

I have come that they may have life
and have it to the full.

— John 10:10

BORN FOR THIS

EXPERIENCE THE MEANING
OF CHRISTMAS

Advent Devotional

Born for This Advent Devotional

Advent invites us to slow down, look up, and remember why Jesus came and why it matters for our lives today. “Born for This” is a 25-day journey that will lead you through the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, culminating in the wonder of Christ’s birth.

Each day offers Scripture, a short reflection, and a simple prayer to help you draw closer to the One who stepped into our world so we could experience life, light, and purpose.

As you move through these sacred days, may you discover anew that Jesus was born for you—and you were born to reflect His life-changing love in the world.

Rev. Sadekie

Week 1 – Hope

Isaiah 9:2 (KJV) - The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Reflection: Hope is God's gentle insistence that darkness does not get the final word. Isaiah speaks to a people overwhelmed by fear, uncertainty, and oppression yet God declares that a light has already begun to shine. Advent invites us to recognize that same light even when we cannot see the way forward, God is already illuminating the path, already working behind the scenes, already preparing redemption. Hope is not wishful thinking; it is confidence in the God who keeps promises. As we begin this Advent journey, we remember that Christ steps into every shadowed place in our lives with courage, comfort, and clarity.

Prayer: God of Hope, shine Your light upon us. Strengthen our hearts and renew our trust in Your promises. Amen.

Monday, Dec 1 — Hope in the Waiting

Scripture: Psalm 27:14—Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD!

Reflection: Waiting is not passive; it is trusting that God is still working in the unseen. Hope grows strongest when we refuse to give up on God's timing. Advent is our yearly reminder that delay is not denial.

Prayer: God, strengthen my hope as I wait.

Tuesday, Dec 2 — Hope in Darkness

Scripture: John 1:5- "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"

Reflection: Darkness is real, but it does not get the final word. Christ was born to pierce every shadow with the brilliance of God's love. Even when life feels dim, the light still shines.

Prayer: Jesus, shine Your hope into every dark place in me.

Wednesday, Dec 3 — Hope for Today

Scripture: Lamentations 3:22–23 “Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness

Reflection: God's mercies do not run on yesterday's supply—they are renewed every morning. Hope is rooted in God's faithfulness, not our circumstances. Today is a fresh invitation to trust God again.

Prayer: Faithful God, renew my hope today.

Thursday, Dec 4 — Hope for the Brokenhearted

Scripture: Psalm 34:18—“The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”

Reflection: God draws near to the hurting and lifts those who feel crushed. Hope is not the absence of pain but the presence of God in the midst of it. Jesus' birth announces that no brokenness is beyond God's reach.

Prayer: Lord, heal and hold my hurting places.

Friday, Dec 5 — Hope That Anchors

Scripture: Hebrews 6:19—*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.* It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain

Reflection: Hope is not wishful thinking; it is an anchor tied to God's unchanging character. Storms may shake us, but Christ secures us. Advent reminds us that our hope always has a name—Jesus.

Prayer: Anchor my soul, O Lord, in Your hope.

Saturday, Dec 6 — Sharing Hope

Scripture: Matthew 5:14—You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid”

Reflection: Hope is meant to shine, not be hidden. Christ was born so that His light could reach the world through us. Every small act of kindness becomes an echo of His hope.

Prayer: Make me a bearer of hope wherever I go.

Week 2 – Peace

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV) - Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Reflection: Peace is more than the absence of trouble, it is the deep, steady calm that comes from knowing God is with us and for us. Isaiah reminds us that perfect peace is God's gift to those who fix their thoughts on God, especially when life feels unsettled or uncertain. When our minds wander toward fear, anxiety, or the pressure of the season, God gently calls us back to trust. God's presence quiets the storms within, reminding us that true peace flows from God's unchanging faithfulness. As we walk through this second week, rest in the peace Christ was born to bring—a peace that eases every burden we carry.

Prayer: God of Peace, settle our spirits and calm every anxious place within us. Amen.

Monday, Dec 8 — Peace in the Storm

Scripture: Mark 4:39—He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Reflection: Christ still speaks “Peace, be still” over storms that feel overwhelming. What frightens us never intimidates Jesus. When we turn to Him, His calm becomes our comfort.

Prayer: Lord, speak peace to my storm.

Tuesday, Dec 9 — Peace for Anxious Hearts

Scripture: Philippians 4:6—“*Do not be anxious about anything*, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”

Reflection: Worry drains us, but prayer realigns us with God's peace. As we release our burdens to God, God's presence guards our hearts. Christ was born to bring peace that surpasses understanding.

Prayer: God, calm my anxious heart with Your peace.

Wednesday, Dec 10 — Peace with Others

Scripture: Romans 12:18—If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone

Reflection: Peace is not always easy, but it is always worth pursuing. Christ calls us to be peacemakers, not peace-avoidant. Advent invites us to forgive, reconcile, and choose gentleness.

Prayer: Lord, help me be a peacemaker today.

Thursday, Dec 11 — Peace Through Trust

Scripture: Isaiah 26:3—You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Reflection: Deep peace grows from a mind stayed on God. When we trust God fully, God steadies our thoughts and settles our fears. Peace is cultivated through focused faith.

Prayer: Keep my mind steady in You, Lord.

Friday, Dec 12 — Peace in God's Presence

Scripture: Psalm 46:10— "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"

Reflection: Stillness creates space for God's peace to rise within us. When we pause, His nearness becomes clearer. Christ invites us to rest in His presence rather than rush through life.

Prayer: God, center my heart in Your peace.

Saturday, Dec 13 — Peace We Share

Scripture: Matthew 5:9—"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God"

Reflection: Peacemaking is active, intentional, and Spirit-led. Jesus forms us into people who carry peace into tense spaces. Our lives become living invitations to His peace.

Prayer: Make me an instrument of Your peace today.

Week 3 – Joy

Luke 2:10 (KJV) - And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Reflection: Joy enters the story of Christmas as a divine proclamation, God speaking directly into human fear, uncertainty, and longing. The shepherds were ordinary people carrying ordinary burdens, yet heaven broke in with a message meant to lift every heavy heart: *great joy has come, and it is for everyone*. This joy holds steady even when life feels overwhelming because it does not depend on what we feel, it depends on who God is. As we journey through this week, we remember that Christ came to replace fear with joy, despair with hope, and isolation with His loving presence. His arrival assures us that no matter our circumstances, God's joy is available and unfolding in ways seen and unseen.

Prayer: God of Joy, lift our spirits and restore delight in our hearts. Amen.

Monday, Dec 15 — Joy in God's Strength

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10—"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength"

Reflection: Joy strengthens us in ways grit never can. When our hearts delight in God, His joy becomes our resilience. Christ came so that His joy may be in us and complete.

Prayer: Strengthen me with Your joy, O God.

Tuesday, Dec 16 — Joy in Small Things

Scripture: Psalm 118:24—"This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it"

Reflection: Joy often appears in ordinary moments—a sunrise, a song, a breath of gratitude. God delights to meet us in simplicity. Every new day is a reminder of His goodness.

Prayer: Lord, help me see joy in today's small gifts.

Wednesday, Dec 17 — Joy That Perseveres

Scripture: James 1:2–3—*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance*

Reflection: Joy is not denial of hardship; it is choosing trust amid trials. Christ teaches us to see challenges as places where faith grows. Even in suffering, joy can rise.

Prayer: Jesus, help me find joy in the midst of trials.

Thursday, Dec 18 — Joy in God's Presence

Scripture: Psalm 16:11—*You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Reflection: Joy is found not in possessions but in God Himself. His presence fills our deepest emptiness and restores our souls. Christ was born so we could live in that presence forever.

Prayer: Fill me with the joy of Your nearness.

Friday, Dec 19 — Joy Through Gratitude

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18—*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Reflection: Gratitude multiplies joy because it trains our hearts to notice God's faithfulness. Every thank-you becomes a doorway to deeper delight. Christ invites us to rejoice always.

Prayer: Lord, grow a grateful heart in me.

Saturday, Dec 20 — Joy to the World

Scripture: Psalm 98:4—*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.*

Reflection: Joy becomes complete when it is expressed and shared. Christ's coming is good news worth celebrating loudly and boldly. Our joy becomes a testimony of His grace.

Prayer: Let my life overflow with Your joy.

Week 4 – Love

1 John 4:9 (KJV) - In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Reflection: Love is not merely something God feels, it is who God is, revealed most clearly in the gift of God's Son. Advent invites us to slow down and behold the depth of a love that stepped into our humanity, carried our burdens, and came near enough to heal what was broken. In Christ, God shows us that love meets us where we are, and leads us into the fullness of life we were created for. As we meditate on this final week of Advent, we are reminded that every breath Jesus breathed on earth was an act of love, restoring dignity, mending wounds, and building relationship. This is the love that changes everything, freely given to us.

Prayer: God of Love, deepen our compassion and teach us to love as You have loved us. Amen.

Monday, Dec 22 — Love That Pursues

Scripture: Romans 5:8—"but God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

Reflection: God's love seeks us even when we are far from God. Christ was born to rescue, redeem, and restore. His pursuit is relentless and tender.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for loving me first.

Tuesday, Dec 23 — Love That Transforms

Scripture: 1 John 4:19—"We love because he first loved us."

Reflection: We love because God loved us first—with a love that changes and reshapes us. Christ's love softens what is hard and awakens what is good. Through Him, we learn to love like Him.

Prayer: Jesus, transform my heart with Your love.

Christmas Eve—Wednesday, Dec 24 — Love We Give

Scripture: John 13:34—A new command I give you: *Love one another*. As I have loved you, so you must love one another

Reflection: Love is the clearest mark of a Christ-shaped life. God's love moves us outward to care, serve, forgive, and uplift others. Every act of love becomes a reflection of Christ's birth.

Prayer: Lord, help me love others as You have loved me.

Christmas Day – Christ Our Light

John 1:14 (KJV) - And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Reflection: Christmas proclaims that God has come near, dwelling with us, saving us, loving us. Christ is the fullness of grace and truth, the Light no darkness can overcome.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, dwell in us and shine through us. Amen.

Born for This: An Advent Invitation to Give

This Advent, let your giving reflect the profound significance of Jesus' birth—God stepping into our world to bring light, hope, and salvation. Inspired by the Nicene Creed of AD 325, we invite you into a meaningful journey of generosity: give \$1 on December 1, \$2 on December 2, continuing until \$25 on Christmas Day.

Each day's gift becomes a declaration of gratitude for the One who was *born for us*, and a beacon of His love reaching into our community. As we honour Christ's coming, may our generosity proclaim that we are *born to carry His hope into the world*.

Merry Christmas

Notes



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