



Daily Devotionals: With Jesus at the Beginning | December 12, 2021

Welcome to the Advent season! The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season can drown out the focus of this time of year. Over the next four weeks, we invite you to pause as we look for hope, joy, love, and peace in Jesus.

The word Advent is formed from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival,” Advent is a time for remembering and rejoicing Christ’s birth while watching and waiting for Christ’s return.

Begin with this simple prayer: Lord Jesus, through Advent this year, help us to slow down enough to see you. To reflect you to those around us. Help me to find your hope, joy, love, and peace in this season. Amen.

Finding Joy in the Waiting

Read Luke 1:26-38, 46-47.

Much to Mary’s surprise, the angel Gabriel appeared to her to announce she would be Jesus’ mother. After all, Mary wasn’t married yet, and she had a different plan for her life. Gabriel reminded her nothing is impossible with God. She could have been overwhelmed by this startling news, but she chose to respond with a song of joy. Nothing takes God by surprise. We can trust God has an ultimate plan for our lives. Discover the joy that comes from believing in Jesus and God’s plan for us.

Reflection question: How can we remember to have joy, even when our plans change?

Pray this prayer: Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We can see how Mary trusted Your plan, and You filled her heart with joy. Thank You for reminding us You have a good plan for our lives, too. Help us to find our joy in You because Your plans are ALWAYS good. Amen.