



Prepare for Christmas

Advent is a season to remember 'God with us'. To prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus on Christmas day, this special Advent calendar gives you opportunity to spend time each day with God in reflection and prayer.

Spend as much time as you can reading the Bible reference and thought. Let the prayer be the start of your own conversation with God.

* Bible verses come from the New International Version (NIVUK).

1 December

Psalm 97:1

"The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice."

Thought

As we enter into Advent, it is important to realise that God is the sovereign King of the world.

Prayer

God, thank You that this season gives me an opportunity to re-connect with You. Make me glad to honour You as King.

2 December

Psalm 80:19

"Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved."

Thought

The advent of Jesus is about restoring humanity to God. Lord, I want to be restored to you this season and always.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for your work of restoration and light. I ask that You continue to shine Your light on me and those around me.

3 December

Romans 1:7

"To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus."

Thought

The Christians in Rome lived in the hustle and bustle of busyness. God sent grace and peace. This Christmas, seek and accept the grace and peace of Jesus even in the busyness.

Prayer

Lord God, for many reasons, Christmas is a busy time. Help me to make time to dwell in Your grace and peace.

4 December

Isaiah 35:3-4

"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong...'"

Thought

Jesus came to strengthen and encourage, especially when we're feeling weak. He has blessed Wesley Mission to continue this work. Praise Jesus for His salvation.

Prayer

Holy God, Your power and salvation is a gift. Thank you.

5 December

Psalm 146:5

"Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God."

Thought

The true meaning of Christmas is to remember that the best gift is Jesus, and the hope He gives.

Prayer

God, my help and hope is found in You. Thank You for being the true Gift.

6 December

James 5:8-9

"You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

Thought

Most people were not ready for the first coming of Jesus, and many are not ready for when He will return. This season, let us give our hearts to Jesus to be ready to receive Him.

Prayer

Jesus, I often fail and fall, but I want to surrender to You again and receive You fresh into my heart today.

Celebrate Christmas with us

Christmas Day church service

10 am Wednesday 25 December 2019

Wesley Theatre

220 Pitt Street Sydney

Celebration morning tea will follow.

7 December

Romans 15:5-6

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Thought

When we have the same attitude that Jesus had, we can glorify God better because we share one mind and one voice. This Christmas, pray that people will see a Christ-like attitude in you.

Prayer

Lord, I want people to see Jesus in me. I want my life to bring glory to You. Please change me every day.

8 December

Isaiah 2:2

"In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it."

Thought

God's way is always the best way. Ask God to help us live like Him, so that people will stream to Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for providing a better way. Please help me to show people the way to You.

9 December

Psalm 72:18-19

"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds."

Thought

God is the origin of all things that are good. For that, He is worthy to be praised.

Prayer

God, thank You for all good and marvellous deeds. Thank You for Wesley Mission, which seeks to do good things in Your Name and for Your glory.

10 December

Psalm 72:1-2

"Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice."

Thought

Leaders, kings, CEOs, ministers and many others need the wisdom of God as they lead. It is a privilege to pray for our leaders, especially those at Wesley Mission.

Prayer

Dear God, all leaders through-out society need Your wisdom and compassion. Please give them a sense of Your justice and Your righteousness. Help me, too, as I influence people around me.

11 December

Matthew 11:11

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Thought

No body is least in God's kingdom. How extraordinary!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, You see so much potential in me and in everyone. Thank You. Help me to live into the plan You have for my life.

12 December

Isaiah 11:1-3

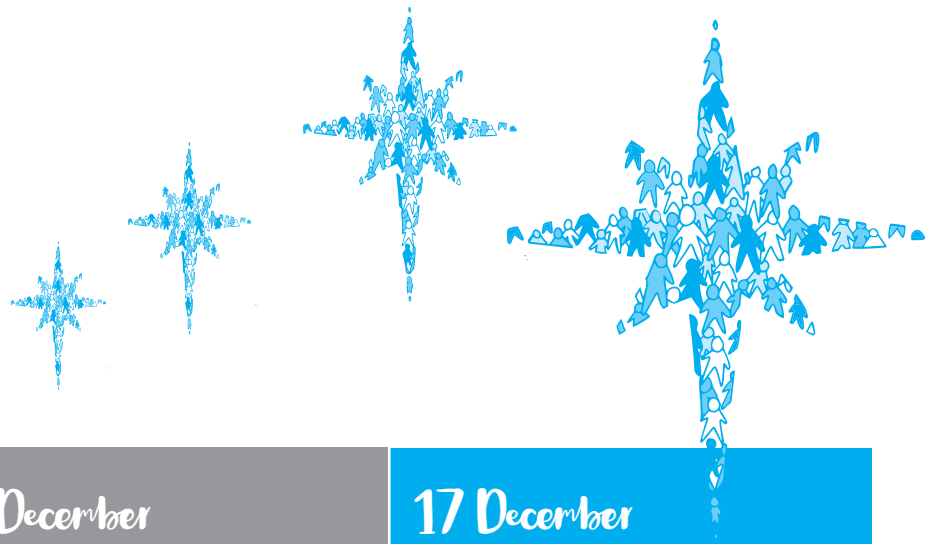
"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord."

Thought

Long before Jesus came to this earth, He planned to come and shared that plan with the prophets of old. Nothing is 'last minute' to Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for always having a plan to come to earth to save each of us. Thank You for the Christmas season and a chance to reflect on how much You love me.



13 December

Psalm 72:4

“May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.”

Thought

Jesus has always cared about those who suffer and struggle. We all suffer and struggle at times. Jesus cares for you.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for caring about people in need. Thank You for using Wesley Mission to show your support, love and compassion.

14 December

Romans 15:4

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

Thought

The Word of God is such a gift. The Bible teaches us so much about God, life and the true love of Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Your Bible. Please help me to read it more, because it contains all the truth that I need for this life.

15 December

Isaiah 2:3

“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’”

Thought

Knowing God is like being on the heights of a mountain, where we can see the big picture of what He’s doing.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for having a big plan, that even includes me. Christmas reminds us that You’ve always had a plan. Sometimes I can’t see the big picture. Help me to trust You.

16 December

Matthew 3:11

“I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Thought

Jesus brings a baptism that changes the heart. Repentance and surrender to Him as Lord enables Him to change us.

Prayer

Jesus, I repent today. I know I haven’t always been the person you created me to be. Thank You for Your forgiveness and grace. Thank you for changing me.

17 December

Psalm 122:3-4

“Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. That is where the tribes go up – the tribes of the Lord – to praise the name of the Lord according to the statute given to Israel.”

Thought

Today, we can praise God anywhere. God provides lots of opportunities for praising Him. It’s a privilege to join others to praise God, but it’s also ok to do it on my own.

Prayer

God, you are truly worthy of praise. Thank you for lots of opportunities to praise you with other people and to praise you on my own.

18 December

Luke 2:4-6

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,”

Thought

Christmas reminds us that Jesus came to the earth as a defenceless little baby, to show us that we should lean on God for our strength.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to live the life that I can’t. Thank you for showing me that all strength comes from my Heavenly Father.

19 December

Matthew 24:42

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Thought

There are many things that we don't know in this world. The one thing we can know is that God loves you.

Prayer

God, sometimes I feel overwhelmed by all the things that I don't understand. Help me to remember that no matter what, you love me.

20 December

Luke 2:8-10

"...the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

Thought

The true meaning of Christmas is the best news for all people. Ask God to help you spread true cheer to those around you.

Prayer

Jesus, You are the greatest news for all people. Help me to spread Your true love to those around me, especially this Christmas season.

21 December

Psalms 96:1-4

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day"

Thought

There are many Christmas songs that share the beauty and joy of Jesus. Take time today to reflect deeply on the good news of different Christmas carols. How can you use them to share the true joy of the season today?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You have put a new song in my heart. Help me to sing wholeheartedly to you today.

22 December

Matthew 2:1-2

"...Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"

Thought

The magi travelled far to find Jesus. People all over the world are looking for hope and good news. This Christmas, where are you looking to see Jesus?

Prayer

God, Thank You that You are willing to be found. Please help me to see you this Christmas and to show You to others.

23 December

Romans 13:11-14

"And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."

Thought

There is no better time than right now to give your heart to Jesus. Surrender afresh to Him as Lord.

Prayer

Jesus, give me the desire to follow you every moment of every day. Change my heart so that people see You in me.

24 December

Matthew 2:9-10

"...they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."

Thought

Knowing that Jesus is near should give us great joy. Jesus is always close.

Prayer

God, You sent Your Son to show that You are with us. Thank You for always being near.

25 December

Matthew 1:18-23

"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'"

Thought

The coming of God to this planet doesn't make sense in so many ways. But it's so right. Reflect this Christmas Day on how Jesus' birth changes everything.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for coming to this world to be with us - to be with me. Help me to remember that you are with me every day, on Christmas Day and all through the year.

