

Christmas Reflection Calendar-

Christmas time is here. The stores are full of the latest and greatest gadgets, brightly colored toys line the shelves, and Christmas tunes are pumping through the speakers. It really is a wonderful time of the year with many wonderful things happening.

This year we want to challenge you to look past those things [still enjoy them, but look past them] and try to focus on Jesus. Focus on the best gift the world has ever known.

We have come up with a devotional guide to help you focus on who Jesus was and is and to help you take your next steps in your walk with Christ. Use this as a guide, adapt it to fit your needs or preferences.

Overview:

On each day you will find a Scripture reading and reflection thoughts or questions. For each week we have come up with a theme.

The themes are as follows:

Week one's theme is **Concern for Others**. We will look at how Jesus was concerned with others and we will be challenged to help those around us.

Week two is centered around Jesus being the **Light of World**. The passages of scripture will be focused on how Jesus is the light and how we can be lights in our dark world.

The final week is focused on **The Gift of Jesus**. Each day we will read a different section of the Christmas story.

We pray that you will be strengthened, encouraged, and challenged through this season and through these devotionals.

Week One: Concern for Others

December 6th: Romans 12

How can you offer your "body" as a living sacrifice?

Focus on what love should look like. Do you love like Christ loved?

What ways can you love those around you more deeply.

December 7th: Philippians 2

How does humility differ from being a doormat?

How brightly do you "shine" in your universe? [2:14-15]

Pray for humility and for courage to love and shine.

December 8th: Luke 19:1-10

How did Jesus seek after you and save you?

Spend time thanking Him for seeking after you.

Pray for those that do not know Him, pray that they will respond to Christ's love.

December 9th: Luke 8:22-53

How has Jesus taken care of your physical needs? [health, home, protection, etc.]

Thank Him for the love and care He has for our every need.

December 10th: Matthew 28

Reflect on the Great Commission, does your life reflect that which Christ has called us to?
What areas of your life do you need to change in order to fulfill our mission?
Rest in knowing that we are not alone and that Christ is with us always.

December 11th: Mark 12:28-34

Why are these two commandments the greatest? How do the Ten Commandments relate to these two?
In the three possibilities of love relationships (with God, neighbors, self), where are you the strongest? The weakest?

December 12th: Mark 10:13-16

Think of what a major testimony it was for Jesus to take the children into his arms.
How would you have reacted if had been in the crowd?
Pray for the Toys for Tots Event that is being held at the church. Pray that the children that come on the campus will experience Christ's love, grace, and truth.

Week Two Theme: Light of the World

December 13th: Matthew 5:1-16

Reflect on Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes. How are the Beatitudes related to being salt and light?
How can Jesus enable you to shine brighter?
Spend time praying for the courage and strength to be a bright light, and pray for the Toys for Tots Event that is being held at the church. Pray for the families and the volunteers.

December 14th: Mark 4

What are the four types of ground on which the seeds fall? What kind of growth occurred in each soil? What do you need to do so your spiritual life is producing an abundant crop?
How would you live your life differently if you wanted to live it without worrying about what was disclosed? [4:22]
Spend time in prayer. Pray that you will be fruitful and growing in abundant ways.

December 15th: John 8:12-29

What is Jesus really claiming in verse 12? What is the promise?
How is following Jesus like following someone with a light through a dark place for you?
How do people you know misunderstand Jesus? How do their lives exemplify darkness? How can you be a light-bearer to them?
Pray for the lost and the ones wandering in the darkness. Pray that they may see the light of Christ.

December 16th: Matthew 5:13-16 and Luke 11:33-36

In what areas of your life do you need to shine more brightly?
What holds you back from telling others about Christ?
Pray that you will be freed from those things. Pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ this Christmas season.

December 17th: John 3

Where are you right now in the birthing process of the spiritual life: Not yet conceived?
Developing, but not so anyone could tell? Kicking and screaming like an infant? Growing daily?
What steps do you need to take to advance in your journey with Christ?
Pray for strength, courage, and endurance to live a life in the light.

December 18th: John 1

What facts about "the Word" can you find in verses 1-5? Verses 10 - 18?
How should someone "full of grace and truth" treat others?
Spend time thanking God for sending us the word in the flesh [Jesus].

December 19th: 1 John 1

What characteristics of light reflect who God is?
Has God brought light to your life? Or do you more often feel like you're in the dark?
Spend time thanking God for the light He brings to our life. If you are in the dark pray to be delivered from that darkness.

Week Three Theme: The Gift of Jesus

December 20th: Luke 1:1-25

Of the major characters in this story, who do you relate to the most?
In what areas of your life do you need to stop doubting and trust in God?
Pray for those things. Pray for faith and hope.

December 21st: Luke 1: 26-38

What truths about Jesus are emphasized in this passage?
What expectations must have been raised in Mary?
In what areas of your life do you need to believe that nothing is impossible with God?

December 22nd: Luke 1:46-80

What does Mary praise God for in this song?
Make a list of the things for which Zechariah praises God. How does his song compare and contrast with Mary's.
Take time and write your own "song" of praise to God.

December 23rd: Luke 2:8-16

Of all the people the angels could have visited, why did you think God sent them to the shepherds?
What precious event has God done that you "treasure in your heart"?

December 24: Matthew 2:1-12

How can you bring your gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Jesus this year?
What do the star, the Magi, the gifts, and the prophecy teach you about the significance of Jesus?
Attend the Christmas Eve service [4:00pm or 6:00 pm], bring your treasure to Jesus during this time.

December 25th: Luke 2

Read the entire Christmas story. Reflect on the miracle and wonderful gift of Jesus.
Spend time thanking Him for the gift of Jesus, the gift of salvation, and many gifts that are bestowed on you daily