



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR

25 Devotions for a Brighter Christmas

Throughout this guide, use the colored tea light candle you received at worship or light one of your own to enjoy these devotions.

December 1

Preparing for the Light

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation. We eagerly await and prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. We often prepare for Christmas by shopping, decorating, and scheduling. This devotional is a guide to preparing spiritually.

Light your candle. **Pray** this prayer of preparation.

God,
Use this Advent season to prepare my heart for Jesus.
Keep me from chasing the shiny objects of the season
and stay focused on the true light.

During Advent, I often find myself distracted by...

*Help me find ways to make room in my schedule,
room in my mind, and room in my heart for You.
I will create space for You by...*

*I pray that by Christmas Day, I will be prepared to
welcome You more fully into my life and experience
the hope, joy, peace, and love that You promise me.
Amen.*

December 3

John's Christmas Story

Light your candle. **Read** John 1:1-18. **Write** down the verse or phrase that stands out to you today.

Why does John refer to Jesus as light?

December 2

Bright Light Life

Jesus makes our lives brighter by giving us joy. **Light** your candle. **Write** down all the ways Jesus has made your life brighter and more joyful. **Pray** over your list and thank Jesus for the gift of joy.

December 4

Light of the World

Light your candle. **Listen** to the song Light of the World by We The Kingdom.



Hallelujah means to express praise, joy, and thanks. What do you need to sing hallelujah for today?

SING HALLELUJAH FOR THE THINGS HE HAS DONE

December 5

Radiating Joy

In the same way a flame radiates heat, Jesus radiates joy. The closer we get to Him, the more joy we experience. **Light** your candle. Feel the heat radiating from the flame.

Read Psalm 16 – a Psalm of joy. **Write** down the verse or phrase that stands out to you today.

December 6

Mary's Song

Light your candle. Mary sang a song of joy in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. **Read** her song in Luke 1:46-56. **Write** a prayer of your hopes for this season as you anticipate the birth of Jesus.

December 7

Emmanuel - God with Us

Light your candle. The flame is a symbol of Jesus' presence. It reflects the light and warmth that Jesus gives us.



Listen to "Emmanuel God with Us" as you reflect on God's presence.

How is God with you today?

December 8

Luke's Christmas Story

Light your candle. **Read** Luke 2:1-20.

Select one verse from Luke's Christmas story that gives you hope and write it here.

Look at your lit candle and read your hope verse again.

EVERY GOOD THING I HAVE COMES FROM YOU.



December 9
Hope from the Sky
Light your candle.

God provides hope many times in the Bible. God used a rainbow in the sky as a symbol of hope to Noah in Genesis 9:11-17.

What has been a symbol of hope from God in your life?

God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness by raining down manna from the sky in Exodus 16:3-10.

How has God sustained you through a wilderness time in your life?

December 11
Focus on the Light

Light your candle and watch the flame for several moments.

"I have come into the world as light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."
-John 12:46

Too often, we let the negative consume our attention and drive our emotions. When we focus on the dark, the dark feels overwhelming. But when we focus on the light, we see more light. God doesn't want us to stay in darkness.

Pray this prayer as you focus on your candle for a few more moments.

God,

*Help me to focus on the light.
Bring more light into my life.*

Amen

December 10
Light at the End of the Tunnel

An area of darkness, uncertainty, or fear in my life right now is...

Light your candle as a reminder that Jesus can bring light to this darkness.

Pray that Jesus' light will continue to shine brighter in this area of your life.

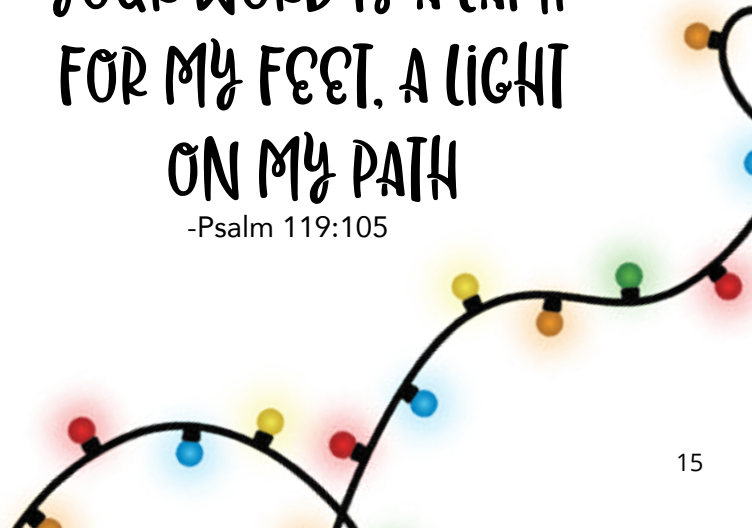
December 12
A Light on My Path
Light your candle.



Schedule a time to walk the Prayer Path using the Advent Devotional

**YOUR WORD IS A LAMP
FOR MY FEET, A LIGHT
ON MY PATH**

-Psalm 119:105



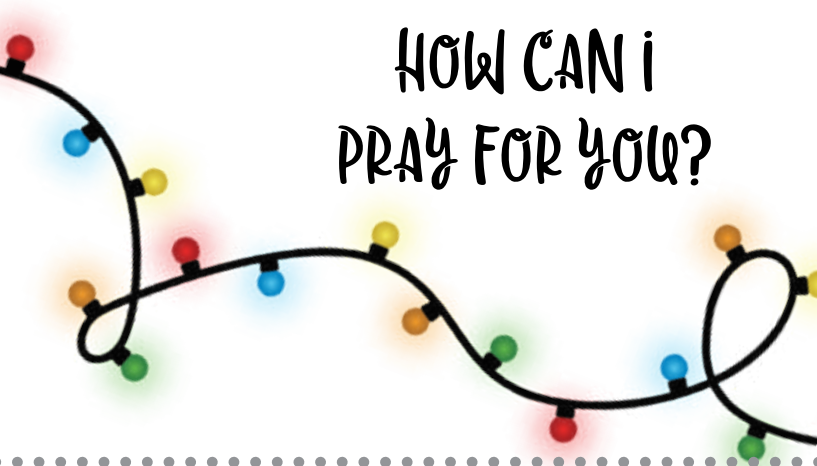
December 13 Overflowing Hope

Light your candle. **Read** Romans 15:13 as a prayer:

*Now may the God of hope fill me
with all joy and peace as I trust in Him,
so that I may overflow with hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.*

When we overflow with hope, it provides hope to others too.

Text a friend and ask them how you can pray for them as a way of extending hope this season.



HOW CAN I PRAY FOR YOU?

December 15 The Fire Triangle

Light your candle.

Three things have to be present for any fire to burn – fuel, heat, and oxygen. If any one of these things is removed, the fire will go out. Your candle has wax as fuel, a spark as a heat source, and oxygen in the air.

Reflect on the flame.

What fuels you to shine God's light?

Who is a heat source or spark in your life that helps you shine God's light?

We need the Holy Spirit like a flame needs oxygen.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you shine bright this Advent.

December 14 The Hope of Christmas

Light your candle.



Listen to "The Hope of Christmas"
by Matthew West.

Reflect on how Jesus is "still the hope of Christmas".

December 16 Sunrises and Sunsets

Light your candle twice today. Once in the morning and once at night.

*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of
the Lord is to be praised!*

-Psalm 113:3

Write a prayer of gratitude to start your day.
God, Thank You for a new day...

Write a prayer of gratitude to end your day.
God, Thank You for today...

December 17

Hidden Light

Light your candle as a reminder that you are a light in the world.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. -Matthew 5:14-16

Reflect on the ways you've hidden your light under a bowl. **Pray** a prayer of confession and ask for forgiveness.

God,
Forgive me for the ways I've hidden my light...

Give me the courage to let my light shine before others. Amen.

December 19

Jesus Nicknames

Light your candle. **Read** Isaiah 9:6, where the prophet lists names for Jesus.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6

As you look at your candle flame, which name for Jesus resonates with you? Why?

December 18

Mark's Christmas Story

Light your candle. **Read** Mark 1:1-8. **Write** down the verse or phrase that stands out to you today.

How can we live like John and "Prepare the way for the Lord and make straight paths for him"?

December 20

Sharing the Light

Light your candle for someone you hope experiences Jesus this Christmas. **Pray** this prayer for them.

God,

I pray for _____
to experience the light of Jesus this Christmas.

Open their eyes to the ways You are seeking after them and working in their life.

Help me recognize opportunities to tell them about Jesus. Let my own story be a testimony of Your grace. Give me the courage to share my story authentically and honestly.

Make me a light that shines the joy and goodness of God to all those I encounter.

Amen.

December 21

Bring Your Gifts

Light your candle. When the Magi heard of Jesus' birth, they brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Write down three gifts you want to give Jesus this Christmas.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



WHAT THREE GIFTS
CAN YOU
GIVE JESUS?

December 23

For God So Loved the World

Light your candle.

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

Write a list of all the ways you could end this phrase:
For God so loved me that He...

December 22

Christmas Light Ornament

We handed out Christmas Light ornaments today in worship. If you did not receive one, you can pick it up at the church building this week.

Light your candle.

Pick a Bible verse or phrase from this series that you want to keep with you as a light for years to come.

Write it on your ornament and get creative!

Hang this on your tree as a reminder of the true light of Christmas.



December 24

Matthew's Christmas Story

Light your candle. **Read** Matthew 1:18-25. **Write** down the verse or phrase that stands out to you today.

Tomorrow is Christmas Day. Jesus comes to dwell with us on earth. Emmanuel, God with us. How will you remember and celebrate that God is with you tomorrow?





December 25

Christmas Day Prayer

Light your candle. Read John's Christmas story (John 1:1-18).

Write down the verse or phrase that stands out to you on Christmas Day.

Pray this Christmas Day prayer:

God,
I have experienced Your light this Advent in these ways...

Give me opportunities to share Your light.
Help me reflect Your light by...

This Christmas Day, I am grateful for Your light because...

I pray Your light continues to shine brighter in my life.

Amen.