

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Christmas Lights / Week 3

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom.**

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17 NIV

DAY 1

Have you ever thought of the words *freedom* and *Jesus* fitting together, without the word *isn't* in between? Many people think that the Christian life consists of nothing but strict rules and regulations, but the truth is that there's no other place where true freedom is found, apart from Christ. A relationship with God brings a complete change in our lives, and when we think about all that He has done for us, we are free to celebrate lives honoring all He has done.

Even if you're new to following Jesus and aren't too sure about this whole "freedom" thing – **write down five ways your life is free because of Jesus.** Make it artistic and post the list on your Snap Story, Instagram Grid, or make a sweet transition in Tik Tok to celebrate!

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. **Stand firm**, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

GALATIANS 5:1 NIV

DAY 2

Do you look like someone who is free or someone who is burdened? Sometimes, the race to look and be the best can be exhausting, especially at Christmastime when everyone is showing off their new gifts. We know *things* don't matter, but it can be so hard to keep that at the front of our minds. Today, live as one who has been set free by Christ—joyful, loving, and eager to share His good news with everyone around you.

Challenge yourself to tell a friend three things you are thankful for this Christmas about the freedom found in Christ. Want to level up this challenge? Start a conversation with a friend whom you were jealous because of something they posted lately.

To those who by persistence in doing good **seek glory, honor and immortality**, he will give eternal life.

ROMANS 2:7 NIV

DAY 3

Eternal equals forever. It's so easy for us to think only about our current lives and everything that is happening around us in this world. But if you have accepted Christ's love, everything that is happening is only a blip on the radar of forever.

Make a timeline of your life so far. What are the major moments – good and bad – that have happened to you so far? Spend some time in prayer dreaming with God about what forever will look like, and then make it a point to worship twice in the car this week as a reminder that our lives are eternal in Christ.

“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.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:10 NLT

DAY 4

Christmas means a time that we get some extra hope—hope to get out more than we usually get to, a new phone, or a chance to start over at new year. No matter hope we can celebrate, at Christmas we can celebrate Christmas. It's because of what the Christmas story represents. It's about a God who wanted to be with us and did everything to do so. Because of this God, Jesus, we can have God, no matter what your life looks like today. What would it look like for you to put your hope in Jesus today?

Today, set a timer on your phone for 1 minute and during that time, make a list. List out 1 way you're thankful for...your day so far, your family, your friends, and 1 thing about the future.

“Give thanks to the God of heaven. His faithful love endures forever.”

PSALM 136:26 NLT

DAY 5

Aren't gifts great? God sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth—as a gift. Why? Because it was a way to save us from sin. It was a gift so great, that we don't have to wait until the next year or until we miss having it around—we can remember it every Christmas season and every day. The Christmas season is also a time where we can think about the way our faith changes our relationships with others too. It's a lot to 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.

“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.”

DEUTERONOMY 7:9 NLT

DAY 6

Being let down can be the worst. You counted on them to keep a promise, you hoped in one way or another, or you expected something different. But it didn't work out. While it's not what we hope to happen—it's one of the most painful parts of being in a relationship with others. But our relationship with God is different. God allows us to know and trust Him to keep His promises.

With God, we can know that He'll show up because He's always with us—and with that, we can have peace. That's trusting that He will be faithful. What are some ways He's already been faithful to you? Think about those times, write down 3. Then whenever you're feel down or let down, read them out loud.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

LUKE 2:14 NLT

DAY 7

This week, write this verse on 3 Christmas cards that you can send to some people in your life. After you finish each card, try to repeat the verse to yourself. Whenever you give the cards to each person, try to repeat the verse to yourself again. Bonus points if you want to try and ask the people who get the cards to join you in memorizing this verse with you!