



get lit

A 12-DAY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

IMPACT *i* CHURCH



HELLO FRIENDS!

**WE ARE SO GLAD THAT YOU ARE JOINING US
ON THIS 12-DAY CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL
JOURNEY! OUR PRAYER IS THAT IT WILL HELP
YOU FOCUS YOUR EYES ON JESUS, THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD, THIS CHRISTMAS.**

**WE ARE ALSO PRAYING THAT AS YOU TURN
YOUR EYES TO THE LIGHT OTHERS WILL SEE
YOUR LIGHT SHINE BRIGHTER AND GLORIFY
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

LET'S GET LIT!

DAY 1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

-John 1:1-2

"...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

-Philippians 2:6-8

Jesus was in the beginning. The beginning of time. The creation of the world. He was there and part of creation. Then, He split history, coming to the earth He created, not as a triumphant King, but a humble baby, born in a manger. The One who created the trees that were cut down to make that wooden manger humbly accepted it as a new beginning—the beginning of the rescue mission for us.

Today, thank Him for being at the beginning of time but also for making a new beginning for us by coming into the world He created.

Song to Worship to: Here I Am To Worship. You can find this song and others on our Christmas worship playlist on Spotify.



DAY 2

"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

-John 1:3

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him."

-Colossians 1:15-16

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

-Genesis 1:26-27

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

-Psalm 139:13-14

Jesus was an active part of creation. John 1:3 tells us that nothing was made without Him. Colossians 1 tells us that all things were not only created through Him but also created for Him. Those things He created don't just include the world—it also includes us! Genesis 1:26-27 tells us that God created us in His image. There's a little word in those verses that we often miss: us. God is talking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are made in the image of a triune God. No wonder He left heaven to come to us! We are His creation, made in His image. What a great love that brought Him here, held Him to a cross, and led Him to triumph over sin, death, and the grave. He did that because He loves you. You bear His image.

Today, thank Him for His love. If you don't know His love, we'd love to help you take that step of salvation. You can scan the QR code to message a leader or email us at church@impactharlem.org



DAY 3

"In him was life, and that life was the light of men."

-John 1:4

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

-1 John 5:12

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

-John 14:6

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

-John 10:10

John 1:4 tells us that in Jesus was life. Stop and think about that for just a moment. Life is found in Him. Not only was He present and active at creation, but He brings life to us through His death and resurrection. And He doesn't offer a mediocre life. He tells us in John 10:10 that He has come to give us abundant life. "Abundant life" doesn't mean easy, instead it means a life that is full of joy, hope, love, and grace. He promised us a life like no other both now and for eternity. He is the only way to the Father in heaven. Without Him, life ends 6 feet under the ground. With Him that grave is a doorway to an eternity face-to-face with the One who loved us enough to take our punishment so that we could be brought from death to life. Forever.

Are you living the abundant life Jesus promised? Why or why not? Ask God to help you find your joy in Him.

DAY 4

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

-John 1:5

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

-1 John 4:4

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

-John 16:33

Have you ever felt hopeless? Like God wasn't listening to your prayers or working in your life? The Jewish people probably felt that, too. Before the birth of Jesus, God had been silent for 400 years. Can you imagine? Four hundred years without any word from God to His priests or prophets. Then God spoke to a priest named Zachariah. He would become the father of John the Baptist (you can read his story in Luke 1). Suddenly, a little light burst onto the scene. A little glimmer of hope that proved God had not forgotten His people. Our world today can feel like an overwhelming darkness has engulfed it. But there is a Light, One who entered the world as a tiny baby, announced by hosts of angels and a bright star. He is the Light that cannot be overcome because He overcame this world through His death and resurrection. So, take heart, friend. The darkness cannot overcome you if the Light lives within you. The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Today, pray for Jesus to show you how He brings light and hope into your life.



DAY 5

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light."

-John 1:6-8

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

-Matthew 5:14-16

Just as John the Baptist bore witness to Jesus, the Light, so do you. You, Christ-follower, are an image-bearer of God. You reflect His light and His glory to a world that desperately needs it. In Matthew 5, Jesus said that we are like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden. Don't be like someone who turns on a light and immediately hides it. Let your light shine. Why? "So that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." During this season, it's easy to forget that Jesus came to bring light and we were created to reflect that light. How can you let your light shine to those around you today?

Ask God to help you reflect His light and glory today so that others will be pointed to Him.



DAY 6

"The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him."

-John 1:9-10

"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."

-Luke 2:7

No room in the inn. We hear that phrase every Christmas. Have you ever stopped to think about how there could be no room for the King of kings? Didn't that inn owner know who was about to be born? No. He didn't. He just knew that there were too many people and the only place there was room was in the stable with the animals. The Light of the world, born in a dark, dingy animal stall. What a welcome to the world He created. Jesus knew exactly how He would come into this world. He willingly stepped into the mundane mess of human life, humbly accepting the manger as a bed. The world did not know Jesus, but He knew this world. He knows you. He loves you. He came for you.

What is your response to Jesus? Will you turn Him away, like the inn owner, or will you bow down in worship?

DAY 7

"He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

-John 1:11-13

"When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

-Luke 2:15-20

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

-John 3:16-17

"So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.'"

-John 10:7-9

The night Jesus was born, angels announced His birth not to kings or nobility, but to shepherds. Shepherds were not regarded as high-class citizens. But God chose to tell them first. And notice their response in Luke 2. They didn't sit around and talk about what they had just seen with the angels, they immediately went to Bethlehem to see Jesus. The first to worship at His feet were a symbol of what He'd come to do: shepherd His people. Find the lost lambs and bring them home and into His flock, the family of God. The shepherds returned to the fields, glorifying and praising God for what He had done by sending Jesus into the world.



DAY 7

If you believe in Jesus already, give Him thanks today for all that He has done for you. If you haven't placed your faith in Jesus, there's no better time to do it than right now. All who believe in Him will become children of God, made righteous and holy by His death, burial, and resurrection. If you want to take that step to know Jesus today, you can say these words to Him:

Jesus, I know I am a sinner who needs a Savior. I believe that you are that Savior, the One who came into the world to save me from my sins. Please forgive my sins and bring me into your family. I surrender my life to you today, God. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer today for the first time, know that all of heaven is rejoicing with you! And we'd like to rejoice, too! Send us a message at church@impactharlem.org and let us know that you have made Jesus your Lord and Savior.

DAY 8

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

-John 1:14

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’”

-Luke 2:13-14

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

-2 Corinthians 5:21

The Greek word for “glory” used both in John 1:14 and Luke 2:13-14 is the word *doxa*. It means “dignity, honor, praise, worship.” Like we talked about yesterday, the shepherds—not the most dignified profession—were the first to witness the dignity of God, laid in a manger, and they gave Him all honor and praise. God is really good at meeting us where we are, even in the undignified places, and bringing in His dignity, His honor, His praise to our mess. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul reminds us that we are made righteous before God because of Jesus. He took our sin and our mess and gave us righteousness—right-standing with God—instead.

How has God met you where you are? How has He brought His dignity into your mess? Maybe you need Him to do that today, to meet you in an undignified place. Make this your prayer today: *God, I need you to step into the mess of my life and bring your dignity. Your grace. Your truth. Your love. Meet me where I am and remind me of who I am in you. Amen.*

DAY 9

"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

-John 1:16-17

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

-Matthew 5:17

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

-Ephesians 2:8-9

"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

-John 8:31-32

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

-John 17:17

What man is not able to accomplish on his own, God accomplished through Jesus. The law given to Moses was there to show the Jews their need for God—no one was good enough to keep the law. Jesus came as a fulfillment of that law, and with His coming He also brought grace and truth. We can't save ourselves from sin—that's where grace comes in. Jesus did what we were powerless to do, nailing our sin to the cross and making a way for us to receive grace.



DAY 9

But not only did Jesus fulfill the law and bring us grace, He also brought truth. What is that truth? He is. In John 14:6, Jesus says that He is the truth. John 8:31-32 tells us that when we abide in His word, we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free. In John 17:17, Jesus prays that His followers would be sanctified in truth, and that truth is the word of God. If we go all the way back to the beginning of John 1, we see who the Word of God is: Jesus. It all points back to Jesus. Not only is He grace, but He is truth. He is the only way to the Father. He is the only way to life. It's all about Jesus—it always has been, and it always will be.

Today, thank Him for bringing grace and truth into the world and your life.

DAY 10

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

-John 1:18

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'"

-John 14:6-7

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."

-1 John 4:15-16

John 1:18 says that no one has ever seen God, but Jesus has made God known. Jesus is God, wrapped in flesh, sent to this earth on a rescue mission for us. To redeem us. To save us from sin. To give us life. And to make God known. He is the only way to the Father. And that's really the prize, isn't it? To be in the presence of the Father forever? That's what our hearts were made for. It's the longing that we try to fill with so many things—an eternal longing to be with the One who created us. The only way to get there is through Jesus—a life surrendered to Him and a heart abiding in Him.

Today, ask God to show you what you haven't surrendered to Him yet, and surrender it. Ask Him to help you abide in Him. We abide in Him by praying and studying His word. If you need help with knowing how to pray or study the Bible, we have resources to help you at <https://impactharlem.org/next-steps/>



DAY 11

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

-1 Peter 2:9

Jesus, the Light of the world, stepped down into darkness so that we didn't have to stay there. He called us out of darkness and into His "marvelous light." He changed our identities from disregarded to chosen, from worthless to royal, and from sinner to holy. He wants us for His own possession—He created us, after all. You may be wondering "Why?" Why would Jesus do this? Because He loves us. And what should our response to this love be? To proclaim His excellencies so that others know His love and step out of darkness and into light.

How can you proclaim God's goodness to those around you today?

DAY 12

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

-Philippians 2:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

-Matthew 5:14-16

The best conclusion of this 12-day journey is that the Word became flesh (John 1:14), in Him was life that is the light of man (John 1:4), and now we who believe in Him are lights, taking His love out into a world of darkness.

How do we shine our lights? By holding fast to the word of life. What is the word of life? Jesus. The Light has come, and not only are we to proclaim His goodness to the world so others see His Light, but we also become lights. We don't shine to bring honor or praise to ourselves, but our lights are a reflection of the one true light: Jesus.

We hope that you see the Light, know His love, grow in His love, and show His love to the world by shining His light into the darkness around you. Get lit, fam. Be the light. Point others to the true Light: Jesus.



HOW CAN YOU BE THE LIGHT?

IN YOUR HOME?

AT YOUR WORKPLACE?

WITH YOUR FRIENDS?

IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
