

*joy of every
longing heart*

ADVENT 2022



We are thrilled that you're joining us for this Advent journey
through the Scriptures as we explore Jesus as the
joy of every longing heart!

The following dig deeper questions and prayer prompts are designed to go along with the Advent Scripture reading plan put out by *She Reads Truth* and *He Reads Truth*. **You will need to access their Scripture reading plan to go along with this booklet.** (Notice that study questions are provided Monday - Friday. Saturdays feature a short verse to meditate on and Sundays a prayer.)
You can access the Scriptures in 1 of 2 ways:

- 1. Purchase** the *He Reads Truth* or *She Reads Truth* Advent book. There is one version for women and one for men. They contain the same Scriptures, but have different looks. The books are full color and include substantial biblical resources and festive extras.

We have a limited amount of books available at each campus on Sunday mornings for a discounted price of \$20. If we run out of books, they can be purchased via these links.

She Reads Truth:



He Reads Truth:



- 2. Sign up** to receive the same content in your email inbox daily for FREE.

She Reads Truth:



He Reads Truth:



We have Advent groups offered at every campus! Co-ed, men's, and women's are available at a variety of times and places. We encourage you to register for a group and enjoy rich fellowship and conversation about these Scriptures during Advent!

Register



ADVENT 2022

Day 1 (Sun., Nov. 27) - **The First Sunday of Advent**

Day 2 (Mon., Nov. 28) - **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

1. Where in the passage from Genesis 3 do you see evidence of longing?

2. Take a quick look in your Bible at Genesis 2:15-18. In what ways did God provide for the longings of Adam? What did God actually say about the trees in the garden?

3. Fill in the charts below comparing and contrasting the gift and the trespass (Romans 5:12-21) and the first Adam and the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-49).

The Gift	The Trespass

First Adam	Last Adam

4. According to Colossians 1, how is Jesus the answer to the problem presented in Genesis 3:23-24?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Write a prayer praising Jesus as the better Adam.



Day 3 (Tues., Nov. 29) - **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

1. What did God promise Abram (who later became “Abraham”) in Genesis 12 and 15?
 2. In what ways were Abraham and Sarah an unlikely pair through which God’s people would come?
 3. List all that we learn about Jesus from John 8:38-58. Also, in what way do you think Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus’ day (v. 56)?
 4. How is it that we are considered heirs of Abraham in Christ? What benefits does this bring us?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Write a prayer thanking God for including you by faith in his covenant promises.

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Day 4 (Wed., Nov. 30) - **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

1. For what were Isaac and Abraham waiting? Why was this provision so critical?

2. For what is the Psalmist waiting?

3. Note how both Abraham and the Psalmist responded in their time of waiting. How did they direct their hearts and minds?

4. Drawing upon the passages in John, how is Jesus shown as God's ultimate provision? How do these passages enhance our understanding of the story in Genesis 22?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Write a prayer thanking Jehovah-Jireh [The God who Provides] for providing life for you in the gift of Christ.



Day 5 (Thurs., Dec. 1) - **Born to Set Thy People Free**

1. Carefully read through the Exodus passages and list all of the ways that God is aware of his people's need for rescue.
 2. How will the rescue of God's people take place from Pharaoh's enslavement and what will be the result of their freedom?
 3. In what ways is our freedom from sin's slavery and gift of sonship in Christ (John 8) related to the "spacious place" provided by the Lord in Psalm 118?
 4. According to Hebrews 3, in what ways is Jesus the better Moses?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Journal through the truths found in today's passages - praising God for his loving attentiveness to our plight, his power to rescue, and his heart for our freedom.

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Day 6 (Fri., Dec. 2) - Born to Set Thy People Free

1. What do you learn about the heart of God in Isaiah 49?
 2. We often read “The Temptation of Jesus” (Luke 4:1-13) and his “Rejection at Nazareth” (Luke 4:16-22) as separate stories. Reading them back-to-back, however, brings forth a beautiful theme. What do you see as the connection of these two passages? What is Luke communicating to his readers?
 3. Looking at Hebrews 4, how does Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness provide a key to our freedom?
 4. In Luke 13 Jesus is demonstrating two types of freedom. What are they and why are both important to our liberty as Christ followers?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Pray through 2 Corinthians 3:17 and ask the Spirit where he would like to bring greater levels of freedom in your life.

Day 7 (Sat., Dec. 3) - GRACE DAY



Day 8 (Sun., Dec. 4) - The Second Sunday of Advent

Day 9 (Mon., Dec. 5) - **From Our Fears and Sins Release Us**

1. Which verse(s) from Psalm 27 best describe your current experience?
 2. Take note of the details given about who the Lord is and what he does for us in today's Old Testament passages. How do these realities help dispel our fears?
 3. How is recognizing Jesus in the midst of a fear filled situation transformative? (See Matthew 14:27)
 4. Let's make some connections between Romans 8 and the tremendous promise of 1 Timothy 1:7. What are ways in which the theological realities Paul details in Romans 8 allow us to operate with power, love, and sound judgment?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Spend some time praising the Lord that the most challenging situation you're facing today cannot separate you from his love. Be specific and revel in God's nearness and power!

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Day 10 (Tues., Dec. 6) - **From Our Fears and Sins Release Us**

1. What do the verses from Psalm 74 and Isaiah 25 communicate about the character of God and the nature of salvation he provides?

2. Using specific language from the New Testament passages, describe how Jesus purchased our release from sin's grip.

3. Make a list from the Colossians and Hebrews passages detailing what we receive in this rescue.

4. Take note of the familial language in the Hebrews passage. What does this language indicate about our identity?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Pray through Colossians 2:8 – praising Jesus for his sufficiency and confessing ways in which you're drawn toward empty philosophies that come from human thinking to experience rescue from sin's grip.



Day 11 (Wed., Dec. 7) - **From Our Fears and Sins Release Us**

1. Take note of how Isaiah portrays the Suffering Servant in verses 1-3. From your knowledge of the Gospels, how did Jesus embody this description? What emotion does this elicit in you?

2. How does Peter draw upon and interpret Isaiah 53?

3. Using Isaiah 53, fill in the chart below to see what Jesus experienced and what we've received as a result of his suffering.

What Jesus Experienced	What We Received

4. What does Paul mean when he says that “we were buried with [Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life”? (Romans 6:4) How does this change our daily lives as Christ-followers?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Write a prayer asking the Lord to give you grace to walk in all the righteousness, freedom, peace and newness of life he's purchased for you.

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Day 12 (Thurs., Dec. 8) - **Let Us Find Our Rest in Thee**

1. Describe Moses' anxiety from Exodus 33 and the source of peace offered to him.
 2. How have you experienced the Lord "making you lie down in green pastures" and "leading you beside still waters"?
 3. In what ways has life experience taught you that Psalm 62:1 is true? Where does the world promise rest but fail to deliver?
 4. Describe the good shepherd in detail and list the benefits of being his sheep from John 10.
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Spend some time praising God for his limitless energy as described in the Isaiah passage. Praise him as the One who never slumbers or sleeps. Praise him for his unsearchable greatness!



Day 13 (Fri., Dec. 9) - **Israel's Strength and Consolation**

1. Look at Exodus 14 in your Bible to see the context for Moses' song from Exodus 15. In what way does Moses model for us the proper response to God's intervening power in our lives?

2. How does the victory of Christ give you courage in the midst of your present suffering? (John 16:33)

3. Where are places that you desire comfort and ease of life over the power of Christ resting on you? How is an experience of the sustaining grace of God different from a lack of hardship?

4. According to the passages from Ephesians and Philippians, how do we receive God's strength and what does receiving it allow us to do?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** How tempting it is to make God small in our estimations and to inflate our view of earthly powers! Take a few minutes to be quiet before the Lord and ask him to show you places where you need to "ascribe power to God" (Psalm 68:34).

Day 14 (Sat., Dec. 10) - **GRACE DAY**

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Day 15 (Sun., Dec. 11) - **The Third Sunday of Advent**

Day 16 (Mon., Dec. 12) - **Israel's Strength and Consolation**

1. What is the definition of consolation? (Feel free to consult a dictionary.)

2. How do the Old Testament passages detail the comfort God provides for his people?

3. What were Simeon and Anna celebrating when they encountered Jesus as an infant?

4. What does Jesus' lament over Jerusalem communicate about his heart?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Are there losses or disappointments you're mourning? If so, pour out your heart to the Lord and allow him to comfort you. If not, intercede on behalf of a friend or family member who is mourning and ask for the Lord's consolation. (Matthew 5:7)



Day 17 (Tues., Dec. 13) - **Hope of All the Earth Thou Art**

1. Jot down several attributes of the new heavens and new earth that are described in the Old Testament passages.
 2. According to John 1, what was Jesus' role in creation and what does verse 14 communicate about his heart?
 3. How does Romans 8 describe the comprehensive redemption that's coming?
 4. What about the description of the new heavens and new earth in the Revelation passages is most poignant to you?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Using your holy imagination, meditate for a few minutes on what the new heavens and the new earth will be like. Praise God as not only your hope, but the hope of the whole earth!

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Day 18 (Wed., Dec. 14) - **Dear Desire of Ev'ry Nation**

1. Noting the mentions of “nations” in the Old Testament passages, make a list of what these passages state that the nations will do.

2. How does Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman illuminate God’s intentions for his people?

3. What is a centurion and what would his nationality have been?

4. What is the significance of Jesus’ response to the centurion’s faith in Matthew 8:10-13?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Pray that God’s way may be known on the earth, his salvation among all nations. Ask the Lord to let all the peoples praise him! (Psalm 67) Pray specifically for any country or people group the Lord lays on your heart.



Day 19 (Thurs., Dec. 15) - Dear Desire of Ev'ry Nation

1. How are the promises of Isaiah 26 fulfilled in the stories of the Syrophenician woman and the Ethiopian eunuch?

2. As a Gentile who is reading the passage in Romans 9, what response does it evoke in you?

3. According to the passage in Revelation, who did the Lamb purchase by his blood?

4. What questions do you have about these passages?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Thank the Lord for including you in his covenant people!

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Day 20 (Fri., Dec. 16) - **Joy of Ev'ry Longing Heart**

1. What benefits does the Lord bring to his people as stated by Psalm 16? Which benefit are you most in need of today?

2. What do the word pictures in Isaiah 55 indicate about the power and role of God's word in our lives?

3. In your view, what is the significance of Peter (from the resurrection scene in John 20) being the one to pen 1 Peter 1:3?

4. 1 Peter 1:6 states, "In this you rejoice..." What is the "this" to which Peter is referring? How does it provide joy in the midst of trials?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Thank the Lord that when Jesus comes again your joy will never cease!

Day 21 (Sat., Dec. 17) - **GRACE DAY**



Day 22 (Sun., Dec. 18) - **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Day 23 (Mon., Dec. 19) - **Born Thy People To Deliver**

1. Jot down phrases from today's Old Testament readings that communicate the permanence of the Messiah's kingdom.

2. According to Isaiah 9, what will the reign of the Messiah's kingdom look like?

3. Note the way that Bartimaeus addresses Jesus. Taking into consideration today's Old Testament passages, what is Bartimaeus communicating about Jesus in his cry for mercy?

4. Paul's identification of himself at the outset of his letter to the Romans is deeply connected to the identity and story of Jesus. In what ways does the permanence of Jesus' kingship ground your identity?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Great news – the government of the universe is on the shoulders of Christ! Come to him today with your needs. Where do you need him to be your Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace?

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Day 24 (Tues., Dec. 20) - Born Thy People To Deliver

1. According to 2 Chronicles 21, what did God promise to David?

2. How does Jeremiah describe the iron-clad nature of God's covenant promise with David's line?

3. Why do you think Matthew starts his gospel with this genealogy?

4. How are today's Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the descriptions of Jesus from Revelation 19 and 22?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Use the descriptions of Jesus in Revelation 19 to praise him as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!



Day 25 (Wed., Dec. 21) - Born Thy People To Deliver

1. Fill in the chart below to note what we learn from Zechariah's prophecy about...

The coming Messiah	
John the Baptist	
Benefits to God's people when Messiah comes	
The character and heart of God	

2. How does Zechariah's prophecy demonstrate the universal need for deliverance?

3. In what way was John the Baptist the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 40?

4. How can we play a "John the Baptist" role in the lives of our friends and family as we prepare for this holiday season?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Spirit to prepare the way in your own heart for Sunday's coming celebration.

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Day 26 (Thurs., Dec. 22) - **Born Thy People To Deliver**

1. Look up the definition of “redeem” and write a few thoughts about what it means to be “redeemed from the power of the foe” as stated in Psalm 107.
 2. List the details Gabriel communicates to Mary regarding who Jesus will be.
 3. How did Elizabeth know that Mary was carrying the Messiah? Who in your life needs supernatural revelation to understand the Good News and respond with joy?
 4. What does Mary’s hymn of praise teach us about the nature of the deliverance Jesus brings?
 5. **Prayer Prompt:** Pray that you would believe that the Lord would fulfill what he has promised you (Luke 1:45).



Day 27 (Fri., Dec. 23) - **Born Thy People To Deliver**

1. Why did the angel instruct Joseph to name the baby “Jesus”?

2. By quoting Isaiah 7:14 (in Matt. 1:23), what hint is Matthew giving his readers about how Jesus will bring deliverance to his people?

3. According to the passage from 1 Corinthians 1...

God chose _____ to _____ and

He chose _____ to _____.

Why did he do this?

4. How do the passages in today’s readings demonstrate God bringing about his purposes in unexpected ways?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Praise Jesus who became wisdom from God for you—your righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:29)

Day 28 (Sat., Dec. 24) - **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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Day 29 (Sun., Dec. 25) - **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Day 30 (Mon., Dec. 26) - **Born to Reign in Us Forever**

1. According to Genesis 14, what two offices did Melchizedek hold? What do people in these two offices do?

2. What does David mean when he says, “The LORD says to my Lord” at the outset of Psalm 110? (Hint: note the font differences) Also, where in this Psalm do you see reference to the two offices held by Melchizedek?

3. How does Hebrews 7:23-28 describe the uniqueness of Jesus’ priesthood?

4. What is the blessed hope for which we’re waiting and how does Titus say that it should shape our lives today?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Particularly in our current political climate, praise Jesus for his permanent kingship and perfect representation of his people before the Father.



Day 31 (Tues., Dec. 27) - **Now Thy Gracious Kingdom Bring**

1. How do today's Old Testament passages characterize the reign of the Davidic King?

2. How have you experienced Christ's rule and reign in your own life as the parables in Mark describe?

3. What is a specific way in which Paul's description of Christ's current status (in Ephesians) brings you peace today?

4. What does Jesus mean when he says that his kingdom is "not of this world"? How should this shape our understanding of how his rule and reign will advance in the earth?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Lord to speed his second coming – that the kingdom of this world would become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ (Revelation 11:15)!

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Day 32 (Wed., Dec. 28) - **By Thine Own Eternal Spirit Rule in All Our Hearts Alone**

1. In what way would the promises stated in today's Ezekiel passages have been shocking and radical to the Israelites?

2. How does God enable his people to obey the command given in Deuteronomy 6?

3. What was Jesus communicating to Nicodemus about the nature of salvation?

4. What do you learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in today's New Testament passages?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Personalize Ephesians 1:17-19 as you pray this tremendous prayer over your own life.



Day 33 (Thurs, Dec. 29) - **By Thine All-Sufficient Merit, Raise Us To Thy Glorious Throne**

1. How does the Psalmist describe our merits before God?

2. How do these passages demonstrate the all-sufficient merit of Christ?

3. What implications does Ephesians 2:6 have on our everyday lives?

4. What path did Jesus take to his glorification and how did God respond to his perfect obedience?

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Pray that God would increase your confidence in and your awareness of your status as holy in Christ.

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Day 34 (Wed., Dec. 28) - **By Thine All-Sufficient Merit, Raise Us To Thy Glorious Throne**

1. How does Daniel describe the future for God's people? What will our roles be in Christ's eternal kingdom?
2. What will happen to our bodies when Christ returns that causes Paul to exclaim, "Death has been swallowed up in victory"?
3. How do you see the fulfillment of Daniel 7 in Revelation 5?
4. Fill in the chart with the if/then statements in 2 Timothy 2:11-13.

If we...	We will also...

5. **Prayer Prompt:** Ask the Lord to allow you to walk in the spiritual authority he's given you in 2023.



Day 35 (Sat, Dec. 31) - **GRACE DAY**

Day 36 (Sun, Jan. 1) - **The Second Sunday of Christmastide**

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