



## Devotional Guide for December 14-20, 2020

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

**Monday, Dec. 14<sup>H</sup>**

**“For to us a Child is born”**

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7** NIV

Isaiah wrote this familiar prophecy about the birth of the Messiah which was received as a light in the darkness (“the people walking in darkness have seen a great light” ~Isaiah 9:2). The four names used for Jesus in this prophecy express His divine and human qualities, giving assurance that He is indeed the Son of God. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus will guide and direct our steps, as we trust in Him. As the Mighty God, He is a warrior, protecting His people. As the Everlasting Father, He is like a King caring for His subjects. As the Prince of Peace, His government brings peace to all (can you imagine a government actually bringing peace rather than discord!?)

*Question: Which title for Jesus, in verse 6, speaks most directly to you?*

**Tuesday, Dec. 15<sup>TH</sup>** **“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift”**

**Scripture: II Corinthians 9:15** NIV

As God is the first giver, by establishing the world’s creation itself, we see God selflessly giving Himself to us also in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. All Christian giving and service is our grateful response to this indescribable gift. The only reason we have the privilege of giving is that God already gave far more. The greatest gift we could ever receive is the marvelous grace of God through Jesus Christ!

*Question: What is the greatest gift you ever received? Or gave?*

**Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**“He sent His one and only Son”**

**Scripture: I John 4:9-10** NIV

The love of our Heavenly Father for “His one and only Son” (v.9) is the source of the love that binds the church together as a family. By giving us His Son, God the Father introduced us to the perfect love and eternal life that the Father and Son have always enjoyed. Christ satisfied the demands of God’s justice on our behalf, to fulfill God’s love for us. This is why Jesus was born: to take on flesh, in order that He might lay down that flesh and literally be able to die for us.

*Question: Have you considered the love of God, that He gave His life for you, as if you were the only person for whom He gave this gift?*

**Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**“God sent His Son”**

**Scripture: Galatians 4:1-5** NIV

Earlier in Galatians, Paul had compared the law to a prison warden. Now, he compares its preparatory role to that of the guardian of a minor child. The full right reserved for someone who has grown up is adoption as a son or daughter, receiving the inheritance. God sent His eternal Son, sent to be born of a woman. Although Christ would be without sin, He was born under the law... not only as One who would be obligated to fulfill it, but also One identified with sinners who are under the curse of the law. His death redeems and frees us from that curse of sin and death. The concept of redemption comes from the institution of slavery. In both the Jewish and Greco-Roman worlds, slaves could buy their freedom (or someone could buy it for them) by paying a redemption price to the owners. The price of our redemption was paid by the Heavenly Father, in the blood of His Son, and by the Son giving His life as a ransom for many. Paul had been speaking of God’s people under the law as children. He now describes the only way in which the children become full members of the household, no longer minors. God seals our adoption, by giving us the Spirit of His Son.

*Question: What difference in your life has God’s adoption made?*

**Friday, Dec. 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**“A Savior has been born to you!”**

**Scripture: Luke 2:8-14** NIV

After all of the prophetic voices in the Old Testament, after God the Father had shared His royal plan with the angelic hosts of heaven, this life-changing news would be announced to a lowly group of shepherds watching their sheep one night, out in the hills outside of Bethlehem. In the King James Version of this passage, verse 9 reads, “and they were sore afraid.” They were scared so much that it hurt! The angel reassured them not to be afraid and went on to use strong terms for the great joy and good news he was sharing with them. The sign of “a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (v.12) would prove to them the truth of what the angel had proclaimed.

*Question: Did you ever wonder if the shepherds just left their sheep out on those hills that night and rushed into Bethlehem to see this best gift ever, or do you imagine that they took the sheep with them, herding them through the streets and paths of Bethlehem?*

**Sunday, December 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Sunday 8:30 & 10:45am*

*Livestream @ 10:45am*

**Galatians 4:1-5** NIV, **Luke 2:8-14** NIV

Pastor’s message: **“Best Gift Ever!”**

*Worship theme: “Socks and Underwear!”*





## Devotional Guide for December 14-20, 2020

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

**Monday, Dec. 14<sup>H</sup>**

**“For to us a Child is born”**

**Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7** NIV

Isaiah wrote this familiar prophecy about the birth of the Messiah which was received as a light in the darkness (“the people walking in darkness have seen a great light” ~Isaiah 9:2). The four names used for Jesus in this prophecy express His divine and human qualities, giving assurance that He is indeed the Son of God. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus will guide and direct our steps, as we trust in Him. As the Mighty God, He is a warrior, protecting His people. As the Everlasting Father, He is like a King caring for His subjects. As the Prince of Peace, His government brings peace to all (can you imagine a government actually bringing peace rather than discord!?)

*Question: Which title for Jesus, in verse 6, speaks most directly to you?*

**Tuesday, Dec. 15<sup>TH</sup>** **“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift”**

**Scripture: II Corinthians 9:15** NIV

As God is the first giver, by establishing the world’s creation itself, we see God selflessly giving Himself to us also in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. All Christian giving and service is our grateful response to this indescribable gift. The only reason we have the privilege of giving is that God already gave far more. The greatest gift we could ever receive is the marvelous grace of God through Jesus Christ!

*Question: What is the greatest gift you ever received? Or gave?*

**Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**“He sent His one and only Son”**

**Scripture: I John 4:9-10** NIV

The love of our Heavenly Father for “His one and only Son” (v.9) is the source of the love that binds the church together as a family. By giving us His Son, God the Father introduced us to the perfect love and eternal life that the Father and Son have always enjoyed. Christ satisfied the demands of God’s justice on our behalf, to fulfill God’s love for us. This is why Jesus was born: to take on flesh, in order that He might lay down that flesh and literally be able to die for us.

*Question: Have you considered the love of God, that He gave His life for you, as if you were the only person for whom He gave this gift?*

**Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**“God sent His Son”**

**Scripture: Galatians 4:1-5** NIV

Earlier in Galatians, Paul had compared the law to a prison warden. Now, he compares its preparatory role to that of the guardian of a minor child. The full right reserved for someone who has grown up is adoption as a son or daughter, receiving the inheritance. God sent His eternal Son, sent to be born of a woman. Although Christ would be without sin, He was born under the law... not only as One who would be obligated to fulfill it, but also One identified with sinners who are under the curse of the law. His death redeems and frees us from that curse of sin and death. The concept of redemption comes from the institution of slavery. In both the Jewish and Greco-Roman worlds, slaves could buy their freedom (or someone could buy it for them) by paying a redemption price to the owners. The price of our redemption was paid by the Heavenly Father, in the blood of His Son, and by the Son giving His life as a ransom for many. Paul had been speaking of God’s people under the law as children. He now describes the only way in which the children become full members of the household, no longer minors. God seals our adoption, by giving us the Spirit of His Son.

*Question: What difference in your life has God’s adoption made?*

**Friday, Dec. 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**“A Savior has been born to you!”**

**Scripture: Luke 2:8-14** NIV

After all of the prophetic voices in the Old Testament, after God the Father had shared His royal plan with the angelic hosts of heaven, this life-changing news would be announced to a lowly group of shepherds watching their sheep one night, out in the hills outside of Bethlehem. In the King James Version of this passage, verse 9 reads, “and they were sore afraid.” They were scared so much that it hurt! The angel reassured them not to be afraid and went on to use strong terms for the great joy and good news he was sharing with them. The sign of “a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (v.12) would prove to them the truth of what the angel had proclaimed.

*Question: Did you ever wonder if the shepherds just left their sheep out on those hills that night and rushed into Bethlehem to see this best gift ever, or do you imagine that they took the sheep with them, herding them through the streets and paths of Bethlehem?*

**Sunday, December 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday 8:30 & 10:45am**

**Livestream @ 10:45am**

**Galatians 4:1-5 NIV, Luke 2:8-14 NIV**

**Pastor’s message: “Best Gift Ever!”**

**Worship theme: “Socks and Underwear!”**

