’s words to Judah that Christmas shows up. He tells his son that one of his descendants will be a king. But this will be no ordinary king. He won’t just rule a country or a region. All people will bow the knee to this king. All nations will obey this king. This king will be none other than King Jesus himself. Israel thinks that Jesus is coming to establish and restore a political nation, but Jesus comes with all authority to bring salvation to all people. Christmas doesn’t come for one nationality, culture, or language. The good news of Christmas is that a just and righteous King is coming into the world to set up a Kingdom that is not of this world, and it is for all nations, cultures, and languages. Don’t be fooled. Jesus will come as an insignificant baby in a tiny town in a small country. But He will reign as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and His salvation will be for the ends of the earth. This is the promise of Christmas in the Old Testament.

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think such a powerful King was born in such an insignificant way?



## December 3

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.” Deuteronomy 18:18 (CSB)

Moses was a hero in Israel. When the people were slaves in Egypt, God chose Moses to confront Pharaoh, lead the Israelites out of Egypt, and rule over them in the wilderness. But Moses couldn’t live forever. The book of Deuteronomy serves as a final sermon given to the people of Israel before his death and their entrance into the Promised Land. He tells them that God has promised to send a new prophet, just like Moses was. This new prophet will be another hero in Israel who leads the people back to God. But thousands of years later, Israel is under the authority of Rome, waiting to be delivered again. On that first Christmas in Bethlehem, God sent the new prophet just like Moses. Jesus came to defeat the evil powers

that ruled over us. Jesus came to lead us out of slavery and bondage to sin and into the Promised Land of everlasting life and freedom. Jesus came to restore our relationship with the Father. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and he shows up as a new and better Moses on Christmas morning.

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think some of Moses' final words were the promise of Jesus?



## December 4

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 (CSB)

Long before the angel ever visited Mary, Isaiah prophesied of a baby who would be born from a virgin. At first glance, this seems like a strange detail in the Christmas narrative. Did Jesus have to be born from a virgin? The answer is emphatically, “Yes!” The prophecy and fulfillment of the virgin birth matters because it reveals in part who this Jesus will be. On Christmas morning, Mary holds in her hands the God of the heavens wrapped in human flesh. The name “Immanuel,” we find out in Matthew 1:23, means “God with us.” And that is precisely who Jesus is. He is not just an important religious figure or prophet. No, He is the glorious and magnificent God who is dwelling with man. Sin is infectious, and our sinful nature is inherited from one generation to another. Thus, Jesus could not come to us in an ordinary way. God used supernatural means to send His Son into the world. In doing so he avoided the stain of sin. This will give Jesus the ability to live the perfect and holy life on our behalf, so that whoever calls on the name of Jesus can trade their filthy rags for his righteous deeds. That first Christmas, the God-man Jesus Christ is born of the virgin Mary.

**Reflection question:** Do you think it matters that Jesus was born of a virgin? Why or why not?



## December 5

“For a child will be born for us,  
a son will be given to us,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 (CSB)

God has given us a gift. This Christmas present is not wrapped under a tree but swaddled in a cloth. God, in His absolute grace towards us, has freely given His Son. This child we celebrate is given “for us,” as Isaiah says, and will take His rightful place over all the governments of the earth. Israel watched as their own kings failed them and as other nations took them captive. But this new leader would not be another disappointment. Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor. He exudes wisdom and discernment as a leader worth trusting and following. Jesus is the Mighty God. He is God in the very flesh, a powerful sovereign Lord though cloaked in humility. He is the Eternal Father. He protects and cares for those under His rule. He is the Prince of Peace. One day the nations will no longer struggle and contend against one another, for they will all be brought into harmony under the rule of Christ. This is the gift of Christmas. Jesus has come to set up a new kingdom on earth, and He reigns as a just, mighty, and wonderful God-King. Surely there is no one else to give our allegiance to.

**Reflection Question:** Which characteristic of Jesus in this passage sticks out to you the most? Why?



## December 6

“Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
you are small among the clans of Judah;  
one will come from you  
to be ruler over Israel for me.  
His origin is from antiquity,  
from ancient times.” Micah 5:2 (CSB)

Jesus didn’t come into the world with grandeur. He wasn’t born into riches or prestige. For most people in Israel during that time, Jesus’ birth was insignificant and unnoticed. The world wasn’t celebrating His arrival like it does today. All along it was God’s intentional choosing for Jesus to identify with the weak, poor, and insignificant. Bethlehem was not a famous or impressive city, which is what made it a perfect setting for the birth of Jesus Christ. God chose a little, irrelevant town so that no one would think that God identifies himself with the rich and

powerful. Isaiah may have prophesied of Jesus' power and authority, but Micah prophesizes of His meekness. The paradox of the Kingdom of God is that strength is found in weakness, riches are found in poverty, and wisdom is found in the foolishness of the gospel. There is good news for those who recognize their shortcomings, failures, and flaws. Israel was waiting for a mighty political savior, but what they found was humble and plain. Jesus identifies with our weakness and uses it as a frame to showcase His glory. Christmas is hope for those who are weak and weary and need a Savior.

**Reflection:** How can pride and power get in the way of our relationship with God?



## December 7

“The true light that gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” John 1:9 (CSB)

In the beginning, God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. With the word of his power, God illuminates the darkness. John uses the story of creation to tell us about the coming of Jesus. In the same way that God spoke a bright light into existence, God was sending another light into the darkness. Jesus is coming as the light of the world to illuminate our hearts. Like a candle at night, He is going to reveal all that is in the darkness and then bring His people into the light. This is good news for a people in darkness. Sin and corruption are reigning. People are rejecting God and worshiping other idols. Many refuse the wisdom of the Lord and follow their own ways blindly. But the true light will come into the world and expose their evil, wicked and selfish hearts. Jesus will shine His light into the world so that many can see their sin exposed in the light and follow Jesus back to the Father. Then one dark Christmas night, the light was born. Jesus had come.

**Reflection Question:** What do you think it means to live in the light? (1 John 1:7)

## Christmas Comes

He is here! The one whom God promised has finally come! The Messiah has been sent to take away the sins of the world, defeat Satan, and restore the relationship between God and His people. Years of longing have finally ceased and Jesus has come as God in the flesh.

### December 8

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 (CSB)

The tabernacle (and then later the temple) was the place for a sinful humanity to interact with a holy God. This is where the Lord met His people, accepted sacrifices, and abided with Israel. The intensity of the glory of God was shielded by a thick veil. But Israel remembered the days before Adam’s sin when God and man walked together in harmony. They knew that their sin kept them from the Father. That was, until Christmas morning. God dwelt in a new temple made of flesh! The glory of the mighty God was contained in the fragile baby Jesus! God’s promise has been fulfilled! Jesus comes to us full of grace and truth to lead us back to the Father, and God has initiated it all. Let the whole earth rejoice that Jesus has come.

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think it’s important that God initiates salvation?



### December 9

“Then the angel told her: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus...“I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary. “May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:30-31:38 (CSB)

The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary was surely unexpected. Of course, no one really expects to encounter an angel. But even more than that, she was probably just a teenager. She wasn't from a prominent family and there seems to be nothing that distinguishes her as significant. So why then would the Lord of the Heavens choose this woman of obscurity to bear the Son of God? The answer is simple: she believed God. Even if the world saw nothing substantial in Mary, God had found favor with her. She was consumed with a godly faith that persevered in the midst of confusion and fear. Mary was so convinced of the promises of God that she could say as a virgin about to give birth, "I am the Lord's servant...may it be done according to your word." Nine months later, Christmas came right on time and the promises she believed were fulfilled.

**Reflection Question:** Why is it difficult to trust God when our circumstances seem difficult?



## December 10

"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins...when Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him..." Matthew 1:20-21, 24

The Messiah wasn't supposed to come like this. Joseph was proud to be in the lineage of King David. He knew that another great king was coming from his family line, but he wasn't supposed to come like this! Joseph didn't think that his fiancée would become pregnant before their wedding and that he would raise the son. Even more so, he didn't think that this controversial pregnancy would be the long awaited promised one that his family and nation were waiting for. The new King of Israel was about to be born in poverty to an unmarried couple! Could this be right? Despite his doubts, Joseph believed the angel sent by God and devoted himself to obedience. Instead of running from a hard situation that wasn't in his plans, he trusted God and his promises. Joseph held his baby Jesus that Christmas morning and knew that God's wisdom was greater than his own. After all, this baby would save them from their sin.

**Reflection Question:** How can we respond to God in the midst of confusing or hard times?





## December 11

“Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11-12 (CSB)

The shepherds were tending to their flocks when the night sky broke open and angels surrounded them in the glory of the Lord and singing praises to God. The angels had come to announce good news of great joy: that a Savior had been born in the city and that His salvation would be for all the people. The shepherds responded in the same way that the angels did. They worshipped. The shepherds rushed out of the fields and into town to find Mary and Joseph holding their Lord. They were not deterred by the smelly stable or the manger in which he lay. There was no mistake. Jesus was the Messiah born to save them from their sin. The wait was over. After their visit, “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told.”

**Reflection Question:** Why do you think the shepherds immediately responded in worship instead of doubt or confusion?



## December 12

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1-2 (CSB)

The coming of Jesus was a monumental event. Although most of the commotion took place in a small Jewish town, God was already at work among the nations. Wise men came from a foreign land to give gifts and worship King Jesus. The hope of that first Christmas extended past the borders of Israel and as “far as the curse is found.” These outsiders recognized Jesus for who He truly is. They didn’t have to be Jewish to recognize that sin and death ruled every nation, but that Jesus had come to reign supreme. They didn’t have to live in Israel to realize that their wealth and power couldn’t buy the salvation of their souls. God was not concerned about the color of their skin but the position of their heart. The book of Revelation depicts a final scene of all tribes, languages, and nations worshipping Jesus Christ the Lord. These wise men were some of the first to join.

**Reflection Question:** What significance do the wise men bring to the Christmas story?



## December 13

“Then Herod, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men.” Matthew 2:16-17 (CSB)

The Gospels are filled with examples of people who responded rightly to the coming of Jesus. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and many others grasped the weight of that moment. But there was one individual who did not share their zeal. Herod was a Roman leader who received word that a new king was born in Bethlehem. Threatened by this new authority, he commanded the slaughter of every Jewish boy in the area under the age of two years old, but Jesus still escaped. This horrific atrocity was nothing more than a false assurance and it would not stop Jesus from fulfilling the promises of God. Herod should have gone with the wise men to lay his crown down at the feet of Jesus. Herod should have seen the hope and peace that Christmas brings. Herod should have recognized that his little regional authority could not compare to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Instead, he was blinded by a desire for his own glory and power. Christmas is only good news to those who recognize Jesus as He truly is.

**Reflection Question:** Are there sins in your life that keep you from appreciating the good news that Jesus brings?

## Christmas Accomplished

God sent Jesus with a mission. The purpose of Christmas was for Jesus to come as one who would save his people from their sins, defeat the works of the devil, and restore our relationship with the Father. Christmas is accomplished with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## December 14

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:17 (CSB)

Many people have a negative view of Christianity because they find it condemning. They don't want to follow a grumpy God who frowns at their lifestyle. But that is not why Jesus came into the world! If this common perception were true, then Christmas would be meaningless. If Jesus came into the world simply to condemn it, then there would be no hope for sinners like us. Thanks be to God that this is not true. Christmas is the coming of the Son of God into the world so that we might not be condemned! Jesus came to pull us out of our condemnation and give us new life in the gospel. Jesus came to save us from our sins when there was no other hope. Jesus died on the cross for our salvation and not our condemnation. All those who put their faith in Him are not condemned but are saved according to the kindness of the Father. Christmas was the proclamation of good news to those in need of a Savior.

**Reflection Question:** Do you normally view God as someone who saves or condemns? Why do you think that is?



## December 15

“When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5 (CSB)

Right in the middle of Paul's letter to the Galatians, we find his telling of the Christmas story. Here's how it goes. *The setting:* “When the time came to completion.” The waiting was over. The anticipation for this promised One had passed and God in His infinite wisdom was right on time. *The characters:* “God sent his Son, born of a woman...” Jesus came that Christmas morning as God in the flesh. This divinely strange combination made Jesus perfectly qualified for His mission on earth. *The plot:* “born under the law, to redeem those under the law...” There had never been anyone like Jesus born who had the power to set us free. We needed someone who was tempted like we were under the law, but who had successfully lived a perfect and righteous life. On the cross, God punished Jesus for our sins and transgressions of the law. When we receive God's grace through faith, we are credited with the perfect law keeping of Jesus. *The result:* “So that we might receive adoption as sons.” Now, for everyone

who receives the work of Jesus by faith can be reconciled to their heavenly Father. We are no longer enemies of God. We are God's beloved children. This is Christmas according to Paul.

**Reflection Question:** How would you tell the Christmas story in a few sentences? What details need to be included?



## December 16

“[Jesus], existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity” Philippians 2:6-7 (CSB)

Christmas is about the power and majesty of a coming king. Jesus is the rightful one to claim the throne and usher in a new kingdom from every tribe, tongue, and nation. But Christmas isn't just about God's power; it's also about humility, service, and love. Jesus gave up His position of glory and the worship of angels in heaven. He humbled himself to be born a man so that He could be a servant of mankind. Jesus was born of us so that he could die for us. He emptied himself of the riches and status that heaven offered and traded in his divine strength for human weakness. The salvation of sinners came at a great cost. Christmas was never something we deserved. It has always been a staggering display of God's love for us.

**Reflection Question:** Do you typically think of Christmas as showing God's power or humility?



## December 17

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:19-20 (CSB)

Jesus wasn't like the other religious leaders. Muhammed, Buddha, Socrates, and Confucius were never said to be divine like Jesus was. Jesus was God wrapped in flesh and displayed as an infant. This is what makes the Christmas story so compelling. The God who fashioned the expanses of the universe was contained in the little baby Jesus. The one who made the

animals was born next to them in a barn. “He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that He formed,” the famous church leader Augustine once wrote. Jesus, the Mighty God and Prince of Peace foretold in Isaiah 9, who came to bring reconciliation to the world by dying on a wooden cross. Christmas tells the story of the God who came down from heaven to bring people back to Him.

**Reflection Question:** Why is it good news that Jesus isn’t like other religious leaders?



## December 18

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people” Titus 2:11 (CSB)

How would you define the grace of God? Christians throughout history have usually explained it as unearned and undeserved favor of God. Though our lives have only ever earned us God’s wrath, we are radically offered eternal life instead. God’s grace is most clearly seen in the person of Jesus Christ. This grace first appears in the little town of Bethlehem, but it has plans to impact the world. God’s grace comes to Mary and Joseph in a manger, is seen by Israel and the shepherds, and its proclaimed to the wise men and the nations. God’s grace does not distinguish between race, ethnicity, or gender. Christmas comes as the grace of God extended to the furthest corners of the earth for all who believe.

**Reflection Question:** Who can you pray for, perhaps from a different culture, that needs to experience the grace of God this Christmas?



## December 19

“But we do see Jesus — made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God’s grace he might taste death for everyone — crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death.” Hebrews 2:9 (CSB)

“Jesus was made lower than the angels.” Reflect on that statement for a moment. The God who created the angels subjected himself to less honor than his own creation. Imagine a potter being seen as inferior to the vase he makes. Envision a painting receiving more merit than the

painter himself. How outrageous! Yet, this is the context of Christmas. Jesus Christ subjected himself lower than his own creation to be born in human flesh. This he did so that his very own creatures would find their way back to their Creator. Christmas is the passionate pursuit of a God after His people.

**Reflection Question:** How does the humility of Jesus empower you towards humility this Christmas season?



## December 20

“And the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth it might devour her child. She gave birth to a Son, a male who is going to rule all nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and to his throne.” Revelation 12:4-5 (CSB)

On some of the final pages of the Bible, Christmas appears one last time. This is the Christmas story told from the heavenly perspective. The onlooker in Bethlehem would have only seen a couple of poor teenagers and shepherds gathered around a baby in a food trough. But the war of eternity was waging all around them. Satan knew that the Messiah was coming into the world to free his people from his very own grip. God was sending His Son into enemy territory to finally crush the head of the serpent promised in Genesis 3. God had made his move and salvation was coming to all people. It was only a matter of time before Jesus would usher in a new kingdom, defeat death and Satan, and claim His throne over all the nations. Christmas morning was a display of God’s sure and mighty power.

**Reflection Question:** How do you think the heavens in angel viewed the Christmas story?

## Christmas Applied

After one has understood the meaning of Christmas and all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus, there can only be one reasonable response. We must join in worship.

### December 21

“See, the virgin will become pregnant  
and give birth to a son,  
*and they will name him Immanuel,*  
*which is translated “God is with us.”* Matthew 1:23 (CSB)

Jesus’ name literally means, “God is with us.” When Jesus preaches the gospel to thousands in the crowd, God is with them. When Jesus performed miracles for the sick and dying, God is with them. When Jesus calms a storm for His disciples, God is with them. The ministry of Jesus was God faithfully pursuing His people by dwelling among them. God did not leave His people alone in their sin and suffering. When He ought to have cast us away for our sin, He drew near. Christmastime helps us remember that we are not alone. God is still with us. We have hope in the midst of our sin and trials because we are not alone.

**Reflection Question:** What situation in your life do you need to apply the truth that “God is with you?”



### December 22

“But the angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people’” Luke 2:10 (CSB)

The angels describe Christmas as “good news of great joy for all the people.” Christmas is indeed *good news* because God has sent His Son for us. Many waited in hopelessness and despair. Generation after generation longed to see the Savior of Israel but died before He ever arrived. Christmas also brings *great joy*. The good news of this gospel message causes our hearts to rejoice and burst with praise. In this newborn King, the hopeless will find hope and the lost will be found. Finally, Christmas is *for all the people*. This good news of great joy was for the poor shepherds in Israel and the rich wisemen from faraway lands. It was for the Jewish families back then and it is for the Westerner today. This good news of great joy is for you and for me. Let us rejoice together.

**Reflection Question:** Which phrase (good news, great joy, for all people) do you need to be reminded of the most?



## December 23

“And Mary said:

My soul praises the greatness of the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,” Luke 1:46-47 (CSB)

This verse is the opening line of what is known as The Song of Mary. After she is visited by an angel and told the shocking news of her pregnancy, Mary breaks out in praise toward God. She could have reacted in fear, confusion, or anger, but instead she chose to respond in worship. Singing has always been an important part of the Christian life. In fact, the biggest book of the Bible is a song book! When our hearts are given over to the beauty, kindness, and majesty of God, our natural response is worship. Oftentimes, music is a wonderful vehicle for this worship. The Christmas tradition has long been steeped in moving and magnificent songs. These songs tell the story of the long-anticipated Savior from God in an emotional way. They stir our adoration for Jesus Christ our Lord. Christians love to sing God’s praises because it awakens our dull hearts to a love for God. Christian, sing a song today.

**Reflection Question:** In your opinion, what song captures the beauty of Christmas best?





## December 24

“For my eyes have seen your salvation.  
You have prepared it  
in the presence of all peoples —  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and glory to your people Israel.” Luke 2:30-32 (CSB)

Simeon was a devout and godly man in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus’ birth. He was old in years and had been waiting for the consolation and hope of Israel. Then, as he worshiped in the temple one day, Mary and Joseph walked into the courts holding the baby Jesus. The Messiah was here! Simeon lifted up his arms in praise to God, declaring that he had finally seen salvation. The wait was over. Jesus was born so that we, like Simeon, could cease from our waiting, hoping, and striving. We don’t have to live in anxiety or fear. God sent His Son as a surety for our salvation. The Lord’s promises for His people are always certain. God fulfilled His promise to Simeon, and He continues to fulfill His promises to us today. Christmas came as a demonstration of that certainty. Let’s rest in Him.

**Reflection Question:** How does Christmas give you hope of God’s promises?



## December 25

“Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:  
Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to people he favors!” Luke 2:13-14 (CSB)

Christmas is about God. It’s the story of God the Father sending His Son to be born as the God-man, Jesus Christ. The salvation of sinners is initiated by God and ultimately accomplished by the sacrifice of God. The people and events that surround Jesus’s birth are not impressive because they are displaying a God who is. Mary and Joseph were scared teenagers, Bethlehem was not a grand town, and Jesus was born in a lodging for animals. There is no mistaking: Christmas was accomplished by God and God alone. This Christmas morning, as we read the story of the birth of Jesus, let our response be: “Look what God has done!” Join the angels by declaring, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.” Merry Christmas.

**Reflection Question:** How can you glorify God this Christmas?

Thank you for participating in this year's Christmas Advent Devotional. We would love to hear how it went for you. If it has impacted your life, please share with us by emailing [info@guidelines.org](mailto:info@guidelines.org)

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