



Good News

A 25-DAY CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

GREAT JOY



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

ALL PEOPLE



Angel appears unto a Jewish woman in the night saying, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Glory to God
IN THE HIGHEST.

YM360



Good News

GREAT JOY ALL PEOPLE

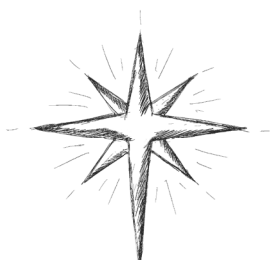
A 25-DAY CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

PUBLISHED BY YM360



Table of Contents

<i>DAY 1</i>	2
<i>DAY 2</i>	3
<i>DAY 3</i>	4
<i>DAY 4</i>	5
<i>DAY 5</i>	6
<i>DAY 6</i>	7
<i>DAY 7</i>	8
<i>DAY 8</i>	9
<i>DAY 9</i>	10
<i>DAY 10</i>	11
<i>DAY 11</i>	12
<i>DAY 12</i>	13
<i>DAY 13</i>	14
<i>DAY 14</i>	15
<i>DAY 15</i>	16
<i>DAY 16</i>	17
<i>DAY 17</i>	18
<i>DAY 18</i>	19
<i>DAY 19</i>	20
<i>DAY 20</i>	21
<i>DAY 21</i>	22
<i>DAY 22</i>	23
<i>DAY 23</i>	24
<i>DAY 24 CHRISTMAS EVE</i>	25
<i>DAY 25 CHRISTMAS DAY</i>	26



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Do you ever get lost in all the Christmas spirit? Sometimes it can be overwhelming to see the glistening lights on rooftops, the decorated trees in every storefront, and there is always one Christmas song that gets played one too many times...

This devotional is for you. Yes, Christmas is a time when we remember the birth of Jesus Christ. But it is also a time when we can tell others about why this humble birth was such a big deal! Over the next month, you are going to break down Luke 2:10, which says “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Every five days, you will look deeply into one of the five elements in this verse: Fear Not, Behold, Good News, Great Joy, For All People.

The Bible has so much to say about why the birth of Christ is important- not just at Christmas time, but all the time. Each daily devotional focuses on a passage in Scripture and gives you a short piece to read. You will find several reflection questions at the bottom of the page. We challenge you to spend time thinking about your answers, even if you don't write them down. If you have a friend who is also reading this devotional, ask them if they want to talk about the questions with you!

Most importantly, we hope that this 25-Day Christmas and Advent Devotional is a tool that grows your faith and deepens your relationship with the Lord.



Day 1

“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’ -Luke 2:10

In the first five days of this devotional, you will focus on one phrase in our theme verse: Fear Not. Now, you're probably flipping to the front of your book and thinking, "I thought this was a Christmas book... why am I reading about fear and scary stuff?" Don't worry; we're getting there! You see, this one verse contains all of the importance of the Christmas Story in one compact package.

In a world where so much can go wrong, there are a lot of things out there that can cause us to be afraid. Maybe you have experienced a tragedy recently that has taught you to be more careful when you go to certain places or use certain objects. You might have even heard someone say, "it's not you I'm worried about. It's everyone else!" (Heads up, you will likely hear this A LOT when you get behind the wheel of a car). This type of caution can be good. It keeps us from making preventable mistakes and helps us be on guard for ourselves and others. But when caution turns to fear, we can find ourselves feeling hopeless and angry. When fear rules our lives, we become obsessed with what will keep us safe. And that can lead us to put our hope in something or someone other than Christ.

In the Bible, angel appearances were not common. And when they did show up, their arrival did not always bring good tidings. For the shepherds in the field that evening, the arrival of angels probably gave off "we need to talk" energy. They would have been afraid for the flock, their lives, and their loved ones. And yet, the angel tells them not to be afraid. Why? The message that they were about to share was not one of fear, but of God's presence on Earth, His provision for all people, and a love so great that it fills believers with joy beyond understanding.

QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you are a shepherd and have been sent out to protect the sheep from danger. Walking in the pasture, you encounter a creature like nothing you've ever seen. For all you know, it could be there to eat your sheep! How do you respond?
2. What is one of your biggest fears, and how long have you been afraid of this thing?



Day 2

“Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”-Isaiah 35:4

Of all the Old Testament books quoted in the New Testament, Isaiah is referenced most. This makes sense when considering that the words of the prophet Isaiah highlighted the coming Savior of the world. If you’ve ever been on a road trip, you know that the signs alongside the highway aren’t your destination. But they can tell you how long you have until you reach your final stop (100 miles until Nashville!) The same can be said of Isaiah’s words in the Old Testament. They are like highway signs or road maps of what is to come – which is salvation and redemption in Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 35:4, there is a promise that what is spoken will actually happen. Fear and doubt must bow at the feet of the coming Messiah (or the Promised One of God).

Be honest. When was the last time you used the word “recompense?” It’s part of your everyday vocabulary, right? Right? If so, that is impressive! But most of you reading this have rarely heard that word, let alone used it. So let’s take a closer look: “recompense” is a type of payment or compensation that is meant to make amends. The hope that Isaiah shares in the verse above is the guarantee that Jesus will come to make amends for us.

That is good news in and of itself, but there is even better news. From our modern-day perspective, we know that Jesus did come! What Isaiah prophesied came to be. Beyond that, He is coming again to one day restore all things. What an encouragement to us when our fear and anxiety are unending.

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways can you find strength in the fact that Jesus came and is coming again?
2. There are many times in the Bible where God tells us to ‘Fear Not.’ What do you think that means?



Day 3

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”-Deuteronomy 31:6

There are those two words again: “Be strong.” On Day 2, the words of Isaiah commanded us to be strong and fear not. In this verse in Deuteronomy, we are told to be courageous as well as strong. Easier said than done, right? Well, there is a very specific reason this verse starts with these words.

To set the scene for you, the beginning of Deuteronomy 31 is part of a monologue that Moses is giving to Israel. He explains to God’s people that Joshua would be the one to lead them into the promised land. You would think that an adventure to a place with a name like the “promised land” would be fun. However, the journey there would be difficult. Moses does not leave them hopeless though. The focus of this chapter of the Bible is not on the hardship ahead, but on the power of God. There is a beautiful declaration that God will make a way for His people.

While you are not staring down a daunting journey into the promised land, surely you can relate to being fearful of what others might do, say, or think. A difficult life situation or just the everyday worries you face might make it difficult to trust God. God repeatedly proves His faithfulness in Scripture. His character is consistent with faithfulness. Just like the Israelites, you do not have to fear what others might do against you. Strength and courage come from knowing that God is with you, no matter what you face!

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways have you been relying on your own strength instead of trusting the strength that comes from God?
2. How has God been faithful to you in the past?
3. In what ways does His past faithfulness encourage you as you think about the future?

