



# With Us

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

LOVE:  
*With Us*  
IN GRACE

| WEEK FOUR |



# Scripture

*Open your Bible and read today's verse with your family.*

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## **John 1:16-17**

“For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

## **Ephesians 2:8-9**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

## **Romans 3:23-24**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

# Content

*Read today's devotion aloud with your family, Small Group, or simply during your personal time with the Lord.*

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In today's world, we rarely think about the Christmas season without thinking about gifts. We are bombarded with the call to give lists, get lists, and check them twice as we get ready for family gatherings and Christmas morning. But the idea of gift giving at Christmas did not begin in a store, nor did it arise out of human wants. The act of giving a gift came straight from the heart of God.

After sin entered the world, we were separated from God's presence, unable to walk and talk with Him as Adam and Eve once did in the Garden. But God, in His infinite love and grace, gave the perfect gift to restore this broken relationship.

God first gave the gift of the law, revealed through Moses in the Old Testament. While the law revealed God's holy character, it also exposed the depths of human sinfulness. As Romans 3:23-24 declares, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through redemption that is in Christ Jesus." The law that was just and holy served as a mirror, reflecting our need for a Savior.

God's people, however, had to wait for the ultimate gift God was preparing. God's prophets foretold the coming of the Rescuer. For centuries, they waited. They trusted God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise. When the time was right, God's perfect gift arrived in the most unexpected way. Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, was born as a baby in a humble manger. God's gift of grace was wrapped in human flesh. Jesus lived a sinless life, died a sacrificial death on the cross, and defeated sin through His resurrection.

At Christmas, we celebrate how this gift of grace came down



to be with us on that silent night. Jesus could have stayed in heaven, distant and unapproachable. Instead, He came near. He came to walk among us and reveal this powerful, life-changing truth for us on this side of heaven: God is with us in grace.

Grace is God's love made visible. It is a love that doesn't depend on our performance. The grace upon grace that God offers through Jesus is not about being perfect or having it all together. No, grace is about a God who loves us when we fail, forgives us when we stumble, and picks us up when we fall. As Ephesians 2:8-9 proclaims, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast." The grace of God will never shame you with your past, nor will it dwell on your mistakes. The grace of God forgives and frees you to live the victory of Jesus. God's grace upon grace is fueled by perfect love. When you are in Christ, God does not look at you and see failure; He looks at you and sees Jesus, the Author and perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). He is the grace that covers all our sins. He is the love that never lets go.

In a world that often tells us we're not enough—that we need to do more, be more, have more—the message of Advent is simple: You are loved as you are. God's grace is not something you can achieve—it is something you can receive through faith. It's the love of God poured out on us, undeserved and unconditional. The gift of grace that is freely given by God to all who believe is the gift that transforms. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength (Mark 12:31). As the grace of God flows through us, we are transformed and equipped to love and serve like Christ.

Whether in the chaos or the quiet of Christmas, God's grace is present—active, alive, and personal. Grace upon grace is with us. Right here. Right now. God is not distant or indifferent. He is always near, and He loves you.

This Christmas, allow His grace upon grace to change how we see ourselves, how we see others, and how we live in the world.

Do not leave the gift of salvation on the shelf. Unwrap the gift of Jesus—God with us—and let grace overflow. Allow the grace and truth of God with us to transform our hearts, our homes, and our lives for His glory.

## Conversation Starters

*Use these questions to start conversation with your family, small group, or simply to further your own understanding and application of today's scripture and devotion.*

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Have you ever had to wait to receive a gift? What was that like? What do you think it was like for God's people to have to wait for God to give the promised Messiah?

What do you think it means to leave the gift of salvation and grace unwrapped? What does it look like to live from your own efforts and instead of from the fullness of God's grace?

God was revealed to be near, forgiving, faithful, full of grace and unconditional in His love. Do you struggle to believe any of these aspects of God's character? Why?

Discuss a simple way to define grace, according to God's Word. What would it look like in your life to live as someone who truly believes that "God is with us in grace"?



# Connections

*Use the following activities and ideas throughout the coming week to further connect the lessons from today's scripture and devotion as well as deepen connections with family, friends, and community.*

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1. Write a list of all the people you have purchased gifts for or would like to purchase gifts for this Christmas. Commit to praying over them through the coming year.
2. Write a list of all the people who have given you gifts this Christmas season. Pray for each one and give thanks for the way they displayed the heart of God to you. If they do not know Christ, pray that they would receive the ultimate gift of Jesus!
3. Consider giving a gift to someone who you may not typically buy for or for someone who may not receive anything this Christmas. Think of ways to show them the love of God and the gift of Christ through the gift you will give. You could do this by giving them a Bible, writing a special card, or given a book that reminds them of the hope of Jesus.
4. Consider how you can provide an act of kindness to someone as a gift, even if they never know it was you. Take out the garbage without being asked, pay for the coffee of the person behind you in line, tip your server beyond the expected amount, hold the door for someone, give up that front spot in the parking lot, etc. There are so many ways that you can give the gift of the light and life of Jesus day in and day out.

# Memory Verse

*Use the memory verse to lock in the biblical truth of today's lesson throughout the week.*

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**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

**- John 1:14**



*"Glory to God in the highest, and  
on earth peace among those with  
whom he is pleased!"*

Luke 2:14





CHURCH AT THE MILL