

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

All I Want For Christmas / Week 1

WEEK 1

GOD SENDING JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF GENEROSITY.

While they were there, **the time came for the baby to be born**, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

LUKE 2:6-7 NIV

DAY 1

So often, our mindset is to give something in order to get something. We give compliments to get one back. We give a follow to get a follow.

No matter what it is, there's often an expectation to our giving. But real generosity doesn't have that same expectation. God gave us Jesus, not because we gave Him anything to deserve or earn this gift, but simply because "the time came." It was an intentional and loving gift—one that demonstrates true, unwavering generosity.

Today, take a moment to pray. Thank God for the gift of Jesus to the world. Then, ask Him to give you a more generous spirit this Christmas season.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and **they were terrified**. But the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid**. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

LUKE 2:8-10 NIV

DAY 2

What does generosity look like in your life? Is it buying a friend a soda, volunteering at a local animal shelter, or helping a friend's family move?

If we're honest, we'd all probably say that generosity doesn't always look that great to us. In a way, it can even be a little scary. It's intimidating to give up your time, your money, or your talents to something or someone. Why? Because we don't always know how it will turn out or how it will be received!

Generosity usually happens when we are willing to give something up, but giving something up can be tough. But don't let that stop you! Stepping out in generosity—even when it's uncomfortable or scary—is a gift in and of itself. **Today, look for a way you can be generous to someone else in your life. Then, take the brave step to do it!**

“Today in the town of David **a Savior has been born to you**; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

LUKE 2:11 NIV

DAY 3

Have you ever gotten a gift from someone that was so great you didn't know how to respond? Almost like their generosity was such a surprise that you felt like you didn't deserve it?

In the same way, it can be easy to disqualify ourselves from the generosity of God's gifts to us. When we worship, read our Bibles, or talk to others about our faith, it's easy to think of how deserving others are of those gifts and forget that we are included in the generosity of Jesus, too.

Instead of discounting yourself from God's love, remember that His gifts are for *all* of us. All we have to do is receive them! **Today, take a minute to thank God for the generosity of His gifts to you—gifts like the birth of our Savior, Jesus.**

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

LUKE 2:13-14 NIV

DAY 4

It's cool to see who is included in the generosity of God: shepherds, innkeepers, wise men, animals, and a great heavenly host.

If you think about it, generosity tends to bring people together. We connect better to others through acts of kindness. Our relationships get stronger when we show up in moments of need, buy someone a meal, and help others when they're struggling. That's generosity, and it's a gift we can give to anyone.

Today, try talking to your friends about a need in your school, neighborhood, or community. Come up with a plan on how you can be generous to meet that need together.

The shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.**

LUKE 2:20 NIV

DAY 5

As odd as it sounds, sometimes receiving a gift can be a struggle. There can be awkward moments where we don't know what to say, how to respond, or whether we should try to give something of equal value in return. Sometimes, we might even attempt to give the gift back altogether!

But believe it not, when we refuse the generosity of other people, we're taking away an opportunity for them to grow closer to God. And, we're taking the opportunity away from ourselves to show gratitude—both to them and to God—for the gift. One of the best gifts we'll ever receive is God's love and generosity displayed to us by others. That's something worth celebrating, and it's something you don't want to miss!

Text someone who has shown you generosity recently—someone who was generous with their time, effort, or even an actual gift—thanking them and telling them how much their generosity meant to you.