

DECEMBER 24-25, 2024
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



Jesus Christ, the true light, is born!

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas observances.

Tuesday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A child has been born
	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Wednesday	Psalm 98	The Lord works miracles
	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the greatest gift of all, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, the Word made flesh. May the good news of great joy for all people fill our lives and our world with his love and peace. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, O God, for the love between us, for the food that feeds us, and for the gift of your Son to redeem us. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the good news of Jesus' birth bring you great joy.



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HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS 

Away in a Manger

CHRISTMAS MILESTONES 

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS 

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How does the birth of a child reflect the miracle of life? How do you treasure that new life?
- How is Jesus' birth in a manger a miracle for all the world?

DEVOTIONS 

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

When heaven and earth come together in the birth of Jesus, a young mother treasures and ponders what it all means. The Gospel of Luke treasures and ponders with her. It is an amazing combination of events that occur. Emperor Augustus, in faraway Rome, gives a command and a poor couple living in Nazareth must move to Bethlehem. Human power has control over peasants, and yet, the consequence is that Jesus will be born in Bethlehem, the city of King David. He will be named by an angel to be the Savior, the Messiah (the anointed one), the Lord. Human powers may control lives for a moment, but the real power and hope for the world lies with a defenseless couple and a vulnerable baby. Shepherds and angels praise God. Mary treasures and ponders all these things. Christmas is a time for us to treasure and ponder the power and love of God to bring heaven and earth together for peace on earth and God's good will.

Discuss: How do you treasure and ponder the birth of Jesus?

Pray: **God of glory, you who bring peace on earth, we thank you that to us is born in Bethlehem, the Messiah and Lord. Help us always to treasure your word and know Jesus as Savior. Amen.**

SERVICE 

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme for this day, how can you help others to treasure the good news of Jesus' birth?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS 

Place a white candle in the center of the Advent Wreath to symbolize Jesus, the light of the world. Take a moment to discuss or think about what it means to you that God has entered our world as a baby in Bethlehem. Light the four candles on the Advent Wreath and then the Christ candle in the center.

Say: **John 1:9 states, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." Jesus is the true light who gives light to every person. The center candle on the Advent Wreath is the Christ candle. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light of the world.**

Pray: **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for entering our world and our lives in human form. May you be the light that shines brightly in our hearts and minds and the world. Amen.**

