

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

All I Want For Christmas / Week 3

WEEK 3

SHOW YOU CARE BY SHOWING UP.

“She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means **‘God is with us.’**”

MATTHEW 1:23b NLT

DAY 1

Sometimes we have to do difficult things alone. It’s just the nature of life. For you that might mean walking into an event alone or having to take care of overwhelming family responsibilities by yourself.

Whatever it is, we all know what it feels like to wish we had someone to help us get through something. Well, that’s exactly who Jesus is! His name means God **WITH** us. At that first Christmas, Jesus showed up so that we would never have to face anything alone ever again.

Today, make a list of the areas you maybe feel a little alone right now. Maybe you feel alone in a tough family situation, in a difficult class, on your team, or even in your youth group. **No matter what makes it to your list, ask God to remind you that He really is with you in those areas the next time you’re feeling alone.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as **members of one body** you were **called to peace.** And be thankful.

COLOSSIANS 3:15 NIV

DAY 2

At Christmastime the word “peace” is everywhere. It’s on holiday signs, in Christmas songs, on Christmas cards, and in holiday decorations. But the truth is, oftentimes the Christmas season is filled with, well, the opposite of peace. Just one glance at social media or the local news can remind us of all the ways that comparison, anger, frustration, and busyness are everywhere during the holiday season—not peace.

In the midst of a hectic Christmas season, as Jesus followers, we’re called not to just sing about peace or send a card with peace written on it—we’re called to live it out. What better time than Christmas to rise above the comparison, anger, busyness, and everything else, and embrace God’s call to peace?

Who in your life—a friend, parent, stepparent, or sibling—could use a little peace right now? Today, get creative and look for one way to bring a little peace to their Christmas right now.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given . . . And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

ISAIAH 9:6 NIV

DAY 3

In Isaiah, we see a list of names used to describe Jesus: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

These names reflect who Jesus is for us. He's a Wonderful Counselor who we can go to when we need guidance. He's a Mighty God who can handle all life throws at us. He's an Everlasting Father who never turns His back on us. He's a Prince of Peace who can comfort us when tragedy strikes.

Another name to describe Jesus? Savior. He's a Savior because a human baby boy born in a manger—a baby who would eventually grow up and pay for the sins of the world. Why? So that He could prove to all of us—and to you—just how much He LOVES us.

Today, thank God for the birth of Jesus, our Savior, who later paid the ultimate price so that nothing could ever hold us back from getting to know Him.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace with everyone.**

ROMANS 12:18 NIV

DAY 4

Tensions can run high this time of year. Friendships can get rocky over Christmas break. And then there's surviving the extra hours at home with your family—and extended family!

In the middle of all the drama that holidays can sometimes bring, we have to remember that we are only responsible for what we can control. The world may seem crazy around you, but how you respond to the people in your life—how you react to those around you—is completely within your control.

When there's friendship drama, be the one who doesn't fly off the handle. When your siblings annoy you, be the one who doesn't react in anger. **As you read today's verse, ask God to help you notice the ways you can live at peace with others—especially the people in your own home—this week.**

Thanks be to God for his **incredible gift!**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

DAY 5

What's the best gift you've ever given to someone? Often the reason we get excited to give something is because we know how excited they will be when they get something. We know how much they'll appreciate it!

A gift is a great way to show up for someone. It shows them you were thinking of them, you care about them, and you wanted them to know it.

Believe it or not, one of the best gifts you can give during the Christmas season is your time. Checking in on a friend, volunteering somewhere, and taking your siblings out for the day to give your parents a break—these are just a few ways that you can use your TIME to show others that you care for them!

This week, make it your goal to give someone the gift of your time. Make it fun! Grab your small group or some friends, and go give someone the gift of your time!