

**Love:** How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?  
**Learn:** What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?  
**Share:** What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

**Monday December 12<sup>th</sup> – The Greatest Christmas Gift**

*(Read Romans 5:15-17) "This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ." - Frank McKibben*

Each year we are reminded that Christmas should not be just about giving and receiving presents. But, if we truly think about Christmas, it is, indeed, all about gift giving! At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift ever given, by the greatest gift-giver of all, our wonderful God and Father!

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – Laugh With Emmanuel**

*(Read Psalm 21:6) "The implications of the name 'Immanuel' are both comforting and unsettling. Comforting, because He has come to share the danger as well as the drudgery of our everyday lives. He desires to weep with us and to wipe away our tears. And what seems most bizarre, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, longs to share in and to be the source of the laughter and the joy we all too rarely know."—Michael Card*

Why do we turn to God so quickly in times of sorrow and struggle, in danger and fear, and forget him in the times of joy and rejoicing? If God is the giver of joy and he is "God with us," then he must want to share in those moments of great joy—and even those times of silly laughter and fun.

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Wonderful Impossibilities**

*(Read Ephesians 3:20-21) "When God intends to make something wonderful he begins with a difficulty. When he intends to make something very wonderful, he begins with an impossibility." - Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan*

The birth of Jesus was not just a difficulty, it was an impossibility. Mary was a virgin. Only God could breathe life into her womb. And just as God caused her to conceive the perfect sinless Savior—fully God, fully human—he can accomplish through you, those things that seem impossible in your life.

**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Make Room for More**

*(Read Luke 6:38) Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, The joy that you give to others, Is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing, The poor and lonely and sad, The more of your heart's possessing, Returns to you glad. - John Greenleaf Whittier*

We have heard people say, "You can't out-give God." Well, you can't out-give yourself either! You don't need to be wealthy to possess a giving heart. Give a smile, lend an ear, extend a hand. However you give, God's promise is tried and tested, and you'll see the blessings multiplied and returned back to you.

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – Not Alone At All**

*(Read Romans 8:35-39) "I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the word seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses." - Taylor Caldwell*

When you feel the most alone, it may be the very moment when you are truly least alone at all. God is there in your darkest night and coldest wind. He may be so close you cannot see him, but he is there. And perhaps he has chosen this moment to pull you closer to him than you have ever been before.

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Come As A Child**

*(Read Matthew 18:2-4) "There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child." - Erma Bombeck*

Is there anything more exciting than being a child on Christmas morning? And yet, this is what God asks of us each day, to change and become like little children. Not just on Christmas, but each day, approaching God as a child, with excited anticipation of God's goodness, humbly trusting that every need will be met and every care will be under God's control.

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

**Healing Strength:** Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

**Sympathies:** Margie Townsend and family on the death of her father, Barb Thompson and family on the death of her father, Family of Garnett Landreth (Debi & Becky's Uncle)

**Homebound Members:** Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

**Military Personnel:** Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark