



JESUS IS

Christmas Advent Devotional

Jesus is often described as Savior, Lord, King, and God. But throughout Scripture, He is called so many other things. The apostle John writes in his gospel that if everything about Jesus was written down, “even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written” (John 21:25).

Jesus also has many roles in our lives personally as well. In this 25-day devotional, we’ll explore some of the different things that Jesus is to us, especially in context of the events of this year. We also have some special guest entries from our ministry partners who share more personally who Jesus has been and is, to them.

December 1

Jesus is Our Peace

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” - John 14:27

Jesus spoke these words to His followers knowing that they would face great difficulties and disappointments. He said that his peace was unlike the world's. To the world, peace is determined by circumstances. It is an absence of conflict or trouble. But the peace that Jesus brings changes us from within, no matter our circumstances. It is a peace that is rooted in who Jesus is and what He has done for us. He is our Prince of Peace.

In which areas of your life do you need to choose the peace that Jesus gives?



December 2

Jesus is Our Righteousness

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” - 2 Corinthians 5:21

Many people try to clean up their lives before coming to Jesus. They believe that Jesus expects perfection. But God knew that we were incapable of ever becoming good enough on our own. The Bible tells us that Jesus was perfect and had never sinned yet He took on sin so that we could be righteous. It is not something that we can earn or accomplish. All we can do is choose to believe and surrender to Him, as He transforms us from the inside out. He makes us righteous.

Have you ever felt powerless to change? Will you surrender your life to Jesus and allow His spirit to transform you?

December 3

Jesus is Our Coach Who Calls Us Forward

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” - Isaiah 40:29-31

Everyone is groaning with weariness. We have experienced collective fear, uncertainty, anxiety, and loneliness this year. Jesus can use these things to focus and renew His purpose for us. Less important life “fillers” are falling away. Embrace Jesus’ vision for this time in history and our place in it. As He calls us into His service, feel the wings on your feet. When you grow weary, and you will, look up and grasp what He is calling His children to, get up, and keep running.

Do you have your eyes on a prize that propels you to run?



December 4

Special Guest Entry: Jesus is My Rock and Fortress

“Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.” - Psalm 55:22

Jesus has been my rock and my fortress as I have faced many tough challenges this year. Only He could have given me peace of mind and hope.

My gratefulness to the Lord cannot be measured. Daily, it is He who has sustained me through many trials and difficulties. His Word has given me hope and wisdom to know that He will see me through every hardship I am experiencing until He calls me home. I have watched, with much heartache, loved ones physically suffering and my sense of

helplessness was overwhelming. When I would cry out to Him, this scripture would come to my mind over and over. I was reminded and encouraged by my husband and best friend, that I could trust God and put all these things in His very capable hands. I needed to remember to cast my cares on the Lord.

Is there anything that we experience, that God's love cannot sustain us?

Tracy Chafe

Outreach Coordinator, [Word Radio](#)



December 5

Jesus is the One Who Never Changes

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” - Hebrews 13:8

Now more than ever, it seems as though nothing is certain. Tomorrow is not guaranteed and circumstances are rapidly changing. But in an ever-changing world, we can have an unwavering confidence in our Savior. God's word promises us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. This means that we can trust Him with our regrets about our past, our needs for today, and our anxieties about the future.

Because Jesus is unchanging, how does that help us trust him with every part of our lives?



December 6

Jesus is Rest for Our Weary Hearts

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11:28-30

God did not design us to take care of ourselves. He is a loving Father who delights in providing for his children. He made a way for us when there was no other way. In this verse in Matthew, He invites us to rest. Our hearts can find true rest when we let go of the idea that we have to take care of everything. Only when we confess our need for a savior can we begin to experience true rest - no matter what life brings.

Are you weary from trying to do everything in your own power? How can you find rest in Jesus during this season of life?



December 7

Jesus is Our Healing

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” - Isaiah 53:5

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He was known for healing the sick, the blind and the lame. He was known for bringing in the outcasts and reforming the corrupt. With His death and resurrection He conquered sin, death, illness, addiction and any other thing that brings death and destruction. While we may face difficulties on this earth, we know that we can always turn to Jesus our Healer and trust that in His time and in His way we will be made whole through His resurrection power.

In what area of your physical, spiritual, or emotional health do you need the healing touch of Jesus?

December 8
Special Guest Entry:
Jesus is My Confidence and Hope

“And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.” - 1 John 2:28

2020 certainly has been an unprecedented year that has left people feeling unsettled, unnerved, and uncertain. Hopelessness has increased this year! Yet, in 1 John 2:28, the Apostle John has some encouraging words for the Christian that, when applied, put him/her in a position of confidence.

- What can we have? Much needed “confidence” for our daily living in a troubled world.
- Who can have this confidence? You and me, God’s “little children.”
- Where do we find confidence? In Christ. Five times in this short verse we are pointed to Christ (“Him/He/His”).
- How can we have it? By “abiding in Him,” not embracing the world’s viewpoint when trouble comes, but by staying close to His side, moment by moment.
- Why should we want it? Certainly, to be prepared for Christ’s expected appearing, as well as for our life in this world until then.
- And here’s the best part! When can we have it? Right “now!” In uncertain times.

1 John 2:28 has been my favorite Bible verse for 40 years. It offers confidence right now through abiding in Christ. It also gives bright hope knowing that Christ is coming back again! When I abide in Him, my focus moves away from situations and onto the Savior.

How will you view things in 2021? Will you see Christ through the filter of the world’s headlines, or will you see worldwide events through the filter of God’s word?

Mark Channon

General Manager, [Heartfelt Radio](http://HeartfeltRadio.com)

December 9

Jesus is Our Rescue from Death

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” - Romans 6:23

We deserve death. The best of our good deeds are not enough to save us from eternal damnation in hell. On our best days we are still prone to selfishness, fear, pride and many other sinful thoughts, attitudes, and actions. The good news - the best news - is that Jesus gave His very life so that we could be rescued from death! Because of Him, we not only have eternal life but abundant life!

Does knowing that Jesus died to rescue from death change the way that you live?



December 10

Jesus is Resurrection Power at Work in Us

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” - Romans 8:11

The miracle of the resurrection does not stop at the empty tomb. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in our hearts and lives. He takes broken, sinful people and transforms them into powerful men and women of God. His resurrection power sets us free from our past and empowers us to tell others about the wonders of His love!

How has your life changed because of Jesus?

December 11

Jesus is the Pioneer and Perfecter of Our Faith

“...Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:2

Jesus was the perfect example for us. He showed us how to trust God the Father even through suffering and ultimately death. He knew that His suffering would bring God glory and rescue us and He held on to that hope through great pain, isolation, abandonment, and death. When we face trials, we can look to Jesus as our example and know that we can trust our Father to work everything out for His glory and our good.

How can we follow Jesus' example and look to the joy set before us during difficult times?



December 12

Special Guest Entry:

Jesus is My Hope Through Dark Times

“‘And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.’ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, ‘I believe; help my unbelief!’”

- Mark 9:22-24

In this last year, I have encountered situations that seemed impossible. Maybe you have too.

In Mark 9, we encounter a man who, for years, watched his son being tormented by an evil spirit. But then Jesus shows up. Desperately, the man cries out to Jesus.

Just like the father in the story, let's doubt our doubts and trust God! What are you facing that only Jesus can address – and are you willing to give it completely to Him?

How can you trust God today?

Brandon Neal

Deputy to the Director, [Media Development & Services Team, Trans World Radio](#)



December 13

Jesus is Our Example of Service

“Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” - Matthew 4:23

What might Jesus' personality have been like when He was on earth? His disciples recorded many of the things He said and we know that much of what He said wasn't written down. Was Jesus talkative? He was certainly willing to talk, but He matched His teachings with lots of doing. He often used His acts of serving others as an opening to His teaching. This year, let us notice Jesus as a teacher who is not only concerned with our ideas or words, but also about whether we are serving others. Let Jesus' example guide your service.

Is there something you've been talking a lot about, but can start backing up by putting it into action through service?

December 14
Jesus is Our Coming King

“So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” - Hebrews 9:28

Jesus already conquered sin at the cross and defeated death when he rose again. He gave us hope by giving us new life. But we also have hope because we know he will return again. This world is not our home. He has gone to prepare an eternal place for us. We will be in the beautiful presence of God for all eternity!

As we await the return of our king, how can you make every moment count?



December 15
Jesus is Our Ally

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” - Romans 8:31

Sometimes life can feel like it's you against the world. People and circumstances just aren't in your favor, and you feel like you're alone. But we have an ally in Jesus. He is for us. That doesn't necessarily mean He supports everything we do. It means that He is on our side for us to grow, to overcome, and to lead lives of significance that He has called us to.

How have you seen Jesus come alongside of you in your life, maybe in ways that have gone unnoticed?

December 16
Special Guest Entry:
Jesus is the Extremely Generous Gift

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

One Christmas year I remember “snooping” and found one package that was particularly heavy and had a mysterious rattle. My younger brother also had the same. Our parents finally relieved us from temptation and had us open the gifts at the same time. We each got our very own ½-inch drive socket set! In the red metal box were a wrench, all sizes of sockets, and even an extension for those hard to reach bolts. The set cost a lot!

I still have the gift to this day. But there is one other Gift I’ve received that’s guaranteed to last longer. It came at Christmas and yet is available at any time of the year. The Giver is God who so loved the world (you and me), that He gave His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ), that whosoever believes in Him (believing that His life, death, and resurrection is all that’s needed to receive forgiveness of sins), shall not perish (no more condemnation and separation from God), but have everlasting life (forever in the presence of God Almighty).

Have you received God’s Son, the best gift one can have?

Bruce Munsterman

[KHCB Network, Houston Christian Broadcasters, Inc.](http://KHCBNetwork.com)



December 17

Jesus is Our Project Manager

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 1:6

Without the right person in charge, projects of any kind often fall apart and go unfinished. Sometimes our lives feel like that. We have dreams and goals of what we want to do and become, but it can feel like we’re going backwards. But we can have confidence that any good we will ever do or become won’t be left unfinished. Jesus started this project of making us new and good. It may take a lifetime, but He has the determination and the capability to finish it.

Can you notice the incremental ways in which Jesus has changed you and helped you grow as a person?



December 18

Jesus is Our Calm in the Storm

“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.” - Mark 35:39

The world around us feels like chaos. It seems like a never-ending storm. More often than not, there’s a storm that’s raging inside of us, despite what’s going on outside. Jesus brings us calm, not by ignoring all the problems, but by sternly rebuking them with authority. Only He can bring all the turmoil in our souls under His command and cause them to be still.

What are the inner storms you’re facing right now that you need Jesus to command to be still?

December 19

Jesus is Our New Life

*“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.”
- Isaiah 11:1*

When plans and dreams fail, or life doesn't go our way, we may think there's no hope for the future. Yet in this prophecy about Jesus, He is described as a sprout that grows out of a stump - something that has been cut down and is dead. That sprout grows into a tree that produces new life. When we connect with Jesus, His life becomes our life. Out of the dead, He gives us new dreams, new hopes, and a new life.

What areas of your life are dead, where you need Jesus to revive again?



December 20

Special Guest Entry:

Jesus is My Rock, Salvation, and Fortress

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.” - Psalm 62:1-2

Throughout the Bible, God is identified as a protector to his people. He is the Good Shepherd protecting his flock (John 10:11, 14). He is a fortress behind which believers find refuge (Psalm 62:2). He gathers us under his protective wings (Psalm 91:4). Never have these verses been more comforting to me than they have been this year. During the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic and through the hot summer of civil unrest in our largest cities, these words from Scripture were and still are a constant source of comfort.

Believers are not promised an easy road in this life. Sin and death have corrupted everything around us since Adam forfeited his perfect life in Eden through his futile attempt to become like God. Yet, each December, we are reminded that God so loved us that He provided a pathway back to Him through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus, born of a virgin, holy and perfect, kept the law on our behalf and died a criminal's death in our place so we can have eternal life if we trust in Him for salvation. No matter what the world throws at us - plagues, pestilence, economic downturns or civil unrest - our hope is in the Lord, and He will be our rock and fortress forever.

Are you sufficiently trusting in God as your rock and fortress?

Charley Mefferd

[Amb-OS Media](#)



December 21 Jesus is Our Advocate

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” - 1 John 2:1

Jesus did not just die for us. He continues to plead with the Father on our behalf. Whenever we sin or lose our way, the Bible says that he is our advocate and intercessor. The word “advocate” in this verse is similar to a lawyer or a person who brings evidence in a trial. When God sees us he does not see our sin or failures; he sees the righteousness that Jesus died to give us.

Do you feel shame or guilt over your past? How can you let go of that shame and guilt, knowing that Jesus is your advocate?

December 22

Jesus is an Advocate for the Marginalized

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” - Matthew 25:40

Jesus is an advocate for the poor and oppressed. It can be difficult to view marginalized people with dignity and compassion, especially if we’ve become numb to suffering by seeing it so much. Yet as disciples of Christ, we recognize that healing and restoration are central to Jesus’ character. Jesus loves “the least of these” and they bear His image. Let Jesus bring to your attention some ways to care for those who are often alienated from anyone who cares for them.

What does it look like for “the image of God in me to honor the image of God in you?”



December 23

Jesus is Our Guide

“...the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” - Luke 1:78-79

It’s difficult making the right decisions and knowing what to do in life. Sometimes it can seem as though we are feeling our way through the dark, not knowing where to go next. Jesus is our light in the darkness, and He provides guidelines for us through life. He doesn’t tell us the whole plan or exactly what to do. Rather, He points us in the direction of life and peace, and illuminates the next steps. It’s up to us to follow Him.

Where is the next step that you sense Jesus is guiding you in?

December 24

Special Entry: Jesus is My Firm Foundation

“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.’ ” - Isaiah 28:16

This year we have all been fighting our way through a storm of uncertainty. We have wondered, would we be overcome by illness, economic ruin or painful separation from those we love? There are no guarantees in this life that things will go well for any of us, even for those of us who are followers of Jesus. “In this life, you will have trouble,” Jesus Himself said (John 6:33).

What, then, can we absolutely count on? As a follower of Jesus, Jesus is my firm foundation. My life is built on this foundation that *cannot* be shaken! No matter what happens in this life - even in death, I have God’s presence with me and the unchanging truth of His Word to rely on. I can go forward, a day at a time with Him, knowing that the bedrock that my life is built on will *never* fall out from under me.

What areas of your life feel shaky right now, that need to rest on the firm foundation of Jesus?

Bonnie Sala

President, [Guidelines International Ministries](http://www.guidelines.org)



December 25
Jesus is Our Salvation

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” - Matthew 1:21

Who Jesus is, is revealed by His very name. “Jesus” is the English translation of the Greek name “Iēsous,” which is the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Y’shua.” It means “God is salvation” or “God saves.” Jesus is many different things to each of us, but for all of us, He is Savior. He saves us from our sins and from ourselves. He saves us for His glory and for our hope.

What has Jesus saved you from, and what has He saved you for?



Thank you for joining our 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

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