



## *Christmas Devotions*

We hope and pray the following children's devotions will prepare the hearts of the children in your family for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Although written for children, these devotions will help remind adults about the precious gift that God gave all people through the birth of the Christ Child. These devotions can be read as preparation for bed time, before a meal, as a devotion anytime of the day or as a start of a biblical discussion with children about the importance of the gift of Jesus.

May you have a blessed Christmas season.

Merry Christmas from the Pine Forest Baptist Family.

Dale P.



# Hope

The star they had seen in the east...stopped over the place where the child was ([Matthew 2:9](#)).

Could it be?

Was it possible?

Had all the details been worked out?

Christmas Day was approaching and 9 year old Billy longed for a bicycle. His friends had bikes and he wanted to ride, explore and have fun with them. Billy's parents felt having a bicycle was not possible. Living on the side of a mountain in a large town, 32 steps had to be climbed from the street level to the front door of his house. Where could a boy even ride a bicycle in that place? Billy believed he had finally resolved his problem. He could push a bicycle up the hill of his backyard to a nearby street that had sidewalks and very little traffic in order to ride the longed-for bike. Presenting his plan to his parents, Billy had to wait and hope his desire would be granted. Wanting the bicycle so much, Billy was almost afraid to wake up on Christmas morning. Would he receive the much desired bike or would his hope be lost? Christmas morning came. With great anticipation, he pushed open the door to the room where the Christmas tree stood. Beside that tree was the prettiest blue bicycle he had ever seen.

Long ago there was a group of men that saw a beautiful new star in the sky. They began a long journey to see where the star would lead. During that long trip they could have given up hope they would find the Savior that the Bible promised. Their hope was rewarded. With great determination, they followed the star until it stopped moving and it was there they found the promised Savior.

Linda D.

# Joy

Imagine you're sitting in your room on a hot summer day, playing with your favorite toy. You look up because you hear a song in the distance. A happy little song, coming from down the road. You see a colorful truck approaching, and the song gets louder. A smile spreads across your face. You look in your piggy bank, and there are two crisp one dollar bills. You run to your mom to ask permission and out you go, to meet...The ice cream truck!

That feeling you get when meeting the ice cream truck on a hot summer day is enough to turn any day into a great day. At that moment, there is just nothing better. You get your sweet treat, and no matter what is going on, your afternoon is made.

That wonderful feeling of a treat from the ice cream truck is only a small comparison to what Christ gives us. Knowing Christ gives us not just a feeling of happiness, but a joy that comes from within. [Psalm 16:11](#) says, "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

This Christmas, remember to keep the joy of Christ in your heart. The shepherds were overcome with joy at the announcement of his birth. [Matthew 2:10](#) says, "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." We can find joy in knowing Christ, just like the shepherds. Sometimes, little things like ice cream, or our favorite toy brings us happiness, but true joy comes from knowing Jesus.

So whether it's a hot summer day, or Christmas time, Christ is always with us. Jesus Christ is what gives us joy. Remember Him, and keep him close in your heart this Christmas season.

Lauren B.

# Joy

I bring you good news of great joy.

[Luke 2:10b](#)

Joy, surprise, excitement and unbelievable love was inside the young girl as she peered over the top of the box that held the family dog with her newborn puppy. At 6 years old, the little girl loved her small dog, Snoopy, unconditionally and now this beloved pet brought a new joy into the household. Each day was a joyful discovery of the pleasures this puppy gave to the family. Stumbling over his large paws with clumsy attempts to pounce on bugs, the puppy was a cuddly bundle of soft fur, a wet nose and loving licks.

Long ago another family of men experienced a joy they were not expecting. Angels sang of the birth of a Savior and these men left their job of taking care of sheep to see this cuddly bundle. Making their way to the place where the angel said the baby would be, the shepherds looked down into an animal feeding tray and saw a tiny infant. What did those big, strong, tough men do? Did they try to touch the soft skin of the newborn Jesus or did they just stand there looking in wonder at a baby of which the angels sang? As the shepherds stared at this newborn Savior, possibly a warmth began inside their chests and spread to their mouths as they smiled like never before. Truly it was a great joy that would be for all people.

Linda D.

# Gifts of JOY

“When they saw the star, they were filled with JOY!” [Matthew 2:10](#)

Every Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Soon after Jesus was born, wise men were traveling and noticed a very bright star in the sky. They knew this star meant that a king had been born, a very special king, the one who would save the world.

The wise men followed the star until it hung over the very place where Jesus was born. They were very excited and filled with great JOY. They brought three gifts for their king, very expensive gifts that you would only give a king.

The first gift was gold, something only given to kings. Ask your child to find something gold or show them a piece of gold jewelry.

The second gift was frankincense a spice used when people worshiped God. Ask your child to smell a candle or another fragrant item.

The third gift was myrrh, an ointment people put on bodies that were going to be buried. Have some lotion or perfume to allow your child to apply.

We can't give these gifts to Jesus now but we can give another type of gift. We can bring Jesus great JOY by being like him by being kind to others, obeying our parents, being thankful for our gifts, and telling others about him.

The birth of Jesus Christ was one of the most important things that has ever happened on the earth. God sent us a special gift that is for everyone. We don't have to earn the gift. All we have to do is receive it by asking Jesus to live in our hearts forever.

Monica J.

# Peace

‘Twas the night before the first Christmas  
And all through the sky  
The stars were aligned  
For a new big surprise!

The shepherds were watching  
In awe and wonder  
The wise men were searching  
For a King out yonder

When what to their wondering eyes should appear  
But a baby in swaddling clothes  
In a manger so near

His eyes how they sparkled  
His laughter so sweet  
Little baby Jesus  
Is whom they did meet

The angels announced  
The newborn King  
The Savior, he would be  
Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace

He’s the reason we celebrate  
He’s the reason we give  
He’s the reason we love  
He’s the reason we live.

Darlene J.

# “Peace”

Have you ever been in an argument with your brother, sister, or friend? There once was a little boy who had an argument with his friend. His friend wanted to play a game outside, but the little boy wanted to play inside. They could not agree. The little boy decided to show kindness and do what his friend wanted to do so that they could play and have a good time. The two boys played together, and they had peace. The definition of peace is freedom from disturbance, it is a feeling of calm. It is not always easy to keep peace with one another, but Jesus gives us a great example of what peace is.

When Jesus was born, the angels announced his arrival to the shepherds by declaring God’s wish for all of us, peace on Earth. [Luke Chapter 2, verses 8-12](#) says: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Sometimes we have to do difficult things to keep peace with one another. In the bible, Jesus was called the Prince of Peace. He did something very difficult for us, he died for us to save us. The good news is that he rose again so that we can live in peace with Christ forever. [Isaiah 9:6](#) tells us, “For unto to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, “Prince of Peace.”

This Christmas season, remember what Jesus Christ came to earth for. He came to save us. Jesus helps us live in peace. This season, see who you can help show peace and kindness to.

Lauren B.