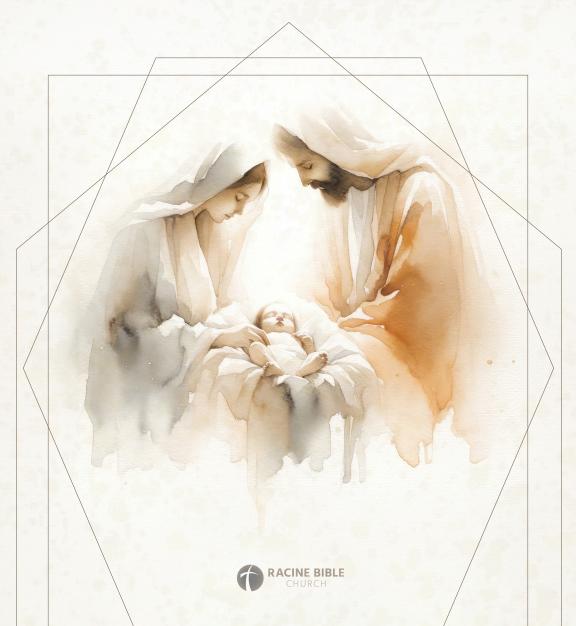
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DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Below are the four things your family/household should do together each day to best utilize this resource. All accompanying Advent resources can be found at racinebible.org/advent

READ

- Read in your Bible the full Scripture listed at the beginning of each day (not just the key verse printed in the book).
- Read the short devotion in the book by J C Ryle.

DISCUSS

- Discuss the questions provided in the devotional guide each day with your family/household
- If the questions provided for each day do not generate discussion, come up with additional questions in response
 to the text read.

SING (Don't skip this part even if you don't normally sing at home!)

- Each day, you will sing a song that specifically accompanies the Scripture you read and discussed.
- Over the course of the twenty-five days, we will be singing eight different songs (each song is sung three/four days throughout the month) to help those unfamiliar with some of these Christmas songs learn them.
- We have recorded a lyric video of each of the songs and put a QR code along with the discussion questions in
 the devotional guide so you can easily access each day's video. These recordings were created specifically to
 help aid your family in singing, and the lyrics on the screen will change as you sing along. This was not recorded
 or produced with the intent that it would just be listened to. The accompaniment and vocal part has been intentionally kept simple to not distract from your singing.

PRAY

- Spend time in prayer each day at the close of this time of worship by using the prayer printed in the devotiona
 book as your opening prayer.
- Be creative with how you finish this time of prayer. Have one person in your family pray, assign each person in
 your family a different day of the week to pray, have everyone pray each night, or use a combination of these
 ideas or any other way that is helpful to your family/household.

DISCUSSION & SONGS



DECEMBER 1 - KING OF KINGS

Discuss: How can Jesus be King of your life this Advent?

Sing: "What Child is This?"

DECEMBER 2 - WHEN HE COMES IN HIS GLORY

Discuss: Who is someone you can talk to about Jesus this week? When you pray, pray for this person and for your upcoming conversation with him or her.

Sing: "O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)"





DECEMBER 3 - A MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE CAN COUNT

Discuss: In today's prayer, we will pray, "Help me to live wholeheartedly for you in gratitude for this wonderful rescue." What does this look like in your life (or how should this look in your life)?

Sing: "He Who is Mighty"

DECEMBER 4 – MY WORDS WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

Discuss: "We live in an unbelieving age..." How should we live knowing there are people all around us who don't believe in the truth of God's Word?

Sing: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"





DECEMBER 5 – A DREADFUL DAY

Discuss: In today's prayer, we will pray, "Help me to order my life and priorities in the light of these truths." What is one thing you can do this week to help accomplish this?

Sing: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"



DECEMBER 5 - A DREADFUL DAY

Discuss – In today's prayer, we will pray, "Help me to order my life and priorities in the light of these truths." What is one practical thing you can do this week to help accomplish this?

Sing — "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

DECEMBER 6 - WATCH AND PRAY

Discuss – How can you watch and be ready for the coming of the Lord so that you are not distracted by the worries and pleasures of this life?

Sing – "O Holy Night"





DECEMBER 7 – A GUEST AT THE WEDDING FEAST

Discuss — What does the last sentence of today's reading mean and how can we do this? ("Let us never rest till we know that we have the oil of the Spirit in our hearts.")

Sing – "Angels We Have Heard on High'

DECEMBER 8- BE WATCHFUL!

Discuss — In today's prayer, we will pray, "May the reality of Jesus' return shape my life." What doe this mean and how can you do this?

Sing – "Joy to the World"





DECEMBER 9 - GOD'S STEWARDS

Discuss – What is something God has given you on loan to steward? How can you be a good stew ard of it?

Sing – "O Holy Night"

DECEMBER 10 - GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Discuss — In today's prayer, we will pray, "save me from do-nothing Christianity." What does do-nothing Christianity look like today? How can you "not only talk about faith, but act" this week?

iing – "Angels We Have Heard on High'





DECEMBER 11 - YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD!

Discuss – How can we avoid spiritual blindness and hardness of heart?

Sing – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

DECEMBER 12 – LOWLY AND UNASSUMING

Discuss — In today's prayer, we pray: "Help me today to live humbly before You, following You example in preferring the needs of others to my own." In what specific ways can you prefer the needs of others today?

Sing – "What Child is This?"





DECEMBER 13 – GLORIOUS AND GREAT

Discuss — Select one of the descriptions of Jesus given by Gabriel in today's reading and share why it causes you to worship Jesus.

Sing – "O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)"

DECEMBER 14 - THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT

Discuss — What was something helpful in today's reading you learned or was reminded of about th work of the Holy Spirt?

Sing – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus





DECEMBER 15 – NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR HIM

Discuss — Today's reading was filled with peace-giving truth after peace-giving truth. Select one of these truths you find particularly peace-giving and share why you find peace in it.

Sing = "O Come O Come Emmanuel"



DECEMBER 16 - I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT

Discuss — Can you think of someone other than Mary (from your life, Scripture, or history) who encourages you by his or her immediate trust in the Lord and obedience to serve Him?

Sing – "Joy to the World"

DECEMBER 17 – THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Discuss – What is something you can thank God for today? How can you help "cultivate a thankfu spirit"?

Sing – "He Who is Mighty"





DECEMBER 18 – TRUSTING IN GOD'S WORD

Discuss – How can you today and in the coming year "strive to become more deeply acquainted with Scripture"?

Sing – "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

DECEMBER 19 - A DEEPLY THANKFUL HEART

Discuss — "Praise is the first word that falls from the mouth of Zacharias as soon as his dumbnes is removed and his speech is restored." What is something from the words of Zacharias in Luke you want to praise the Lord for today?

Sing – "He Who is Mighty'





DECEMBER 20 - GOD FULFILS HIS PROMISES

Discuss — "Let us learn to rest on promises and embrace them as Zacharias did." What is a promise of God in Scripture (either fulfilled or yet to be fulfilled) you rest on and embrace?

Sing — "O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)'

DECEMBER 21 – AS THE PROPHETS FORETOLD

Discuss – John Piper defines God's providence as His "purposeful sovereignty in which He will be completely successful in the achievement of His ultimate goal for the universe." We see this throughout Scripture including the prophecy of Bethlehem being the birthplace of Jesus. How does the truth of God's providence guide your thinking and emotions today?



Sing – "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



DECEMBER 22 - NO ROOM IN THE INN

Discuss — Why is this statement from the reading today true: "Wealth ruins far more souls that poverty"? There are multiple answers to this question. Discuss as many as you can.

Sing - "O Holy Night"

DECEMBER 23 - NO WORLDLY POMP OR SHOW

Discuss — Why is it noteworthy that the angel first announced the birth of Christ to shepherds What is noteworthy about the words the angel spoke to them?

Sing — "What Child is This?





DECEMBER 24 - THE ANGELS' SONG

Discuss — "The man who hopes to live in heaven should have some practical acquaintance with the language of its inhabitants." Using the words from this song of the angels, what is something you can praise God for today?

Sing — Angels we have heard on high

DECEMBER 25 – THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN

Discuss — The wise men "saw nothing but a new-born infant, helpless and weak, and needing a mother's care like any one of us. And yet when they saw the infant, they believed that they saw the divine Saviour of the world: they 'fell down and worshipped Him.'" Why do you believe in any worship Jesus?

