



# THE CHRISTMAS STORY



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# 25 Days of Christmas

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INTRODUCTION

SOAP METHOD

A 25-DAY READING PLAN FOR THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

## DAYS 1-5: THE PROPHECIES AND ANTICIPATION OF A MESSIAH

- **Day 1:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7: READ THE FAMOUS PROPHECY OF THE MESSIAH AS A CHILD AND A FUTURE KING.
- **Day 2:** Isaiah 11:1-5: FOCUS ON THE ROOT OF JESSE, ANOTHER MESSIANIC PROPHECY THAT POINTS TO THE LINEAGE OF DAVID.
- **Day 3:** Micah 5:2-5: READ THE PROPHECY THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM.
- **Day 4:** Jeremiah 33:14-16: CONSIDER THE PROMISE THAT GOD WOULD RAISE UP A "RIGHTEOUS BRANCH" FROM DAVID'S LINE.
- **Day 5:** Luke 1:5-17: READ THE STORY OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARING TO ZECHARIAH TO FORETELL THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.
- **JOURNAL PROMPTS**

## DAYS 6-10: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS' BIRTH

- **Day 6:** Luke 1:26-38: READ THE STORY OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL'S VISIT TO MARY, WHERE HE ANNOUNCES SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO JESUS.
- **Day 7:** Luke 1:39-56: READ ABOUT MARY'S VISIT TO HER COUSIN ELIZABETH AND HER BEAUTIFUL SONG OF PRAISE, THE MAGNIFICAT.
- **Day 8:** Matthew 1:18-25: READ ABOUT JOSEPH'S PERSPECTIVE, INCLUDING THE ANGEL'S VISIT ASSURING HIM TO TAKE MARY AS HIS WIFE.

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- **Day 9:** LUKE 1:57-80: READ ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ZECHARIAH'S PROPHETIC SONG.
- **Day 10:** JOHN 1:1-14: CONTEMPLATE THE BEGINNING OF JOHN'S GOSPEL, WHICH FRAMES JESUS' BIRTH IN A BROADER, THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT.
- **JOURNAL PROMPTS**

## DAYS 11-15: THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

- **Day 11:** LUKE 2:1-5: READ ABOUT THE CENSUS THAT REQUIRES JOSEPH AND MARY TO TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM.
- **Day 12:** LUKE 2:6-7: READ THE SHORT, BUT PROFOUND, ACCOUNT OF JESUS' BIRTH AND BEING LAID IN A MANGER.
- **Day 13:** LUKE 2:8-14: READ ABOUT THE ANGELS APPEARING TO THE SHEPHERDS WITH "GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY".
- **Day 14:** LUKE 2:15-20: READ HOW THE SHEPHERDS FOUND AND WORSHIPPED THE NEW-BORN KING.
- **Day 15:** PSALM 148: A PSALM OF PRAISE THAT CELEBRATES CREATION'S WORSHIP OF GOD, MIRRORING THE ANGELS' SONG.
- **JOURNAL PROMPTS**

## DAYS 16-20: JESUS' CHILDHOOD AND THE WISE MEN

- **Day 16:** MATTHEW 2:1-6: READ ABOUT THE WISE MEN'S VISIT TO HEROD AND HIS PLAN TO FIND THE CHILD.
- **Day 17:** MATTHEW 2:7-12: READ ABOUT THE WISE MEN FINDING JESUS AND WORSHIPPING HIM WITH GIFTS.
- **Day 18:** MATTHEW 2:13-15: READ ABOUT JOSEPH'S DREAM AND THEIR ESCAPE TO EGYPT.

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- **Day 19:** MATTHEW 2:16-18: READ ABOUT HEROD'S SLAUGHTER OF THE MALE INFANTS IN BETHLEHEM.
- **Day 20:** MATTHEW 2:19-23: READ ABOUT THE HOLY FAMILY'S RETURN TO ISRAEL AND MOVE TO NAZARETH.
- **JOURNAL PROMPTS**

## DAYS 21-25: REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION

- **Day 21:** LUKE 2:22-32: READ ABOUT JESUS' PRESENTATION AT THE TEMPLE AND SIMEON'S PROPHECY.
- **Day 22:** LUKE 2:33-40: READ ABOUT ANNA'S RECOGNITION AND PRAISE FOR THE BABY JESUS.
- **Day 23:** HEBREWS 1:1-6: REFLECT ON JESUS AS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S WORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.
- **Day 24:** JOHN 3:16-17: REMEMBER THE OVERARCHING PURPOSE OF JESUS' BIRTH—TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM SIN.
- **Day 25:** GALATIANS 4:4-7: REJOICE IN THE TRUTH THAT THROUGH JESUS, WE ARE ADOPTED AS GOD'S CHILDREN.
- **JOURNAL PROMPTS**



# 25 Days of Christmas

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As we embark on this thrilling 25-day journey through the enchanting Christmas story, we passionately invite you to venture beyond the well-trodden narrative and experience the miraculous truth of God's Word in a vibrant and personal way. In a season often overwhelmed by stress and distraction, this study is created to be a sacred space for reflection – a precious opportunity to intentionally slow down and immerse yourself at the feet of Jesus. Each day, you will be captivated by thought-provoking journal prompts that urge you to delve deeper into Scripture, bridging the timeless prophecies and New Testament accounts with the vivid realities of your own life. These prompts are not mere questions to be answered; they are heartfelt invitations to embark on a profound dialogue with God.

Through the powerful act of journaling, you can unleash your innermost thoughts, fervently document your heartfelt prayers, and witness your spiritual journey unfold during this sacred Christmas season. As you reflect on the scriptures, delve deep into their personal meanings, uncover the magnificent facets of God's character, and embrace how these transformative truths can be woven into your life, you will craft a cherished record of your unique pilgrimage. Our prayer is that this practice ignites a fiery passion within you, transforming the Christmas story from a well-known narrative into a vibrant, living truth that brightens your path and fills you with an overwhelming sense of hope, purpose, and awe. Seize this divine opportunity to draw ever closer to the heart of God as we joyfully prepare to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Savior.

# 25 Days of Christmas

There are many study methods out there! I encourage you to search through them and find what motivates and encourages you the most. I like to use the S.O.A.P Method.

## Scripture

Write out a verse or passage of scripture.

## Observation

What stood out to you about this verse or scriptures?  
Where there any commands or instructions?

## Application

How can you apply this today to your life today? How can you live in light of this truth?

## Prayer

Write out a prayer. Ask the Lord to show you how to meditate and apply this truth to your life.

Visit It Starts Small for more examples and in-depth study guide ideas!

[www.itstartssmall.com](http://www.itstartssmall.com)



# THE PROPHECIES AND ANTICIPATION OF A MESSIAH



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## Day 1 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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## Day 1 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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## Day 2 Isaiah 11:1-5

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## Day 2 Isaiah 11:1-5

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## Day 3 Micah 5:2-5

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## Day 3 Micah 5:2-5

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## Day 4 Jeremiah 33:14-16

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## Day 4 Jeremiah 33:14-16

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## Day 5: Luke 1:5-17

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## Day 3 Micah 5:2-5

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# Journal Prompts

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Here are some journal prompts for the first five days of the Christmas story reading plan, which focus on Old Testament prophecies and the beginning of the New Testament accounts.

## Day 1: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

This prophecy refers to Jesus as the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

- How do these names for the Messiah offer a promise that is relevant to the anxieties and struggles in your life today?
- Where do you need more counsel, strength, or peace in your life? How does the idea of Jesus fulfilling these roles change your perspective?
- Think of a time when a seemingly impossible promise was fulfilled in your life. How does that help you trust in the prophecies about Jesus?

## Day 2: Isaiah 11:1-5

This passage describes a new king – a righteous branch from the family line of Jesse (King David's father).

- The prophecy speaks of the Spirit resting upon the Messiah, giving him wisdom, understanding, and strength. What does it mean for a leader to have these qualities? How do you see these qualities in Jesus?
- Consider a time when you saw wisdom and righteousness triumph over injustice. How does this passage connect that experience to the larger story of God's redemptive plan?
- This verse can also be interpreted as applying to modern believers as a gift from God. What are the wisest decisions you have made in your life, and what guided your choices?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 3: Micah 5:2-5

This verse famously names Bethlehem as the birthplace of the future ruler of Israel.

- Micah's prophecy highlights God's tendency to use small, unexpected instruments to fulfill his great purposes. When have you seen God work through a seemingly insignificant or overlooked person or situation?
- Put yourself in the position of a first-century person waiting for the Messiah. Would you have believed that the Savior of the world would be born in such a humble town? How does that challenge your own expectations of God?
- Reflect on your own expectations versus God's reality. When has God's plan been different from what you thought it would be, and how did that turn out?

## Day 4: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Jeremiah promises that "the days are surely coming" when God will fulfill his good promise to Israel.

- This promise was given to Israel during a time of immense waiting and hardship. Think about a period in your life when you felt like you were in a time of waiting or exile. How did you maintain hope?
- The passage calls Jesus "The Lord Our Righteous Savior". What does it mean for you that Jesus is your righteousness?
- Consider what you are currently waiting for. How can this promise encourage you to have a higher, more hopeful perspective?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 5: Luke 1:5-17

This reading tells the story of the angel Gabriel's visit to Zechariah.

- Zechariah was a priest who served faithfully but had to wait a long time for his prayers to be answered. Where do you struggle with doubt or impatience while waiting for a specific prayer to be answered?
- Zechariah had to learn to trust in God's timing. How has God's timing unfolded in your own life in a way that eventually made sense?
- The angel promises that John the Baptist would "prepare the way for the Lord". How are you called to prepare for Christ in your own heart and in the world? What obstacles do you face, and what can help you?





# THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS' BIRTH



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## Day 6 Luke 1:26-38

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## Day 6 Luke 1:26-38

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## Day 6 Luke 1:26-38

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## Day 7 Luke 1:39-56

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## Day 7 Luke 1:39-56

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## Day 7 Luke 1:39-56

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## Day 8 Matthew 1:18-25

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## Day 8 Matthew 1:18-25

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## Day 8 Matthew 1:18-25

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## Day 9 Luke 1:57-80

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## Day 9 Luke 1:57-80

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## Day 9 Luke 1:57-80

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## Day 9 Luke 1:57-80

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## Day 10 John 1:1-14

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## Day 10 John 1:1-14

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# Journal Prompts

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Here are some journal prompts for days 6 through 10 of the Christmas story reading plan, focusing on the announcements of Jesus' and John the Baptist's births.

## Day 6: Luke 1:26–38

This passage recounts the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.

- The angel calls Mary "highly favored" and "blessed among women." Consider times when you've felt singled out or blessed in an unexpected way. What were the feelings associated with those moments?
- Mary's initial reaction is fear and confusion, yet she ultimately responds, "May your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38). Consider areas of life where you've been called to trust God's plan, even when it's confusing.
- The story highlights Mary's humility and submission to God's will. What does true humility look like, especially when faced with an unexpected calling?

## Day 7: Luke 1:39–56

This reading covers Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth and her song of praise, the Magnificat.

- Elizabeth's baby leaps for joy in her womb when Mary arrives. Consider what or who causes a feeling of joy and celebration.
- Mary's Magnificat praises God for lifting up the humble and filling the hungry. Consider times when God has turned the world's expectations upside down.
- Reflect on sharing good news with a trusted friend or family member. How did their response mirror Elizabeth's reaction to Mary?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 8: Matthew 1:18-25

This passage provides Joseph's perspective on Jesus' birth.

- Joseph plans to "dismiss" Mary quietly to protect her from public shame. What does this reveal about his character, and how did his decision reflect grace and mercy?
- The angel tells Joseph that Jesus will "save his people from their sins." Reflect on what it means that Jesus is your "righteous Savior."
- Joseph is reoriented from his own dreams of a quiet life to God's greater plan. Consider times when God has called you to give up your own plans in order to embrace His.

## Day 9: Luke 1:57-80

This passage describes the birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's prophetic song.

- After being silenced for months, Zechariah's first words are a song of praise. Consider times when you've experienced a season of silence or waiting before God gave you a renewed voice.
- Zechariah's prophecy speaks of God's tender mercy and the coming dawn. Consider how God's mercy has shined light into a dark or challenging part of your life.
- Consider John's role in "preparing the way" for Jesus. How can you, in your own way, prepare the way for Jesus to be known in your own life and in the lives of those around you?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 10: John 1:1-14

This reading introduces the theological concept of Jesus as "the Word."

- "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." What does this tell you about the eternal nature of Jesus and his intimate relationship with God the Father?
- "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Why is it so powerful that God chose to become human?

This passage mentions that the "light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Consider places where Jesus' light has broken through a dark situation in the world or in your own life.



# THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



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## Day 11 Luke 2:1-5

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## Day 11 Luke 2:1-5

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## Day 12 Luke 2:6-7

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## Day 12 Luke 2:6-7

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## Day 13 Luke 2:8-14

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## Day 13 Luke 2:8-14

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## Day 14 Luke 2:15-20

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## Day 14 Luke 2:15-20

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## Day 15 Psalm 148

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## Day 15 Psalm 148

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## Day 15 Psalm 148

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# Journal Prompts

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Here are some journal prompts for days 11 through 15 of the Christmas story reading plan, focusing on the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus.

## Day 11: Luke 2:1-5

This passage details the census that prompts Mary and Joseph's long and difficult journey.

- Imagine yourself traveling with Mary and Joseph. What might you have felt during the long, uncertain trip? What would you have prayed for?
- A census is an act of an earthly empire, but God uses it to fulfill his greater, eternal purpose. How have you seen seemingly ordinary or difficult events in your own life be used by God to accomplish something more profound?
- The journey to Bethlehem is a reminder that faith is often a physical and mental journey, not just a spiritual one. What personal journeys or struggles have strengthened your faith?

## Day 12: Luke 2:6-7

This is the moment of Jesus' birth in a humble setting.

- "There was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:7). Reflect on how easy it is to crowd Jesus out of our own lives due to business, worry, or distractions. In what areas of your life are you saying "no room"?
- Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a manger and laid in a feeding trough. What does this profound humility teach you about God's nature and priorities?
- How does the humble setting of Jesus' birth contrast with the world's expectations of a king or savior? What does this tell you about the true nature of God's power and kingdom?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 13: Luke 2:8-14

This reading describes the angels appearing to the shepherds.

- The angels brought "good tidings of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10). What does "great joy" feel like to you? Describe a time when you received or shared good news that brought you genuine joy.
- The shepherds were considered outcasts in their society. What does it reveal about God that he chose these unlikely witnesses to be the first to hear the news of the Savior's birth? Who are the "outcasts" in your world, and how can you share the good news with them?
- The angel choir praises God with the words, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14). What does it mean for God to be glorified, and for peace to be brought to earth?

## Day 14: Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds leave their flocks to find Jesus, then go and spread the news.

- The shepherds went "with haste" to find the baby (Luke 2:16). What is an invitation or calling you've responded to with urgency? What stopped you from hesitating?
- After seeing Jesus, the shepherds "spread the word" (Luke 2:17). What is the good news you have to share with others about Jesus?
- Mary, in contrast, "treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Luke 2:19). Reflect on a time when you chose to quietly contemplate an event in your life rather than rushing to share it. What did that private reflection teach you?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 15: Psalm 148

This psalm is a song of universal praise to God from all creation.

- The psalm invites all of creation — from the highest heavens to the deepest seas — to praise the Lord. Where do you see God's glory reflected in creation around you? What elements of nature lead you to praise?
- The psalmist calls on everyone, "both young men and maidens; old men and children" to praise God (Psalm 148:12). Consider how different generations can come together to worship God.
- How does this psalm, read in the context of the Nativity story, help you connect the praise of the angels and shepherds to a larger chorus of praise for God's creation?



# JESUS' CHILDHOOD and THE WISEMEN



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## Day 16 Matthew 2:1-6

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	Opening Balance		
1/1/20	Deposit	100.00	100.00
1/15/20	Withdrawal	25.00	75.00
2/1/20	Deposit	50.00	125.00
2/15/20	Withdrawal	15.00	110.00
3/1/20	Deposit	75.00	185.00
3/15/20	Withdrawal	30.00	155.00
3/31/20	Closing Balance		155.00





## Day 17 Matthew 2:7-12

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## Day 18 Matthew 2:13-15

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## Day 19 Matthew 2:16-18

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## Day 20 Matthew 2:19-23

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## Day 20 Matthew 2:19-23

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# Journal Prompts

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Here are some journal prompts for days 16 through 20 of the Christmas story reading plan, focusing on the wise men, the flight to Egypt, and Herod's cruelty.

## Day 16: Matthew 2:1-6

This passage describes the arrival of the wise men, who follow a star to find the King of the Jews.

- The wise men came seeking to worship a king they had never met. What motivates you to seek and worship God?
- Herod's reaction to the news is a stark contrast to the wise men's devotion. How can you distinguish between faith and fear when facing difficult circumstances?
- Think of a time when you followed a "guiding light," whether it was a person, an idea, or a feeling. How did that guide you, and what did you find at the end of your journey?

## Day 17: Matthew 2:7-12

This passage describes the wise men finding Jesus and offering him gifts.

- The wise men offered costly gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Reflect on what gifts you offer to Jesus. Are they material things, or do they involve your time, skills, and heart?
- The wise men rejoiced with "exceeding great joy" upon finding Jesus. When was the last time you felt a joy so profound and what brought it about?
- The wise men returned home by a different route to avoid Herod. What does it mean for your life to take a "different path" in obedience to God, even if it's not the easiest way?



# Journal Prompts

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## Day 18: Matthew 2:13–15

This reading details Joseph's dream and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt.

- The Holy Family flees to Egypt as refugees. What does this reveal about Jesus' connection to the marginalized and displaced? How can you support refugees or others in vulnerable situations?
- Joseph immediately obeys the angel, even when it means disrupting his family and fleeing their home. What are some of the biggest sacrifices you've made out of obedience or love?
- Think of a time you were forced to leave your home or comfort zone. How did that experience change you, and what lessons did you learn from it?

## Day 19: Matthew 2:16–18

This passage describes Herod's horrific slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem.

- Herod's cruelty is a powerful reminder that following Christ may involve suffering and facing evil. How do you find hope and strength when confronted with the reality of suffering in the world?
- This tragedy fulfills the prophecy of Rachel weeping for her children. How can you hold space for both immense joy (the birth of Jesus) and profound sorrow during the Christmas season?
- The darkness of this story underscores the profound meaning of Jesus' coming as the Light of the world. Reflect on how light breaks through darkness in your own life and in the world.

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 20: Matthew 2:19-23

This reading recounts the Holy Family's return to Israel and their move to Nazareth.

- The Holy Family settles in Nazareth, a humble and unremarkable town. This once again demonstrates God's preference for the humble and overlooked. How can you find value and meaning in the ordinary parts of your life?
- Consider Jesus' long, quiet years in Nazareth. What can you learn from this period of silence and preparation before his public ministry?
- The events in these passages involve constant movement and upheaval. How do you find rest and stability in your life during times of transition or change?



# REFLECTION and celebration



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## Day 21 Luke 2:22-32

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## Day 21 Luke 2:22-32

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## Day 22 Luke 2:33-40

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## Day 22 Luke 2:33-40

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## Day 23 Hebrews 1:1-6

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## Day 23 Hebrews 1:1-6

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## Day 24 John 3:16-17

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## Day 24 John 3:16-17

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## Day 25 Galatians 4:4-7

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## Day 25 Galatians 4:4-7

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# Journal Prompts

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Here are some journal prompts for days 21 through 25 of the Christmas story reading plan, focusing on reflection and celebrating the spiritual meaning of Christ's birth.

## Day 21: Luke 2:22-32

This passage describes Jesus' presentation at the Temple, where Simeon prophetically blesses him.

- Simeon had waited for years to see the Messiah, patiently guided by the Holy Spirit. What are you patiently waiting for in your own life? How can Simeon's example encourage you to wait on God's timing?
- Upon seeing Jesus, Simeon said, "Now, Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace" (Luke 2:29). He had fulfilled his life's purpose. What would bring you a sense of peace and purpose in your own life?
- Simeon describes Jesus as "a light to reveal You to the nations" (Luke 2:32). In what ways is Jesus a light in your life, especially when you are in a dark or confusing situation?

## Day 22: Luke 2:33-40

This reading describes Anna the prophetess, who also recognizes Jesus and gives thanks to God.

- Anna, who was a widow for many years, spent her life in the temple fasting and praying. What does her devotion teach you about finding purpose in serving God, even during seasons of waiting or hardship?
- Anna "spoke about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). Who are the people in your life that are waiting for hope, and how can you share the story of Jesus with them?
- What spiritual lessons have you learned from a time of personal sacrifice or singleness, like Anna's?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 23: Hebrews 1:1–6

This passage reflects on Jesus as the fulfillment of all God's past communication.

- Hebrews says that Jesus is "the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3). Does your concept of God look exactly like Jesus?
- For a long time, God spoke through the prophets. Now, he speaks through his Son. How has Jesus' coming given you a clearer understanding of God's character?
- This passage reminds us that the whole universe was created and is sustained by Jesus. How does this truth impact the way you view and interact with the world around you?

## Day 24: John 3:16–17

This beloved verse summarizes the purpose of Jesus' birth.

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). What is your deepest feeling when you reflect on God's immense love for you, a love so great that he gave his son?
- Jesus came to save, not condemn. How does this truth free you from worry about mistakes or failures?
- Gary Burge writes that in John 3:16, "Jesus [brings] the light of God to one who is captive in darkness." Where in your life are you still feeling trapped in sin, and what can help you rely more on God's power to transform you?

# Journal Prompts

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## Day 25: Galatians 4:4-7

This reading describes the "fullness of time," when Jesus' birth brought about our adoption as children of God.

- "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son... to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). How does knowing you are an adopted, chosen child of God transform your identity?
- The passage says we have been given "the Spirit of his Son," so we can call God "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:6). What does it mean for you to be able to approach God with such intimacy?
- Paul says we are no longer slaves but heirs. How does living as a child and heir of God change the way you approach your daily life and future?





# CONCLUSION



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# 25 Days of Christmas

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Congratulations on completing this awe-inspiring 25-day journey through the magnificent story of Christmas! As you close your journal, hold tightly to the profound truths you've unearthed; they're not mere words on a page, but vibrant revelations. You have traversed a narrative rich with meaning—from the ancient prophecies heralding a mighty King, to the miraculous birth that shattered every expectation, to the breathtaking reality of God tangibly becoming flesh. Take a moment to deeply reflect on how your understanding of Christmas has evolved. What resonated with you the most? Was it the radical humility of Mary, the unwavering faithfulness of Joseph, the patient hope of Simeon, or the profound cosmic truth that Jesus is the very "Word"? Allow these powerful lessons and reflections to permeate your heart, and let them continue to transform your perspective in wondrous ways.

Now, the real journey begins: infusing your daily life with these timeless truths, long after the decorations have faded. The story of Christmas powerfully reminds us that God is intimately involved in our world, often orchestrating profound changes in quiet, unexpected ways through seemingly ordinary people. How can you turn up the sensitivity to his vibrant presence in your life and the lives of those around you? How can you boldly carry the light of Christ into a world that aches in darkness? Let your journaling practice flourish, not just during the Christmas season, but as a vital expression of life itself, reflecting on God's relentless work in your heart. Step into the new year with the noble challenge of living as an adopted child and heir of God, letting the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Nativity blaze from your spirit all year long.



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