

DECEMBER 24-25, 2021
CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY



In Jesus we find hope and see God's glory.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Friday	Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-20	The coming king The birth of Jesus
Saturday	Titus 3:4-7 John 1:1-14	Maintain good deeds The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." **Luke 2:14 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Christmas:

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us and all the world to overcome hurts and disappointments through Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings, as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, bless you with hope, peace, joy, and love.



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HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS

*O Little Town of
Bethlehem*

CHRISTMAS MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What concerns do you have for the world today?
- How does God bring hope for the whole world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:1-20.

Read these verses slowly. Treasure the message that Mary treasured. As the hymn (*O Little Town of Bethlehem*) says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." From a small town, from peasants tending sheep at night, and for a young couple gazing at their newborn son, comes a message that conquers powerful empires. When political, economic, and military realms wreak havoc on defenseless people, whether ancient or modern, God remembers promises made and enters into human history. The Christmas gospel confidently tells the story of God's determination, God's loyalty, and the power of God's reign even while suffering lingers in our daily lives. The angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." This is the story of God's glory and power that will not be stopped.

Discuss: Who is someone to whom you would like to tell the story about the birth of Jesus?

Pray: **God of love and mercy, help us to remember the story of Jesus' birth and your entry into our lives that gives us eternal hope and peace. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme, what act of kindness can you do for someone in need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, light the four candles on the Advent Wreath plus the white candle in the center.

Say: **We light the Prophet's, Bethlehem, Shepherd's, and Angel's candles on the Advent wreath symbolizing God's unending love. We now light the white candle, the Christ candle, that represents the birth of Jesus and hope for all the world.**

Pray: **Dear God, we thank you for entering our world. May we show your hope, peace, joy and love in our daily lives, through Christ Jesus. Amen.**

