



12

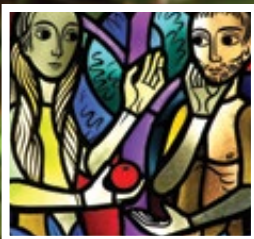
Days of Christmas

Reflections for the
HOLY SEASON

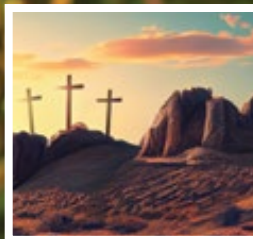
Tim Wesemann



DAY 1
1 Savior



DAY 2
2 People in the Beginning



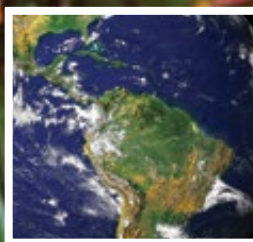
DAY 3
3 Life-Changing Days



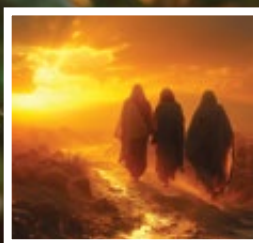
DAY 4
4 Caring Helpers



DAY 5
5 Stones



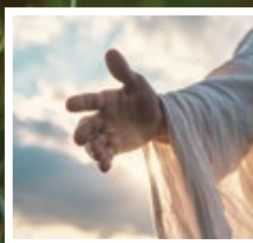
DAY 6
6 Days of Creation



DAY 7
7 Miles ... Walking With Jesus



DAY 8
8 Faithful Family Members



DAY 9
9 Healed Lepers



DAY 10
10 Valuable Coins



DAY 11
11 Sent Disciples



DAY 12
12 Epiphany Verses

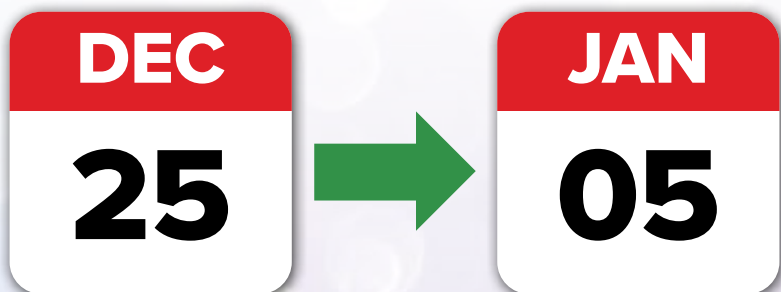
Introduction

Our minds often tend to consider December 25 as the end of Christmas, but on the Church calendar, it's just starting. December 25 to January 5 is recognized as the 12 Days of Christmas, ending the day before Epiphany when we remember the wise men's visit to worship the Christ Child.

We can easily pass through these 12 days without much thought when the excitement and exhaustion of Christmas set in. The sometimes dreary days of winter mix with a time of reflection on the past year and the wonder of a new one. It's easy to take a bit of a break in our usual faith-strengthening ways and routines.

This booklet can serve as a tool for the Holy Spirit to keep us focused on God's Word and ways. We'll discover faith truths and lessons from God's Word tied to the numbers 1 through 12.

Each numbered "faith gift" includes a Scripture reading, words of reflection, a hymn or song and discussion questions or activities. Consider them post-Christmas gifts for your family's faith walk through the 12-day season of Christmas or whatever season of life you're traveling through.



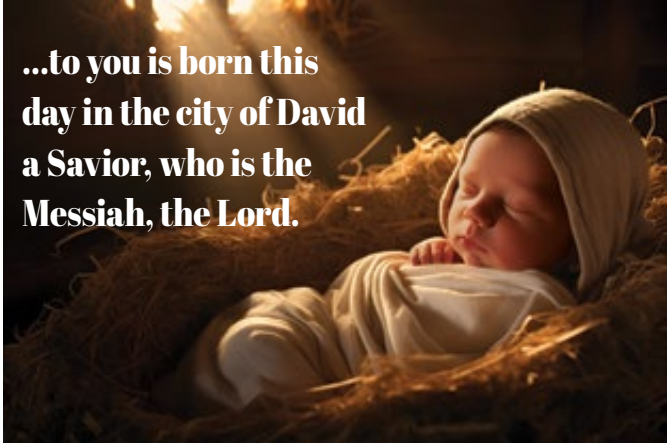


1

DAY 1: DECEMBER 25

1 Savior

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were



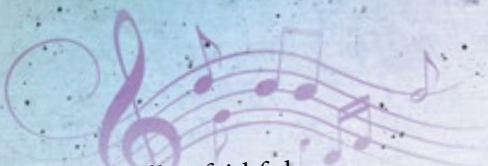
...to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

LUKE 2:8-14

Reflection

Christmas joy to you! There’s good news of great joy in the air. And it’s for ALL people. The news is about a baby. It’s about our Savior, whose birth we are celebrating. It’s just what we need—someone to rescue us from challenges, tough decisions and temptations. Sin is everywhere. Thankfully, we have a Savior who can rescue us from sin’s consequences. We can’t save ourselves from this imperfect, sinful



Oh, come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Come, ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

world. Jesus—God’s Son and Mary’s son—was the perfect one to step in and be born and take the punishment for sin that we deserved. As the Bible tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16). Yes, there’s good news of great joy in the air. Our one and only Savior, Jesus, is here!

Questions / Activity

Who are some of your favorite people (real or fictional) who have saved or rescued people? What or whom have they saved, and why do you admire them?



What has Jesus saved you from? How has that changed your life?

Put your name in blanks, and read aloud: For God so loved _____, that he gave his only Son, so that _____ who believes in him may not perish but _____ may have eternal life.

(based on John 3:16)

2

DAY 2: DECEMBER 26

2 People in the Beginning

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply...”

GENESIS 1:27-28



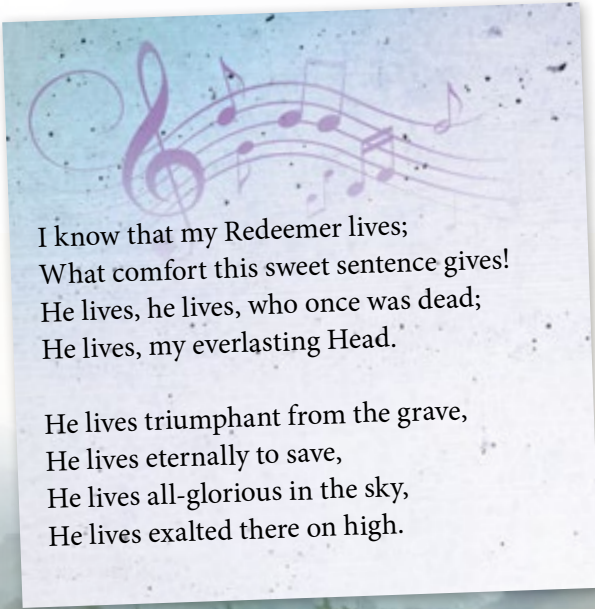
Reflection

The perfect story of a perfect love began in a perfect place with two perfect people created by the one perfect God. Sound perfect? It was. The first two people God created were Adam and Eve. He created them in his image. Perfect! Everything above, below and within the earth was perfect. As long as things were perfect, these first two wouldn't experience pain, guilt, bullying, worries, hate, broken bones, bad news, jealousy or even death. But then they disobeyed God. Sin moved in, and they had to move out. Sin changed everything. Sin is passed down through every person. But God loved Adam and Eve. So he gave them a moving present—hope. He had the perfect plan to rescue his creation. They didn't know how. We do. It was through Jesus, born in a manger.

Questions / Activity

Please add to this prayer your words of faith and thankfulness and whatever else you are led to add:

Lord of creation, we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus, who was born on Christmas. We are part of your family that began with Adam and Eve. We remember their once-perfect lives. We look forward to that perfection one day in heaven, made possible by the life, death and resurrection of your Son, who first came as a baby to save us. Keep our faith in him strong and growing. Also...





12 Days of Christmas

This unique booklet is a helpful tool for families to use to celebrate with gladness all 12 days of the season of Christmas from a Christian perspective. Family-friendly reflections, Bible readings, songs and suggested activities about the story of salvation are included for each numbered day to keep the celebration of the birth of Jesus going all the way to Epiphany.

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