

THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON DEVOTIONAL

A weekly Christmas devotional in preparing for the celebration of Jesus Christ and to get real this season by clinging onto what's good.

BY: LADASIA WHITEHURST



HAVE YOU ACCEPTED JESUS?

IF NOT, SAY THIS PRAYER AND RECEIVE HIM NOW BEFORE
CONTINUING...

Romans 10:9

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

Lord, I admit I am a sinner. I need and want Your
forgiveness. I accept Your death as the penalty for my sin,
and recognize that Your mercy and grace is a gift You offer
to me because of Your great love, not based on anything I
have done. I repent for every sin that has caused separation
between me and you Lord. Give me complete freedom and
deliverance from my sins. Cleanse me and make me Your
child. By faith I receive You into my heart as the Son of God
and as Savior and Lord of my life. From now on, help me live
for You, with You in control.

In Jesus Name Amen

AFTER SALVATION

ONCE SAVED AND ALWAYS SAVED IS A DECEPTION. ONCE YOU ACCEPT JESUS, YOU MUST DENY YOUR FLESH AND TAKE UP YOUR CROSS. YOU MUST WALK IN HIS WAYS AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP YOU DO SO. YOU WON'T BE PERFECT BUT YOU WILL BE WALKING WITH THE PERFECT ONE. IN COMPLETE SURRENDER, REPENTANCE, & DELIVERANCE

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Confess your sins
- Let God's word be your spiritual food
- Pray continuously
- Fellowship with other Christian's regularly

Shall we continue?

THE HOLY SPIRIT & BAPTISM

AFTER CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS, YOU MUST BE BAPTIZED IN THE FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. THIS INCLUDES WATER BAPTISM. FIND A LOCAL CHURCH TO BAPTIZE YOU. THEN RECIEVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO YOUR LFIE.

Acts 2:38

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Pray, Father, I recognize my need for Your power to live this new life. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now! Thank You for baptizing me.

*Welcome to the Family of
God!*

Introduction

GET REAL



Thanks so much for joining me in this 4-week devotional series that will be leading up to Christmas. This devotional's purpose is to steer you to look at Jesus in the midst of this holiday season. I know it's super easy to get busy, distracted, trying to find the perfect gift for loved ones, all while trying to spend time with the Lord.

Consider this as your weekly reminder to not lose sight of the real reason for the season which is Jesus Christ. Often times we spend this holiday focused on the outward appearance, the best gifts etc knowing our bank accounts will suffer from over-indulgence. However, let's lean into Jesus. If Jesus was to physically join you for Christmas, what would you do differently? Don't worry about the gifts and it's okay if you aren't financially stable this Christmas because the good news that was never the reason for the season. Get real with yourself. What does Christmas mean to you? How can you see it through the lens of our Lord and savior? Is it so bad that you're not able to receive gifts from others or give gifts to others? The best gift to give is to serve and be Jesus ambassador. The best gift to receive is the one God has given us through Jesus Christ. This is a safe space you don't have to fake it but you can be real with God. Amen. May this bless you!

MAKE SURE THAT
YOU HAVE A BIBLE
AND TRULY MEDITATE
AND SOAK IN THIS
DEVOTIONAL. GO
BACK IF YOU HAVE
TO. LET GOD
COMPLETE HIS WORK
I YOU THAT HE HAS
STARTED. JOURNAL
TAKE INVENTORY.
WORSHIP THE LORD.
PRAY PRAY PRAY.

DEVOTIONAL

CHECKLIST

THIS PAGE IS FOR YOU TO REFLECT ON EACH WEEK, TO PUT WHAT YOU LEARN INTO PRACTICE AND TO KEEP A CHECKLIST ON THIS DEVOTIONAL. THE GOAL IS FOR YOU TO GET IN GOD'S PRESENCE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND BEYOND.

☐ WEEK 1: THE REAL REASON | MATTHEW 1:1

☐ *What difficult moment is God asking you to face? Make prayer a priority*

☐ *Pray for someone who's going through difficulty & give that person godly encouragement*

☐ WEEK 2: THE REAL HOPE | MATTHEW 1:21-23

☐ *Repent for idolizing gifts and acceptance and more*

☐ *Give to someone, p.s. gifts aren't limited to money, ex: hugs, prayer, serve, etc*

☐ WEEK 3: THE REAL EMPTY | MATTHEW 2:10,13

☐ *How can you fill yourself up in God? Stop running and be still*

☐ *Rest and Reset and don't apologize for it. Sabbaths are needed even through Christmas*

☐ WEEK 4: THE REAL RESURRECTION | MATTHEW

☐ *What sin is separating you from God? Make sure to repent, God hasn't moved you have*

☐ *Allow the Holy Spirit to work and pray for those who haven't accepted Jesus.
Spread the gospel to them.*

ROMANS 8:28

AND WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

Week 1

REAL REASON



“The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son (descendant) of David, the son (descendant) of Abraham:” Matthew 1:1 AMP

The genealogy of Jesus showed the fulfillment of prophecies about the messiah who would come as our savior. It reveals the humanity of Christ. He was God in the flesh. His family tree included David, Ruth, Issac and many more. Jesus went through the same things we as humans go through. He cried, he laughed, he was hungry, tempted, and he died. He died for every one of our sins (John 3:16). This Christmas is about glorifying him during this season because he is in fact the reason.

While Santa Claus is an deception and only rewards people based upon good or bad behavior. You should know that according to the Bible none of us are good (Mark 10:18). Secondly, we don't have to earn God's gift. Salvation is free because Jesus paid the price. Lastly, Jesus is the truth (John 14:6)

In, Matthew 1:19-24, When Joseph found out Mary an virgin was bearing a son he was confused but the Lord sought Him and gave him clarity in the midst of it. Mary also was processing this as well and yielding to the spirit of the Lord. This news probably wasn't so easy for Mary and Joseph but obedience won't ever be easy.

The whole genealogy of Jesus Christ shows how God took his time to orchestrate the coming of Christ. He could've just plopped Jesus on earth out of thin air. Instead God is a God of detail and he put Jesus here from the start of birth to the finishing of His death, burial and resurrection.

His birth was the start of an amazing plan of God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- GOD USED JESUS TO MEET US WHERE WE ARE TO TAKE US TO WHERE HE IS WHICH IS ETERNITY WITH HIM.
- GOD OFTEN CALLS US TO FACE DIFFICULT MOMENTS
- REMAIN STEADFAST IN FAITHFULNESS & TRUST GOD'S VOICE
- JESUS IS THE REASON, DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THIS
- SANTA CLAUS IS JUST A DECEPTION & DISTRACTION

Week 2

REAL HOPE



““She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins.” All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet [Isaiah]: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel”—which, when translated, means, “God with us.””

Matthew 1:21-23 AMP

With less than two weeks until Christmas, the craziness of the season is already here. We see traffic getting heavier, stores are filled up, items out of stock, and not too many days away from the breath of the winter season. We can all agree it's a lot. It makes you wonder do people truly know what Christmas is about? The word Christmas literally has Christ name in it. How unique!

I remember being a kid and being so excited to open up all the gifts I got, and now that I'm all grown up I realized how much materialistic things was an idol that was created from Christmas. Think about it. If you were like me then you compared your gifts to your siblings seeing who got the best gifts. I grew up normalizing that if someone gives me a really good gift it means they love me. However, this wasn't the truth. You see whether someone gives us something or not this Christmas it doesn't define their love for you.

God gave us a free gift of salvation but an unanswered prayer this season doesn't mean he doesn't love you. He has shown His love to us already by sending Jesus to forgive and remove our sins and give us eternal life. The best gift is the hope Jesus gives us everyday and eternity beyond.

A virgin in a small town conceived a child who would transform our entire lives and so many more. God loved us so much that he wanted to be reconciled with us and to do this Jesus came to die for our sins (John 3:16). The Story of Christmas is the greatest story ever told because Jesus came to bear the cost and take the punishment that we deserve. It seems too good to be true but the truth is God is good and He is true and there's nothing He cannot do. Today our hope remains in the one who gives joy to the world.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- GOD IS LOVE, HE SHOWED THIS THROUGH JESUS
- DON'T NEGLECT THE HEART OF THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON
- REPENT FOR IDOLIZING CHRISTMAS/MATERIALISM ETC
- EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT COMES FROM ABOVE
- REFLECT ON THE SEASONAL CHANGES FIND GOD IN HIS CREATION

Week 3

REAL EMPTY



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. Now when they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod intends to search for the Child in order to destroy Him.”” Matthew 2:10, 13 AMP

When Jesus (The Messiah) was born, he was already being worshipped, gosh how powerful is our Lord and savior! Considering all of this, Herod was envious of Jesus even though he was just a baby. The Lord spoke to Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect Jesus from Herod. Imagine just having a baby and having to leave because it's too dangerous to stay. That is a lot. I sure don't know what pregnancy is like but it is not easy for a woman to just hop up in a flee to whole another city after just giving birth. I'm sure Mary wanted to rest from the pregnancy.

How many of us are willing to be obedient to God when we're tired, in pain, and/or fearful? During this holiday season, people are extremely exhausted from all the shopping, long work hours, planning and so much more. When we are empty where are we running to? What is filling our cup

I remember working long shifts just to pay bills it was so exhausting. Just to get my paycheck and it still wasn't enough somehow somehow no matter how busy I became I was running dry. I am stating the obvious here but you can't drive a car without no gas.. you won't get anywhere.

In other words. you can't spend this Christmas without Jesus.. you won't get anywhere. After it's all said and done, bank account will be in negativities, family still complaining, your job still overworking you, nothing will change because you're looking at it all wrong. Stop placing things over the one who emptied Himself for you to be filled. Let go and let God. Flee from exhaustion and run straight to the feet of Jesus and girl just rest. It is going to be okay because God said so.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- FLEE FROM BUSYNESS AND LEARN TO REST
- FILL YOUR CUP WITH GOD'S WORD, PRAYER & WORSHIP
- EXPRESS GRATITUDE
- BE FINANCIALLY WISE
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO SAY NO
- THE SAVIOR EMPTIED HIMSELF FOR YOU TO BE FILLED

Week 4

REAL RESURRECTION



“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud [agonized] voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And Jesus cried out again with a loud [agonized] voice, and gave up His spirit [voluntarily, sovereignly dismissing and releasing His spirit from His body in submission to His Father’s plan].” Matthew 27:46, 50 AMP

“But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said [He would]. Come! See the place where He was lying.”

Matthew 28:5-6 AMP

This part of the Bible always has me in tears like just picturing what Jesus done for us is enough reason to cry and worship Him. His death wasn’t the end, he resurrected, defeated death and paved a way for us to live in freedom from sin.

Satan thought he won but Jesus truly showed up for us and did what nobody could ever done. That same spirit that rose Him from the dead, is available to us today (The Holy Spirit). God made sure to have his angels guiding his people after Jesus resurrection. God never leaves nor forsaken us. The cry of Jesus on the cross. This is the cry of every single person on earth. Jesus was giving voice to our human pain when sin separates us from God. Though Jesus cried out, “Why have you forsaken me?” He was NOT forsaken. And neither are we. This is a feeling that Jesus experienced, which is a feeling we ALL experience. This feeling does not come because we are forsaken, but because of the presence of sin. God has been with us all along. It times to repent and recieve the Lords forgiveness, grace and mercy.

Jesus gave up His life and choose to be in submission with God the Father. Are you willing to deny your flesh? Put it to death even (spiritually) and fully submit to the will of God, even when it’s painful? What does submitting to God looks like this Christmas? Maybe it’s returning a few things you bought and holding yourself accountable of your over-indulgence. Maybe it’s apologizing to someone you offended in the midst of the holiday chaos. Maybe it’s spreading His gospel. Maybe it’s releasing what you can’t control. Maybe it’s being obedient toward what He’s called you to do. Christmas means nothing if we aren’t submitting to God this season and thereafter.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- SIN MAKES US HIDE FROM GOD AND FEEL FORSAKEN
- GOD USED HIS ANGELS TO HELP US
- JESUS DEFEATED DEATH AND SIN
- PUT THE FLESH TO DEATH AND WALK IN THE SPIRIT
- SUBMISSION TO GOD IS KEY EVEN WHEN IT HURTS
- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT

prayers

FOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

- Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth, may we begin to see the world in the light of understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.
- May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
- First, we thank you for the day Lord. For our family and our friends. Gifts of grace that heaven lends. Living water, daily bread. Countless blessings our God sends. Thank you, Jesus, for them all. When we're happy, when we're sad. On the good days and the bad. We are grateful, we are glad.
- In a world where so many are hungry, may we eat this food with humble hearts; In a world where so many are lonely, may we share this friendship with joyful hearts. May you be our daily bread. May you touch those who are without food and shelter and provide for them.
- Dear Lord, Don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.
- Almighty God, grant that the new birth of your Son in the flesh redeems us from the old slavery under the yoke of sin, so we may receive him with joy as our Redeemer, and that when he comes to judge we may see Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.
- Dear God, in a world where life is constantly busy, allow us to slow down and sit in your presence and not miss the true reason for this season which is Jesus. Remove any stress and grant us peace.

In Jesus Name Amen

About THE AUTHOR

Ladasia is a woman of God who loves Jesus and wants to help others do the same! She hopes you gain faith, purpose and encouragement on your journey of Christ. She founded ministry in October 2022 in NC. She shares powerful, godly messages across Youtube through her podcast Cultivate Women With Christ and found her true purpose and calling in life through God.



My story of encountering God is pretty short but I believe it is still a testimony. I grew up in church but never quite understood who God was. It wasn't until 2020 when I slowly started to discover God I was very lukewarm up until November 2021. My life has changed forever since then. I got baptized April 2022, started my ministry October 2022. I hope through my website, blogs, devotionals, podcasts, and YouTube @thatchristiangworl you can get to know me more. I enjoy writing as my hobby I am an Holy Spirit led Poet. Aside from the faith, I am passionate about makeup, I am 21 years old, born and raised in North Carolina.

DO YOU NEED
PRAYER?

SEND AN EMAIL



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THE END.



2024

ISAIAH 43:19

BEHOLD, I AM DOING A NEW THING;
NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH, DO YOU
NOT PERCEIVE IT? I WILL MAKE A
WAY IN THE WILDERNESS AND RIVERS
IN THE DESERT.

Thank you for tagging along. My prayer is that this 4-week devotional helped you see the true meaning of Christmas. I hope it cultivated you into a deeper connection with Jesus Christ. As this year is coming off to an end, God is preparing you for new beginnings. Just because seasons end doesn't mean the reason has to. In other words, this holiday season is going to pass away but Jesus won't. I encourage you to get into His presence and seek His face above all else. Ask the Lord what is the new thing He's going to do for you in 2024 and how can you better prepare for it. Be sure to also ask the Lord how you can serve in 2024, who's the people in your life that you should pray more about, spend more time with, and/or spread the gospel to. Jesus truly loves you. God bless you now go be the light!

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