

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Best Christmas Ever / Week 3

<p><i>“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”</i></p> <p>Romans 12:9 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 1</p> <p>The Christmas season is all about celebrating what is good. God sent His good and perfect Son as the ultimate display of love for us. And in doing so, He showed us that love is so much more than a feeling. It’s also an action. God didn’t just tell us that He loves us. He didn’t just feel strongly for us. He acted on it. He sent His Son to show us His love for us. And that is good news worth celebrating this season. Today, take some time to thank God for demonstrating His love for you. Ask Him to help you focus on His love during this Christmas season.</p>
<p><i>“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”</i></p> <p>John 15:13 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 2</p> <p>This verse in John reminds us of an amazing thing about Jesus: the fact that He gave up His life for us. His death on the cross (something we remember at Easter) was the ultimate act of love. As this verse puts it, there is no greater act of love than that! And it’s an act of love that began at Christmas with the birth of Jesus and His entrance into the world. As you think about what Christmas means to you this year, don’t forget to focus on the love of God that Christmas demonstrates. This week, talk with a trusted friend, Small Group Leader, or someone in your family about how you can remember God’s great love for you this Christmas.</p>
<p><i>“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”</i></p> <p>1 Peter 4:8 NIV</p>	<p>DAY 3</p> <p>The weeks leading up to Christmas can be filled with joy, anticipation, and excitement. But they also can be filled with exams, homework projects, and family stress! Those things certainly don’t bring out the best in us, do they? No matter what conflicts or hurts come our way this season, Peter reminds us that we have what we need to overcome them: love. Jesus’ deep love for us covers everything in our lives. Every stress, every struggle, every worry, every doubt, every mistake, every fear—it covers it all! So anytime you find yourself feeling stressed out, or overwhelmed, or simply struggling to make it through this holiday season, pray that God would remind you of His love and how it can cover everything in your life.</p>

<p><i>“Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.”</i></p> <p>Psalm 136:26 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Isn't God's love for us amazing? God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth. Why? Because He wanted to make a way to save us from our sin. It's that lasting act of love that we celebrate and remember every year at Christmas. It's a love we can see on display in our lives, in our relationships, and in the world around us. And it's a love that we can be thankful for. Today, challenge yourself to talk with someone in your life about how thankful you are for God's love. Then, ask them to share how they've seen God's love at work in their own life during this season.</p>
<p><i>“Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.”</i></p> <p>Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Have you ever had someone break a promise to you? When you've trusted someone only to find that trust has been broken, it hurts. That's one of the hard things about relationships with other people. In some way or another, they're going to let us down. But our relationship with God is different. We can trust and know that God will always keep His promises. He always has and always will. In our relationship with Him, we can have peace knowing He will always be faithful. Today, make a list of the ways God has been faithful to you. Think about the promises He has kept in your life and thank Him for the act of faithfulness we remember at Christmas: the gift of Jesus.</p>
<p><i>“This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.”</i></p> <p>1 Timothy 4:10 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 6</p> <p>Christmas is a season that seems to be filled with hope. Maybe it's hope for a gift under the tree, or hope for a break from school, or hope for a fresh start in the new year. Whatever it is you're hoping for this season, remember that the hope we celebrate at Christmas is the hope we have in Jesus. Our hope is in the One who came to save us. It's in the One who came to this world as a baby just to be with us. To rescue us. To make things right for us. Because of Jesus, no matter what your life looks like today, you can hope that there is more ahead. What would it look like for you to put your hope in Jesus today?</p>
<p><i>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”</i></p> <p>Luke 2:14 NLT</p>	<p>DAY 7</p> <p>Having Scripture in your mind during this Christmas season is a great way for you to remember what it is you're celebrating: the birth of Jesus into the world! To work on memorizing this verse this week, draw a picture that illustrates what the verse is saying. Then, try your best to write the Scripture below your picture by memory. Post your completed work up to not only help you remember the verse, but remind you of the Christmas story you're celebrating this season.</p>