

Full of Wonder

25 Christmas Devotionals for Children



December 1



It's wonderful to think about the manger, the angels, and that night when Jesus came to earth. It's a thought that we focus on for a few weeks over the Christmas season, and we might even ponder it from time to time throughout the year. But that was only part of a much bigger picture.

Jesus didn't just pop down to earth so the angels could cheer Him on. God committed Himself to us without end and without limit. Anyone who opens their heart to Him is assured of security forever in the arms of the One who sets no boundaries to the immensity of His love. Suddenly, even the spectacle of the heavens filled with angels that night seems minuscule compared to the wonders God Himself came to earth to personally deliver to you and me.

December 2



At Christmas, we are reminded about Jesus' birth, and it's a wonderful time of year to think about Him and all that He has done for us, which goes way beyond the Christmas season. He is an integral part of our lives and wants to be part of all we do—and He can be, as much as we'll let Him.

No matter what circumstances we are in, no matter what changes have occurred, no matter how difficult things may be, He's alive in us. Wherever we are, His power and Spirit are with us. In whatever circumstance, in whatever situation, whether we are in our hometown or some far-flung country, He is with us and will work through us as much as we allow Him to.

December 3



We who know the story of Christmas so well can easily grow familiar with its blessing. Jesus' birthday becomes a traditional, recurring event much like any other. When in fact, it's anything but. The truth is: God loves us so much that He came to earth as a human, in the form of His Son, Jesus, so we could get to know Him and learn to trust Him and love Him back. May we always retain childlike wonder at this incredible gift!



December 4



Part of the wonder of Christmas is the magnitude of what resulted from such *small* beginnings. What began with a tiny little babe in a tiny little manger, in a tiny little town in a tiny little country, became a vast and unending gift to a countless number of people for an immeasurable length of time.

The Christmas story tells us that it's okay to start small. Jesus started as a tiny baby born in a stable, but He ended up at the right hand of the throne of God. And because of Him, our small beginnings will have greater ends in His eternal kingdom.

December 5



If we follow Jesus' example by giving to those who need His care and support in whatever way He shows us, this Christmas season can be everything He wants it to be. The more we follow His example, the more our own lives will be spiritually enriched. As we do what we can to demonstrate His love to others, He will help us to better understand His plan in our own lives.

Letting Him use you to share His love is the gift He wants the most for His birthday. It's a gift that you can give no matter what else you're doing, and it's one that *only you* can give Him, because it's the gift of your own willing heart.

December 6



Jesus temporarily renounced the rights of His citizenship in heaven and became a citizen of this world. Though He was rich, for our sakes He became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. He not only adapted Himself to our bodily form, but also conformed to the human ways of life, customs, language, dress, and living, that He might understand and love us better and communicate with us on the lowly level of our own human understanding. He did it that He might reach us with His love, prove to us His compassion and concern, and help us understand His message in simple, childlike terms that we could grasp.

December 7



Jesus came to bring salvation to "all people"—anyone who would believe in Him, regardless of race, religion, background, or anything else. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

"Whoever believes." Salvation is God's Christmas gift to you and me.



December 8



Although He was predestined to be the King of kings, Jesus was not born in a palace. Instead, He was born on the dirty floor of a barn and laid to sleep in the animals' feed trough. His arrival received no official recognition from the rich and powerful of His day. Instead, He was visited by a few poor shepherds who had heard the news from a band of angels

As you enjoy all the blessings of life this Christmas, stop and think about what meager circumstances Jesus was born into. He had so much, yet became so little. He became nothing so that we could have everything. All that we have, we owe to Him.

December 9



Let me take a minute with Jesus. The true presence of Christmas is found with Him. Let the celebration of His birth touch my heart in a new way this year. Let me learn more about the gifts He gave me so long ago on Christmas. Let me be a part of Christmas itself by being more like Him. Let me stop and look at Jesus.



December 10



From Jesus with Love

The first Christmas was all for you. It was My Father's gift of love to the world, but it was also His gift to you specifically. And it was a "gift that keeps on giving," as they say.

For those who saw it firsthand—the star, the choir of angels, the baby in the manger—it was an unexpected and overwhelming spiritual experience. For the blessed few who recognized that baby as their Messiah, it was a dream come true. For them and the many millions since who have likewise believed, it has been the door to eternal life. And it's the same today. If you celebrate Christmas in spirit and truth, the same wonder, the same promise, and the same unspeakable joy can all be yours.

December 11



Dear Jesus, I want to see the world the way You see it. I want to understand Your will, and I want to do my part to fulfill Your will. I want to stand up for truth and justice. Give me strength to do so. Show me what I can do to change the world around me for the better. Show me how to love my fellow man, how to help and care for others as You would help and care for them if You walked on earth today. You are the Prince of Peace. Show me what I can do to promote peace. Amen.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.—Matthew 5:9 KJV

December 12



God's Word says that Jesus shall be called "wonderful."
"Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Wonderful His name because He was wonderful in His life, going about everywhere doing good and healing all that were oppressed (Acts 10:38). Wonderful in His death; because He died for you and me, we can have eternal life (Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 2:24). Wonderful in His resurrection; because He rose from the dead, we will also be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:20-21). And wonderful now in His life after death, because He lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25).

December 13



From Jesus with Love

All this hoopla is about Me—after all, it is My birthday—yet I seldom see the stores carrying gifts suitable for Me. Well, that's because I don't care for new gadgets, toys, clothing, or anything else money can buy. The gift that I love to receive the most is the same gift that is so priceless to your family and friends—your love and friendship.

Yes, I'd like a place in your heart. I mean that! I want to move into your heart and never leave you. The very best present you can give Me is an invitation to do just that. I'm strong enough, but I never beat down any doors. I always wait for an invitation. I just knock, and hope you'll hear that knock and open the door of your heart.

Will you do that for Me on My birthday?

December 14



Two thousand years ago, over the town of Bethlehem, a new star shone and an angel of God proclaimed to a group of shepherds, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11; KJV).

On that special night, God gave us the greatest gift anyone could give—His Son, Jesus. Though Jesus came into the world as a tiny baby, He brought with Him all of God's wonderful gifts. As He grew older, He unwrapped these gifts for us, one by one, as He taught us how to love God and each other. Then, when Jesus died for us, He gave us the greatest gift of all—the promise of eternal life in Heaven when our time on Earth is done.

December 15



From Jesus with love

What can you give Me this Christmas? A thankful heart is one gift I love to receive anytime. You make Me happy when you are appreciative of My blessings, great and small, because I love to see you happy. I love to see you smile, and that makes Me smile in return. I love to see you laugh, and I love to laugh with you. Each smile or laugh tells Me that you love and appreciate Me.

Your thankful praises bond your heart with Mine and draw us closer, and they can make this Christmas the best you've yet experienced. And it doesn't have to stop after Christmas. As you continue to thank Me for everything, I'll give you more and every day will be like Christmas.

December 16



The angels who sang praises to God the night Jesus was born still sing today. If you listen carefully, you can hear them over the hustle and bustle of life. Join in.

Gratitude causes us to focus on all the wonderful things that we have instead of what we think we're missing or haven't yet received. Recognizing that we have so much, and focusing with gratitude on that abundance, opens the door for more of God's blessings to come into our lives.



December 17



From Jesus with love

What can you give Me, the King of kings and Lord of lords, whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is earth? What could you possibly give Me, the One who has everything? What could I possibly need?—Gifts from the heart. Any gift from the heart is a gift that I will treasure.

Each person is created with a unique blend of gifts, talents, and abilities. All of these gifts have been given to enrich your life and the lives of others, but what you do with them and how much you do with them is up to you. Nothing makes Me happier than to see you use them to benefit others and make them happy. When you do, the most wonderful thing happens: your gifts and talents grow, they are multiplied, and that love that was your motivation spreads from heart to heart and comes back to you.

December 18



At His birth, Jesus was surrounded by simple creatures—maybe a donkey, birds, a cow, goat, or sheep. During His life, Jesus would seek the lowly and eventually tell His followers to preach the gospel to every creature. He ministered to the meek and brokenhearted, the prostitutes, the tax collectors, the fishermen, the children—those at the lower end of society. He came to seek and save the lost. He transformed men who were like beasts of burden into sons and daughters of God.

December 19



From Jesus with love

Christmas is a wonderful time of year to make things right. And making things right often starts with you taking the step to forgive someone, even if you feel that the other person is the one who should be seeking forgiveness. Has someone said or done something that has hurt you? Forgive. Are you harboring bitterness in your heart toward someone? Forgive.

Whether that person who wronged you deserves forgiveness or not is not the central issue. The central issue is you doing the right thing. No one really deserves forgiveness. If others have done wrong, they deserve a just punishment. But forgiveness is greater than justice. Justice is human; forgiveness is divine.

December 20



*The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need; our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!*

Jesus is always there for us. Through the journey of our lives, through each of our tests and trials, He is there. As the carol says, He's born to be our Friend. He's no stranger to our weaknesses and frailties. He knows all about us—the good, the bad, and the ugly—and loves us in spite of how we are. He wants to be part of our lives, to share not just in our difficulties when we cry out to Him in need, but also in our times of joy and happiness, when we celebrate our achievements and those of our family and friends.

December 21



Do you ever wonder what's on God's mind when He thinks about you? None of us is as kind, generous, or loving as we should be and want to be. It'd be easy to imagine God being tired out with our never-ending shenanigans. And yet, God's Word promises that "the Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue, fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise."

God cannot get tired of us, because He is love itself. He loves the world He made, and He loves each of us despite our mistakes and shortcomings. In fact, God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to become one of us and to open the way for us to have eternal life if we simply believe and receive Him.

December 22



For 2,000 years Jesus and His Kingdom have remained unseen to this world, manifested only in the hearts and lives of those who love and receive Him by faith. But the day is coming when this present age will be over and all the world will "see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:29-31). This time He's not coming as a meek and mild babe in a manger, God in the hands of man, but as the almighty King of kings, and it will be *man* in the hands of *God*.



December 23



Loving God, help us to remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the songs of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings. May our minds be filled with grateful thoughts and our hearts with forgiveness, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



December 24



According to some historians, shepherds in first-century Palestine were considered the lowest of the low. Their lives were spent handling animals, often sleeping outdoors surrounded by dung and possible disease. It seems they were not even considered worthy to offer a sacrifice to God.

From man's limited perspective, God was sending a band of outcasts to be the greeting party for His Son and to spread the good news of salvation to all who would listen. By today's standards, that might equate to an angelic choir appearing to a group of garbage dump scroungers. Yet God looks at the heart. It doesn't matter to Him what someone's occupation is or how they're dressed.

December 25



We look for the glory of the life of Jesus in His manhood's years. Then He wrought great miracles, revealing His divine power. Then He spoke His wonderful words which have touched the world with their influence of blessing. Then He went about doing good, showing the love of God in all His common life...

Yet in no portion of the life of Jesus Christ is there really greater glory than His birth. Nothing showed more love for the world than His condescending to be born. The Son of God emptied Himself of His divine attributes and entered human life in all the feebleness and helplessness of infancy.

The heart of Christmas

Give Jesus a gift this Christmas by opening your heart to Him. Simply say, "Thank You, Jesus, for coming into this world to save me. I welcome You into my life. Please stay by my side now and forever."



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