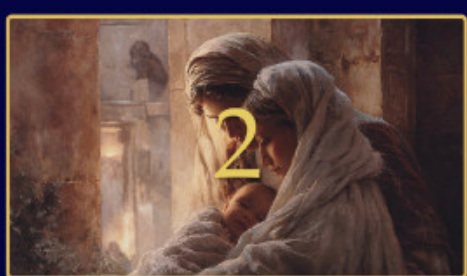




12 Days of Emmanuel

Kathryn B Trainor

God With Us Advent Devotional



Christmas Mini Book

 Eaglebrook Chapel

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This Is A Companion Publication

This devotional is a companion work titled:

12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Christmas Mini Book

The Christmas Mini Book expands upon themes introduced in the devotional and is intended to be read as a complementary resource. Each publication stands on its own and retains independent authorship and copyright.

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12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us”

Christmas Mini Book

Table of Contents

 BIBLE FOUNDATION Briefs	5
Introduction: The Invitation to Draw Near	7
Part I: The Arrival of Presence	8
DAY 1 - EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US	8
DAY 2 - THE WORD MADE FLESH	11
Part II: The Character of Presence	15
DAY 3 - THE GOOD SHEPHERD	15
DAY 4 - THE FRIEND OF SINNERS	18
DAY 5 - THE HEALER WHO DRAWS NEAR	21
DAY 6 - THE SERVANT KING	27
DAY 7 - THE TEACHER WHO WALKED WITH US	31
Part III: The Provision of Presence	35
DAY 8 - THE INTERCESSOR	35
DAY 9 - THE BREAD OF LIFE	39
DAY 10 - THE TRUE VINE	43
Part IV: The Purpose of Presence	46
DAY 11 - THE LAMB OF GOD	46
DAY 12 - THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE	51

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Kathryn B. Trainor is a teacher, writer, and ministry leader based in Point Roberts, Washington. She is involved in local and online ministry through Eaglebrook Chapel and related teaching projects, where her focus is helping people engage Scripture in a way that is both grounded and life-giving.

Kathryn's work centers on themes of God's nearness, spiritual formation, and faith lived in real-world contexts. Her devotional and teaching resources are designed to be approachable without being shallow—inviting readers to reflect, pray, and grow in confidence that God is present and active in their lives.

She writes and teaches with a pastoral heart, drawing from Scripture, study, and lived experience, and offers her work freely as a ministry resource.

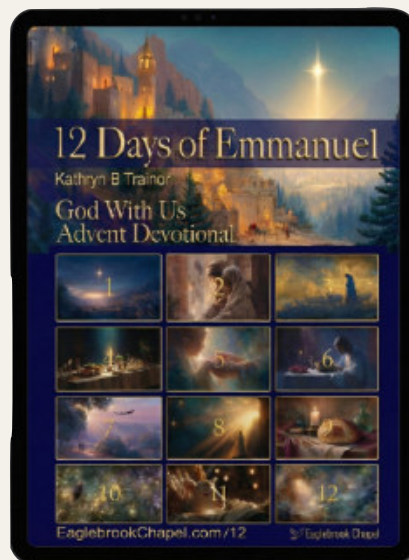
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12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Devotional

Each “Day” anchors to one major Bible principle truth and a collection of foundational verses.

BIBLE FOUNDATION Briefs

DAY 1 - Emmanuel: God *With Us*

Core Truth: God chose presence, not distance.

- *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive... and they shall call His name Immanuel... God with us.”* - **Matthew 1:23**
- *“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”* - **Exodus 33:14**
- *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* - **John 1:14**

DAY 2 - The Word Made Flesh

Core Truth: Jesus entered our world, limitations, and human experience.

- *“In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God.”* - **John 1:1**
- *“The Word became flesh and lived among us.”* - **John 1:14**
- *“He had to be made like His brethren in all things.”* - **Hebrews 2:17**
- *“We do not have a High Priest unable to sympathize... but one who was tempted in all points as we are.”* - **Hebrews 4:15**

DAY 3 - The Good Shepherd

Core Truth: He leads from among, not above.

- *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”* - **John 10:11**
- *“He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.”* - **John 10:3**
- *“The Lord is my shepherd.”* - **Psalms 23:1**

DAY 4 - The Friend of Sinners

Core Truth: Jesus joined the tables of those society rejected.

- *“The Son of Man came eating and drinking... a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”* - **Matthew 11:19**
- *“He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God.”* - **Luke 9:11**
- *“This man receives sinners and eats with them.”* - **Luke 15:2**

DAY 5 - The Healer Who Draws Near

Core Truth: Healing required closeness - His touch, compassion, presence.

- *“Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him.”* - **Matthew 8:3**
- *“He healed all who were oppressed by the devil.”* - **Acts 10:38**
- *“He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”* - **Matthew 8:17**
- *“By His stripes you were healed.”* - **1 Peter 2:24**

DAY 6 - The Servant King

Core Truth: He leads by stooping low.

- *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” - Mark 10:45*
- *“He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet.” - John 13:5*
- *“Have this mind... He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant.” - Philippians 2:5-7*

DAY 7 - The Teacher Who Walked With Us

Core Truth: His teaching came through shared life.

- *“Rabbi, where are You staying?” He said, “Come and see.” - John 1:38-39*
- *“He taught them as one with authority.” - Matthew 7:29*
- *“Beginning at Moses... He explained to them the things concerning Himself.” - Luke 24:27*

DAY 8 - The Intercessor

Core Truth: Jesus stands with us and for us forever.

- *“He always lives to make intercession for them.” - Hebrews 7:25*
- *“We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” - 1 John 2:1*
- *“Christ... is at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” - Romans 8:34*

DAY 9 - The Bread of Life

Core Truth: Jesus nourishes from within, not from afar.

- *“I am the bread of life.” - John 6:35*
- *“He who feeds on Me will live because of Me.” - John 6:57*
- *“Taste and see that the Lord is good.” - Psalm 34:8*

DAY 10 - The True Vine

Core Truth: He shares His life with us in continual connection.

- *“I am the vine; you are the branches.” - John 15:5*
- *“Abide in Me, and I in you.” - John 15:4*
- *“In Him we live and move and have our being.” - Acts 17:28*

DAY 11 - The Lamb of God

Core Truth: He entered our suffering to redeem us.

- *“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” - John 1:29*
- *“He was wounded for our transgressions... the chastisement for our peace was upon Him.” - Isaiah 53:5*
- *“This is My body, broken for you.” - 1 Corinthians 11:24*

DAY 12 - The Resurrection and the Life

Core Truth: His victory becomes our victory.

- *“I am the resurrection and the life.” - John 11:25*
- *“Because I live, you will live also.” - John 14:19*
- *“The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.” - Romans 8:11*
- *“He raised us up together.” - Ephesians 2:6*



12 Days of Emmanuel: God With Us

Introduction: The Invitation to Draw Near

Welcome to a 12-day journey into the heart of God. In the coming days, we will set aside time to explore one of the most profound truths ever revealed to humanity, a truth captured in a single, powerful name: *Emmanuel*. This name, meaning “God with us,” is more than a seasonal title; it is God’s eternal decision to choose presence over distance and relationship over rules. It is the bold declaration that the Holy One of the universe stepped into human experience, not to observe from afar, but to share life with His people.

The purpose of this devotional is to guide you through twelve facets of Jesus's nature, twelve names and roles that reveal His nearness and deepen our personal connection with Him. Each day offers an opportunity to see Him more clearly—not as a distant ruler, but as the God who accompanies us on our journey, understands our burdens from within, and delights to be near His people.

I invite you to find a quiet space each day to meet with the “God who came close.” Let these readings and reflections be a doorway into a richer, more tangible experience of His presence. May this journey not only inform your mind but also transform your heart, drawing you into the steadfast, faithful, and unbroken companionship of the One who is, and always will be, Emmanuel.

To the Beloveds,

Ka! ryn Trainor

PS... As always, our ma" rials are #eely shared. If! is encourages you, pass it on! It's rea%y very encouraging &! ink about Jesus in! is way any' me, not just at Christmas.

Share link - eaglebrookchapel.com/share-12 or just send people to eaglebookchapel.com/12

Part I: The Arrival of Presence



DAY 1 - EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US

✦ Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

Matthew 1:23 AMPC

“Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel-which, when translated, means God with us.”

John 1:14 AMPC

“And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled-fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile-among us; and we [actually] saw His glory...”

Exodus 33:14 AMPC

“And the Lord said, My Presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Core Truth: God chose to be close, presence, not distance.

✦ Today's Devotional Reading

The name *Emmanuel* is the foundation of our faith. It is not just a title but a statement of truth, a declaration of God's ultimate desire. From the Hebrew roots for "God" (*EI*) and "with us" (*immanu*), this name announces relationship before authority and companionship before command. It overturns every image of a distant, unreachable ruler and reveals a Savior who

His Presence Transforms Everything

To receive Emmanuel is to accept a new reality: you do not face life alone.

- **For the Lonely:** You have a constant Companion.
- **For the Fearful:** His nearness is your security.
- **For the Weary:** His presence is your place of rest.
- **For the Inadequate:** His presence is your qualification.



"...for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless..." — Hebrews 13:5 (AMPC)

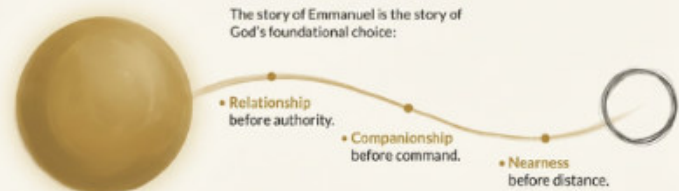
promise possible: "My Presence shall go with you." He promised His *panay*, His very face, signifying direct, personal, attentive involvement—not that of a mere representative. God promised to turn His face toward His people.

This ancient promise finds its ultimate

fulfillment in Jesus. He chose to come down, draw near, and walk beside those He loves. This is the good news: the God who made everything has entered human life.

This promise of nearness is a pattern woven throughout Scripture. God walked with Adam and Eve in Eden, led Israel by a pillar of cloud and fire, and filled the tabernacle with His glory. To Moses, who felt the weight of leading a rebellious people, God did not offer a complex strategy; He offered the most personal

Presence, Not Distance



It is the bold declaration that the Holy One stepped into human experience not to observe from afar, but to share life with His people.

A Name That Carries the Good News

The name itself is the message. It is the fulfillment of God's ancient promise to dwell with His people.

עִמָּנוּ אֵל
Emmanuel

Emmanuel: From the Hebrew 'El' (God) and 'immanu' (with us).

"Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means God with us." — Matthew 1:23 (AMPC)

fulfillment in Jesus. When John wrote that Jesus "tabernacled" among us, he used a word—*eskēnōsen*—that would have sent a shockwave through his Jewish readers. He was declaring that the awesome, tangible Presence of God that once filled a sacred tent in the wilderness was now, impossibly, contained in the skin of a

man. The eternal *Logos*—the divine reason and very expression of God—had become flesh, pitching His tent among His people not in fabric and gold, but in human skin.

Advent invites us to wonder again at this impossible truth. The manger was not mere decoration; the vulnerability was real. The God who flung stars into space was content to be held in human arms. This is Emmanuel—God choosing nearness over distance. To receive Him is to accept a new reality: you do not face life alone. His presence is not symbolic; it is tangible. His nearness is not

How God Drew Near

Emmanuel is not a symbolic title; it is a tangible, historical reality expressed in two profound ways:



He Tabernacled Among Us

The Word "fixed His tent of flesh" and lived where we live. His presence was as real and near as the Tabernacle in Israel's camp.

(John 1:14)



He Gave Us His Face

God's promise of "My Presence" is literally "My Face" in Hebrew—the most personal, direct, and intimate companionship possible.

(Exodus 33:14)

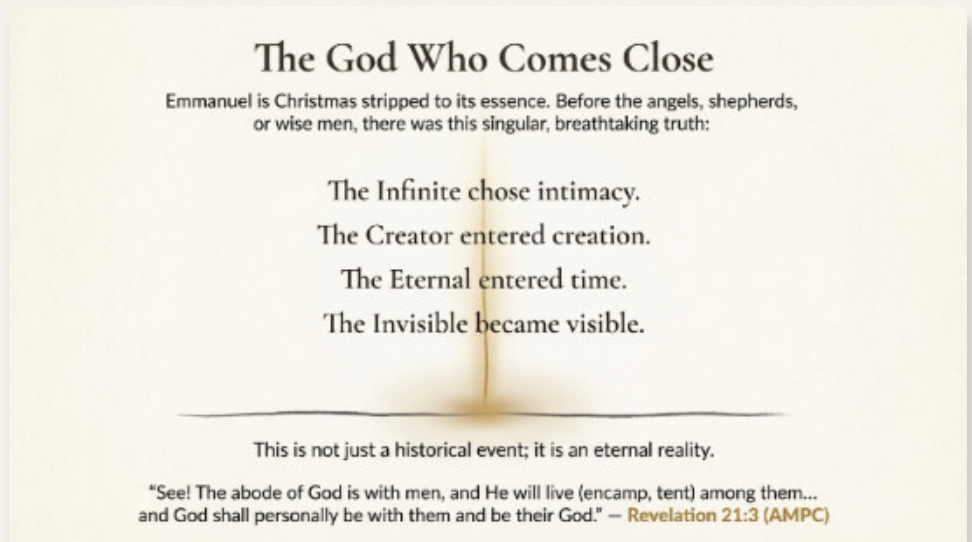
occasional; it is covenant. He has made an eternal decision to be with you, which leads us to the profound mystery of *how* He came to be with us, in the Word made flesh.

Reflection & Application

Living with Emmanuel changes everything. For the lonely, it is the assurance that you are never truly alone. For the fearful, it is the quiet confidence that the One who is with you is greater than anything you face. For the weary, His presence is rest. His nearness means that God enters your pain not to explain it from a distance, but to share it from within.


- In what area of your life do you most need to be reminded that you are not alone?
- How does knowing God chose nearness over distance change the way you approach Him in prayer?
- How can you become more aware of His tangible, moment-by-moment presence with you today?

Dear Father, thank You for the incredible gift of Your presence. Forgive me for the times I live as if I am alone. Open my eyes and my heart to see and feel Emmanuel, God with me, in every part of my day. Amen.




DAY 1: Emmanuel — God With Us
God chose presence, not distance.


The Revelation of Emmanuel


 **The Name of Nearness**
Emmanuel announces relationship before authority and companionship before command.


"Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel—which, when translated, means God with us."
Matthew 1:23 (AMPC)

 **He Chooses To Be With Us**
God walks beside us, shares our burdens, and delights in being near.

Why This Presence Matters Today

 **For the Lonely: You Are Never Alone**
His nearness is a steady, faithful, and unbroken companionship.

 **For the Fearful: His Presence Transforms Fear**
When God is with us, terror has no grounds to stand on.

 **For the Weary: His Presence Brings Rest**
He accompanies you on your journey, carrying what you cannot.

Emmanuel is God's eternal decision to draw near to you.



DAY 2 - THE WORD MADE FLESH

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 1:1 AMPC

"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself."

John 1:14 AMPC

"And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled-fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile-among us; and we [actually] saw His glory..."

Hebrews 2:17 AMPC

"So it is evident that He had to be made like His brethren in every respect... to make atonement and propitiation for the people."

Hebrews 4:15 AMPC

"For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize... but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning."

Core Truth: Jesus entered our world, limitations, and human experience.

Today's Devotional Reading

If Emmanuel is God's decision to be with us, then "the Word made flesh" is the astonishing mechanism He chose to make it happen. John begins his gospel by echoing Genesis: *"In the*

Before Time, There Was the Word

The story of Emmanuel does not begin in a manger, but in eternity. Before creation, before time itself, the eternal Christ existed in perfect unity with God.

"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself."

John 1:1 (AMPC)

The Word (Logos):


More than speech, this refers to the divine reason, creative power, and eternal purpose of God. The Word is God expressing His own nature.



beginning", establishing that Christ existed before all time. He was not made; He is the eternal God. This is the scandal and the glory of the incarnation: the infinite God willingly imprisoned Himself in the confines of human flesh. The timeless One subjected Himself to the tyranny of the clock. Majesty learned to walk.

The incarnation means that Jesus embraced every part of our experience. He grew, learning and

increasing in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52). He knew weariness after a long day. He grieved deeply, so much so that He wept at the tomb of His friend (John 11:35). He was not an actor playing a human role; He fully entered our story. He had to be made like us "in every respect" so He could become our merciful and faithful High Priest. His humanity



A Necessary Likeness

For Jesus to stand in our place, He had to become one of us. His complete humanity was a prerequisite for His work as our merciful and faithful High Priest.

"So it is evident that it was necessary for Him to be made like His brethren in every respect, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest... to make atonement and propitiation for the people's sins."

Hebrews 2:17 (AMPC)

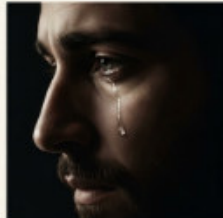
Word Study Highlight:
Propitiation (*hilaskethai*): Christ's sacrifice fully satisfied the justice of God. He absorbed the penalty our sin deserved so that we could receive mercy.

The Fullness of Human Experience

Christ's humanity was not a costume; it was His reality. He experienced the human journey from infancy to adulthood, with all its growth, joy, and sorrow.



He Grew: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in years, and in favor with God and man."
- Luke 2:52 (AMPC)



He Wept: "Jesus wept."
- John 11:35 (AMPC)



He Grieved: "My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow."
- Matthew 26:38 (AMPC)

qualifies Him to represent us, and His sacrifice makes *propitiation* for our sins, satisfying God's perfect justice so that we could receive mercy.

Because He lived our life, He can truly *sympathize* with our weaknesses. This is not detached pity but a shared, felt experience. He was "tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning." He

understands the pull of temptation, the pressure of expectations, and the weight of sorrow from the inside. Your struggles do not surprise Him. Your weaknesses do not shock Him. He has been there. Heaven did not send salvation as a message— heaven sent salvation as a Man.

The Savior in the manger knows your life because He lived it. He



Heaven Sent a Person, Not a Principle

God refused to save from afar. He did not critique humanity from a safe distance or send instructions from heaven on how to live. He came near and became the instruction by living it. He is the bridge between heaven and earth, built from His own being.

Living as the Understood



In Your Weakness: You have a High Priest who sympathizes. Approach Him without shame.



In Temptation: He knows the pull of sin and provides the way of escape. His victory is available to you.



In Sorrow: He has wept. He carries your grief with understanding, not distance.



In Loneliness: He knows rejection. He will never reject you.

understands your battles because He fought them. He carries your heart because He has one, too. Because the Word became flesh, you are never misunderstood by God. He is both mighty enough to save you and near enough to understand you completely, paving the way for the tender, personal leadership of the Good Shepherd.

Reflection & Application

Because Jesus became one of us, we can approach God with a confidence we could never otherwise possess. Our High Priest understands our weaknesses not by

Tempted in Every Respect, Yet Without Sin

Christ faced the full spectrum of human temptation—to doubt God's Word, to seek power through compromise, to avoid suffering. His victory was not due to an exemption from the struggle, but a triumph within it.

"For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize... but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning."
Hebrews 4:15 (AMPC)



A High Priest Who Understands from the Inside

Jesus's sympathy is not detached pity. He does not observe our struggles from a distance; He lived them. He knows hunger, rejection, betrayal, physical pain, and the weight of temptation. His understanding is rooted in shared experience.

Sympathize (*sympathēsai*): To suffer together with; to feel the same thing; to experience alongside.



observation, but by experience. We can bring our struggles, temptations, and sorrows to Him without fear or shame, knowing that He is able to sympathize and ready to provide grace.

• Where have you felt misunderstood in your struggles? How does knowing Jesus "sympathizes" with you bring comfort?

- How can you approach God with more confidence, knowing your High Priest has been tempted in every respect, yet without sin?
- What weakness or infirmity do you need to bring to Him today, trusting in His understanding?

Father, thank You that Jesus became flesh. Thank You for a High Priest who understands me completely. Give me the courage to draw near to Your throne of grace with confidence, knowing I will find mercy and help in my time of need. Amen.

The Mystery in the Manger

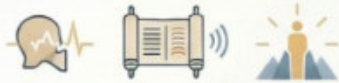
Advent declares that heaven did not remain distant. The Word did not stay in eternity. God refused to save from afar. He came near. He became one of us.

The Savior in the manger knows your life because He lived it. He understands your battles because He fought them. He carries your heart because He has one too.

Day 2: The Word Made Flesh

The Role of Christ: The Divine Word Who Fully Entered Human Experience

The eternal Christ stepped into our world, embracing every part of human life from within.



With-Us Emphasis



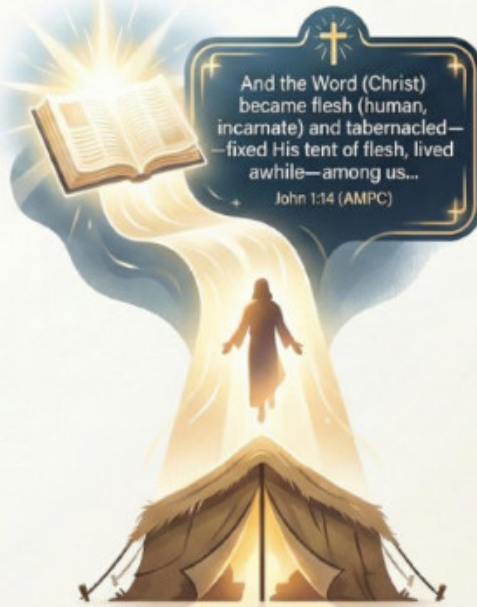
Felt what we feel

Faced what we face

Walked our dusty roads

Reflection Prompt

How does knowing Jesus fully understands your human struggles change the way you approach Him in prayer?



And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled—fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile—among us...
John 1:14 (AMPC)

Core Revelation: God did not send salvation as a message—He sent salvation as a Man.



His nearness was not symbolic; it was complete, making Him a High Priest who understands our weakness from the inside.

Why This Matters Today



In Your Weakness
You have a High Priest who truly sympathizes.

In Temptation
He knows the pull of sin and overcame it.

In Sorrow
He has wept and carries your grief with understanding.

Anchor Line

**Mighty enough to save,
near enough to understand.**

Part II: The Character of Presence



DAY 3 - THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 10:11 AMPC

“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep.”

John 10:3–4 AMPC

“The sheep listen to his voice... he walks on before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

Psalms 23:1 AMPC

“The Lord is my Shepherd [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.”

Isaiah 40:11 AMPC

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arm and carry them in His bosom.”

Core Truth: He leads from among, not above.

Today's Devotional Reading

In Jesus, we meet a God whose leadership is personal, protective, and present. He reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd, a figure who does not direct with distant commands but leads from among the flock. He walks with his sheep, calling them gently by name, knowing their



individual tendencies, fears, and wounds. Where the Shepherd is, there is safety; where He leads, there is peace.

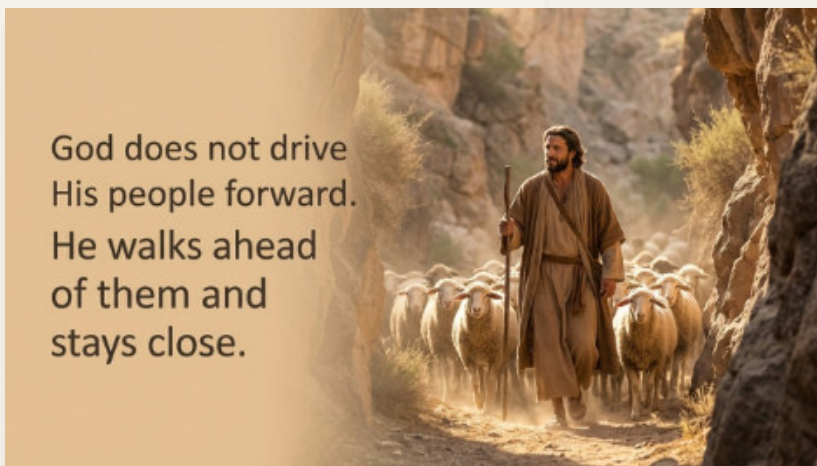
Jesus declares, "I am the *Good Shepherd*." The Greek word used here is *kalos*, which means not just morally good but noble, excellent, and supremely ideal. He is the perfect

Shepherd, contrasted with the hired hand who flees at the first sign of danger. The *kalos* Shepherd owns the sheep, loves the sheep, and ultimately "lays down His life" for them. This is not an accidental

I am the Good Shepherd.
The Good Shepherd risks
and lays down His own
life for the sheep.



John 10:11 AMPC



God does not drive
His people forward.
He walks ahead
of them and
stays close.

death but a deliberate, voluntary sacrifice. His care is not passive; it is sacrificial. He protects you with His very life.

This Shepherd's leadership is marked by intimacy. He says the sheep follow Him because they know His *voice*. In the ancient Middle East, a shepherd's

unique call would cut through the noise of many other flocks, and only his sheep would respond. Learning to discern His voice amidst the clamor of fear, confusion, and condemnation is central to our walk with Him. His voice brings clarity, confidence, and direction. In His shepherding, we discover both rest and courage—the rest of being known and the courage of being led.

The Good Shepherd came as a Lamb, born in a stable near where shepherds kept their flocks. He understands the flock because He joined it. To walk with this Shepherd is to live without lack, not because life becomes easy, but because His presence fills every empty place. His watchfulness is perfect. This

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep."
— John 10:11 AMPC

God does not drive His people forward with distant commands. He walks ahead of them, stays close, and calls them gently by name.

protective love extends beyond the fold, reaching out with radical inclusion to the very people society had cast aside, earning Him the scandalous title: "Friend of Sinners."

Reflection & Application

Living under the Shepherd's care means learning to trust His guidance, even when the path is uncertain. It means quieting our hearts to listen for His voice above all others. It means finding rest in the green pastures He provides and fearing no evil in the darkest valley, because He is with us. His presence is our provision and our protection.

- In what area of your life do you need to stop and listen for the Shepherd's voice?
- How can you rest in the truth that He is leading you to "green pastures," even when the path feels uncertain?
- What fear can you release today, knowing the Good Shepherd protects you?

Why This Matters Today

- We are not abandoned or forgotten.
- Guidance comes through relationship and His voice.
- Safety is found in His nearness.

Where might Jesus be gently leading you today?

Lord Jesus, my Good Shepherd, thank you for your constant, personal care. Help me to know Your voice and to follow You without fear. I entrust my day, my path, and my heart to Your guidance and protection. Amen.




The Shepherd Who Walks With Us

The One who leads from among, not from above.

"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep."
John 10:11 AMPC

His leadership is personal, tender, and protective.
It is revealed through His nearness and constant companionship.

 Walks among the flock	 Knows you by name	 Guards with His presence
In uncertainty, His voice provides clear direction.	In fear, His presence is your unwavering protection.	In weariness, He leads you into true spiritual rest.

How can you quiet other voices today to better hear the Shepherd's leading?

You walk with the One who knows the way.



DAY 4 - THE FRIEND OF SINNERS

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

Matthew 11:19 AMPC

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and notorious sinners-yet wisdom is justified and vindicated by what she does.”

Luke 15:2 AMPC

“And the Pharisees and the scribes kept muttering and indignantly complaining, saying, This man accepts and receives and welcomes preeminently sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 19:10 AMPC

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 5:31–32 AMPC

“Jesus replied to them, It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Core Truth: Jesus joined the tables of those society rejected.

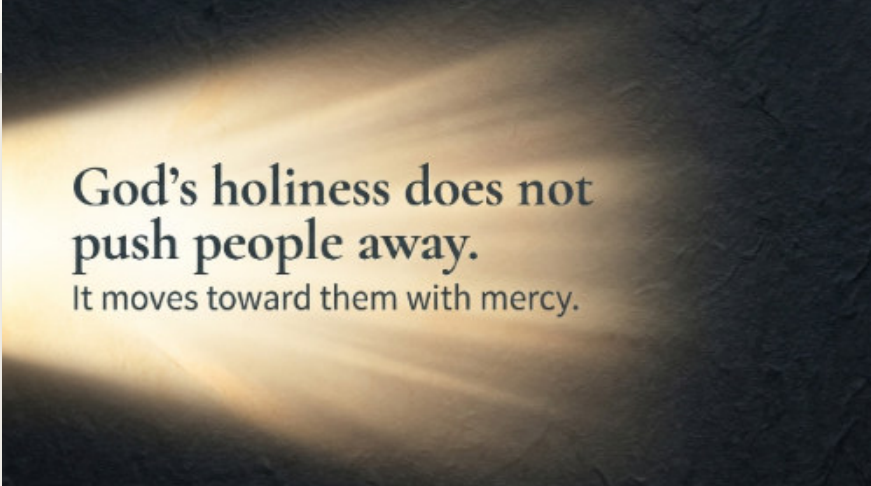
Today's Devotional Reading

The title "Friend of Sinners" was first hurled at Jesus as an insult, a way for the religious elite to discredit Him. Yet Jesus embraced it as a core truth of His mission. The Pharisees complained that Jesus welcomed "*preeminently wicked sinners*" and ate with them. This was not about

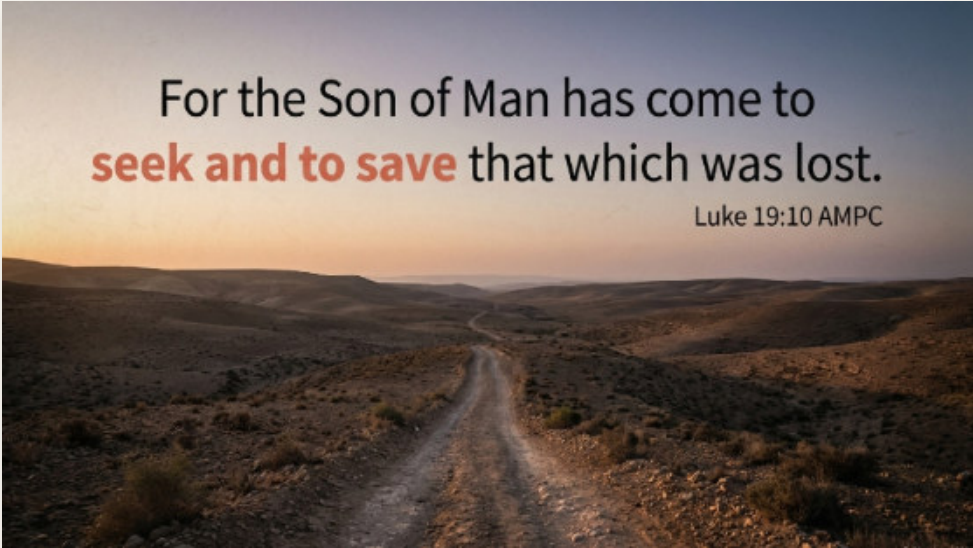
Jesus restores dignity by drawing near, not pulling away.

association with the morally imperfect; it was about fellowship with those deemed hopelessly corrupt and beyond redemption. In a culture where table fellowship signified acceptance, Jesus deliberately joined the tables of those society rejected, revealing a God who offers not condemnation but companionship.

This was a radical, counter-cultural act. The Pharisees were scandalized that Jesus "eats with them," because sharing a meal meant endorsement. But Jesus wasn't endorsing sin; He was offering transformation. He was a physician who had come not for the healthy, but for the sick. His friendship—His chosen, affectionate companionship (*philos*)—was His method of healing. Where others saw a tax collector who had betrayed his people, Jesus saw a future disciple. Where others saw a woman marked by shame, Jesus saw a heart ready for worship.



God's holiness does not push people away.
It moves toward them with mercy.



For the Son of Man has come to
seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10 AMPC

Jesus did not wait for the lost to find Him; His mission was to "seek and save" them. His love was not passive but active and pursuing. He went searching for Zacchaeus in the tree and called Matthew from his tax booth. He did not protect His reputation; He protected the outcast. His friendship lifts shame, restores dignity, and calls the heart into a new life. This compassion for the

socially outcast was mirrored in His profound care for the physically afflicted, revealing Him as our Healer.

Reflection & Application

We are all sinners in need of a physician, outcasts in need of a friend. Jesus's open table means there is a place for you, regardless of your past failures or present struggles. His friendship is not earned by our goodness but is a gift offered in our brokenness. Receiving this gift means letting go of shame and accepting His radical welcome.

- What past failures or shame make it hard for you to believe Jesus welcomes you to His table?
- How does knowing that Jesus actively seeks the lost change your view of God's heart toward you?
- Who in your life can you show the same kind of radical acceptance that Jesus shows you?



Jesus, thank you for being a Friend to sinners like me. Thank you for seeking me when I was lost and welcoming me to Your table. Help me to live in the freedom of Your friendship and to extend that same grace to others. Amen.

Grace welcomes before it corrects

Shame is not a barrier to God

Restoration begins with presence

Day 4: The Friend of Sinners

He is the One who seeks and shares a table with the rejected.



The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a glutton and a wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and notorious sinners!
— Matthew 11:19 (AMPC)

With-Us Emphasis



Sought the outcast



Shared their table



Rewrote their story

His friendship reveals a God who sits where people hurt.

He sought out the broken, entering the places others avoid to offer relationship.

Why This Matters Today

-  Your past does not disqualify you from His presence.
-  His friendship lifts shame and restores dignity.
-  He welcomes those the world rejects.

Reflection Prompt

Where in your life do you need to believe Jesus is willing to sit with you in the mess?

God sits at your table.



DAY 5 - THE HEALER WHO DRAWS NEAR

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

Matthew 8:3 AMPC

“And He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed. And immediately his leprosy was cured and cleansed.”

Acts 10:38 AMPC

“How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

Matthew 8:17 AMPC

“And thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases.”

1 Peter 2:24 AMPC

“He personally bore our sins in His own body on the tree... by His wounds you have been healed.”

**Core Truth:
Healing required
closeness - His
touch,**

Today's Devotional Reading

The healing ministry of Jesus was never a display of distant, impersonal power. It was a demonstration of compassionate presence. He could have healed with a word from heaven, but

Understanding the Untouchable

The Disease

Leprosy (Greek: *lepra*, in burnished gold #B8860B)

A skin disease causing severe disfigurement and social isolation. It was seen as both a physical ailment and a symbol of sin's isolating power.

The Isolation

Lepers were forced to live outside the community, cut off from all human contact, perhaps for years. They were

required to cry out, "Unclean!" when anyone approached.

He consistently chose to come near. He revealed a God who is not afraid to touch our pain, our sickness, and our deepest wounds.

Consider the leper in Matthew 8. In that culture, *leprosy* was a sentence of complete social isolation. To touch a leper was to become ceremonially unclean.

Yet when this man knelt before Jesus, Jesus did something shocking: He reached out His hand and "touched" him. In that touch, Jesus declared that no condition, no shame, and no stigma could keep Him at a distance. His compassion overcame the prohibition.

The Foundational Act of Nearness



"And He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed. And immediately his leprosy was cured and cleansed."

Matthew 8:3 (AMPC)

The Advent of the Healer

The Healer came in human flesh to touch human pain. He could have healed with a word from heaven, but He chose to come near.

Born in a barn, laid in a feeding trough—the Healer entered the brokenness of the world. He did not send healing from a distance.

He brought it in person. Advent declares that God's solution to human suffering is His presence.



Matthew tells us that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and *bore away our diseases*." Just as He bore our sins, He took our sicknesses upon Himself. Healing isn't a footnote to salvation; it is a direct consequence of the same atoning act. Peter confirms this

when he writes, "By His *wounds* you have been healed." The Greek word for wounds, *mōlōpi*, refers to a bruise, a welt, a wound from a blow. Every stripe on His back purchased our wholeness—spirit, soul, and body. The cross purchased our full redemption.

The Healer was born into the brokenness of the world, laid in a feeding trough. The hands that would

Why This Matters Today



Point 1: Healing is Personal.

God is not a remote force; He is a person who enters our specific pain with tailored compassion.



Point 2: God Meets Us Where We Are.

He does not wait for us to become clean or worthy. He steps into our mess to bring restoration.



Point 3: Compassion Releases Restoration.

Jesus was "moved with compassion" before He healed. His love is the catalyst for His power.

Living in His Healing

When Sick: Come to the Healer. His compassion has not changed. His response is still, "I am willing."

When Hopeless: Remember that by His wounds you have been healed. The work is finished; healing has been purchased.

When Isolated by Shame or Pain: Remember the leper. There is no condition that repels Him. He specializes in touching the untouchable.



one day touch the leper and open blind eyes were once the tiny hands of an infant. This is the God who draws near to restore, and His healing touch was always an act of humble service, revealing the heart of the Servant King.

Reflection & Application

Jesus is still the Healer who draws near. He invites us to bring our sickness—physical, emotional, and spiritual—to Him. His response to the leper, "I am willing," is His response to us today. We can approach Him with our needs, confident in His compassion and in the finished work of the cross where our healing was purchased.

- Where do you need the Healer's touch today—physically, emotionally, or spiritually?
- How does the truth "By His wounds you have been healed" change your perspective on sickness and pain?
- How can you approach Jesus with the same faith as the leper, believing He is both able and willing to heal?

Lord Jesus, our Healer, thank you for your willingness to touch our pain. We bring our sickness and brokenness to you today, believing in your compassion and in the power of your sacrifice. By your wounds, we declare that we are healed. Amen.

Where do you need God's healing touch today?



Taking Our Infirmities

Jesus's healing ministry fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, revealing a Savior who does not simply fix problems but carries them on Himself.

"He Himself took our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our diseases."

Matthew 8:17 (AMPC)





Day 5

The Healer Who Draws Near

A Ministry of Doing Good

“How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, helping all who were harassed and oppressed by the power of the devil, for God was with Him.”

Acts 10:38 (AMPC)



Healing required closeness—His touch, compassion, and presence.

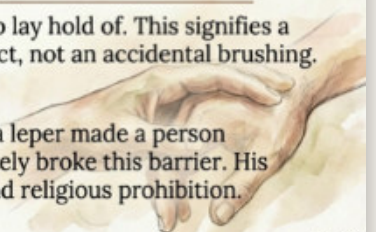
Jesus reveals a God who does not heal from a distance, but enters our world to restore us.

The Meaning Within the Touch

ἥψατο
(hēpsato)

Definition: To fasten to, to cling to, to lay hold of. This signifies a deliberate, intentional physical contact, not an accidental brushing.

Key Insight: In Jewish law, touching a leper made a person ceremonially unclean. Jesus deliberately broke this barrier. His compassion overcame the cultural and religious prohibition.



God's power is expressed through love, not distance.

The touch was not merely a means to a miracle; it was the message itself. It declared that there is no condition, no shame, and no stigma that can keep God at distance. He is willing to touch what others avoid.



The Great Exchange

ἔλαβεν καὶ ἐβάστασεν

(elaben kai ebastasan)

Definition: To take up, to carry, to bear as a burden. This is the language of substitutionary bearing—He took what was ours and carried it as His own.

Key Insight: Healing flows from the same sacrifice as salvation. Christ's atonement covers the whole person—spirit, soul, and body.



The Price of Our Wholeness



“He personally bore our sins in His own body on the tree... by His wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 2:24 (AMPC)

The Purpose in the Pain

τῷ μώλωπι

(tō mōlōpi)

Definition: A bruise, a welt, a wound from a blow. This refers to the specific physical suffering Christ endured—the scourging, the beating, the crucifixion.

Key Insight: Every wound Christ bore had a redemptive purpose. His suffering was not meaningless; it purchased the wholeness you need.

The Healer Who Draws Near

THE NATURE OF HIS HEALING



He Heals Through Presence, Not Distance

Jesus's ministry was defined by touch, compassion, and entering into people's pain.

"He put out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed."

Matthew 8:3 (AMPC)



He Touched the Untouchable

By touching a leper, Jesus intentionally broke cultural laws, showing compassion overcomes every barrier.



THE SOURCE OF OUR HEALING

He Bore Our Sicknesses Himself

His healing involved personally taking our weaknesses and diseases upon Himself as a substitute.



"By His wounds you have been healed."

1 Peter 2:24 (AMPC)

The Healer Has Come

Advent reminds us that God's solution to suffering is His presence; He came in human flesh to touch human pain.



DAY 6 - THE SERVANT KING

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

Mark 10:45 AMPC

“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

John 13:5 AMPC

“Then He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

Philippians 2:5–7 AMPC

“Let this same attitude and purpose and mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus... Who, although being essentially one with God... stripped Himself [of privileges]... taking the form of a servant.”

Matthew 20:28 AMPC

“Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Core Truth: He leads by stooping low.

Today's Devotional Reading

In Jesus, we meet the ultimate paradox: a King who kneels. This is the upside-down economy of heaven, where the King's coronation is marked not by a crown of gold but by a towel of service.



The Shock of the Towel

Then He poured water into the washbasin and began to **wash the disciples' feet** and to wipe them with the [servant's] **towel** with which He was girded.
— John 13:5 (AMPC)

In the first-century world, foot washing was the task of the lowest non-Jewish slave in a household. It was a task no one else wanted. For the Master and Lord to kneel and perform this demeaning act was a shocking violation of every cultural norm, powerfully demonstrating that no act of service is beneath a true leader.

His throne was not in a palace but on the dusty floor at the feet of His followers. He completely overturns every earthly notion of greatness, redefining leadership not as power over others, but as humble service to them.

On the night before His crucifixion, Majesty wrapped a towel around His waist and began to "wash the disciples' feet"—the task of the lowest slave. Jesus's mission statement was clear: "The Son of Man came not to be

served, but to serve." He came to give His life as a *ransom*—a redemption price paid to free a slave. His entire life was an act of service, culminating in the ultimate sacrifice.

The Apostle Paul urges us to have the same mind as Christ, who, though eternally equal with God, "stripped Himself" of His privileges.

The Greek word *ekenōsen* means He emptied Himself, voluntarily laying aside His divine rights and status to



A Kingship That Overturns the World

Jesus completely inverts worldly power structures and redefines greatness. He rules not through force and domination, but through divine humility and sacrificial love. His service is not weakness; it is the ultimate expression of strength and authority.

He leads by stooping low.

take the form of a servant.

This is how the King chose to come to us—low, vulnerable, and approachable. He did not demand that we climb to His level; He descended to ours, born in a stable and laid in a manger. His life showed that the way up in God's kingdom is down, and His actions were always accompanied by the profound words of the Teacher who walked among us.

The Theology of Humility: Ekenōsen

"Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus... Who, although being essentially one with God... **stripped Himself** [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant..."
— Philippians 2:5-7 (AMPC)

Stripped Himself (heauton ekenōsen): Literally 'He emptied Himself.' This is the voluntary relinquishment of rights, status, and privilege. Christ did not cease to be God, but He laid aside the independent use of His divine attributes. He had every right to glory but chose the form of a slave.



Reflection & Application

To follow the Servant King is to adopt His mindset. It means choosing to lay down our rights for the good of others and measuring our greatness by how we serve. This challenges our natural desire for status, recognition, and being served. We are called to look for the basin and the towel in our own

"For even the Son of Man came not to have service **rendered to Him**, but to serve, and to give His life as a **ransom for many**."
— Mark 10:45 AMPC

True greatness is not found in being served, but in service. Majesty is revealed in humility, and true power lifts others up.

relationships and communities.

- In what relationship or situation can you choose to "stoop low" and serve today?
- How does remembering the King who washed feet challenge your own desire for status or recognition?
- What rights or privileges might God be asking you to lay aside for the sake of serving someone else?

Why This Matters Today


- God overturns every earthly notion of greatness.
- Our value is not in status, but in love expressed through service.
- We are called to lift others, not exalt ourselves.

How might you reflect the humble heart of the King this week?

Lord Jesus, Servant King, forgive me for my pride and my desire to be served. Give me Your humble heart and a servant's spirit. Show me where I can wash the feet of those around me today, reflecting Your incredible love and humility. Amen.

12 Days of Emmanuel, Day 6: The Servant King

The King who leads by stooping low.






“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:45 (AMPC)




Core Revelation

Jesus overturns earthly notions of greatness by choosing humility over display and service over status. His leadership is expressed through love.

With-Us Emphasis

-  Kneels to serve
-  Washes human feet
-  Gives His life for us

Why This Matters Today

-  True greatness is measured by service, not status.
-  Our humility can heal and transform relationships.
-  We reveal God's heart when we choose to serve others.

Reflection Prompt

How can I demonstrate the humility of the Servant King today?

The greatest One became the least, so we could be lifted into eternal love.



Day 6

The Servant King

He leads by **stooping** low.

The Mission: To Serve and to Ransom

“For even the Son of Man came not to have service rendered to Him, but to **serve**, and to **give His life as a ransom** for many.”

Serve (*diakonēσαι*): To wait at table, to minister, to attend to the needs of another. The work of a servant, not a master.

— Mark 10:45 (AMPC)



Ransom (*lytron*): The price paid to release a slave or prisoner. A substitutionary payment. Freedom is purchased, not earned.



The Shepherd, the King, the Lamb...



...are all the same Person. Each name is another brushstroke revealing the masterpiece of **Emmanuel God With Us**. He is the Shepherd who guides us, the King who models for us, and the Lamb who died for us. His presence is gentle, humble, and sacrificial. And because He is the Resurrection and the Life, His victory becomes our victory.

The Upside-Down Kingdom

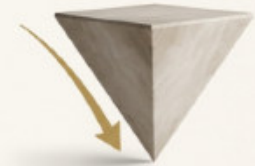
In the Kingdom of God, the path to honor is through humility. True authority is not measured by who serves you, but by how you serve others.

World's Model: Power Over

Christ's Model: Greatness Through Service



“Whoever wishes to be great exalts himself.”



“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.” (Matthew 20:26)

Living the Inversion



True authority is not for self-exaltation, but for blessing and lifting others. It is measured by how low you will stoop to lift another up.



Love in action is service. It is the practical, tangible expression of a humble heart that puts others' needs before its own.



Leadership in Christ's kingdom looks like kneeling with a towel, not standing on a pedestal demanding honor.

“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.” — John 3:16 AMPC

— John 3:16 AMPC

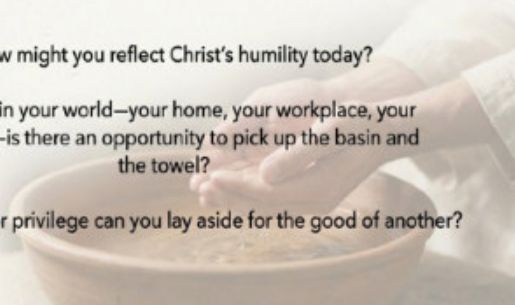
Emmanuel
God With Us. Forever.

The Invitation to Serve

1. How might you reflect Christ's humility today?

2. Where in your world—your home, your workplace, your community—is there an opportunity to pick up the basin and the towel?

3. What 'right' or privilege can you lay aside for the good of another?





DAY 7 - THE TEACHER WHO WALKED WITH US

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 1:38–39 AMPC

“They said to Him, Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying? He said to them, Come and see.”

Matthew 7:29 AMPC

“For He taught them as One Who had authority, and not as the scribes.”

Luke 24:27 AMPC

“Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself.”

Mark 6:34 AMPC

“He was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.”

Core Truth: His teaching came through shared life.

Today's Devotional Reading

Jesus's method of teaching was revolutionary. While He was recognized as a *Rabbi*, a respected teacher, He did not confine His instruction to a synagogue. His primary invitation was simply, "Come and see." He taught through relationship, inviting His disciples into His daily life. They

The Invitation Was the First Lesson

When disciples asked the "Rabbi" a practical question, His answer revealed His entire teaching philosophy.

"They said to Him, Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying? He said to them, **Come and see.**"

John 1:38-39 (AMPC)

Truth is discovered through presence, not distance.



learned as they walked and ate with Him. His lessons were woven into miracles and meals. This is discipleship: not just information transfer, but life transformation through shared experience.

His teaching was marked by two key qualities: authority and compassion. Unlike the scribes who quoted other rabbis, Jesus spoke with

inherent *authority* (*exousia*). His words carried divine weight and awakened hearts. But this authority was not harsh; it was delivered with profound *compassion*. He saw the crowds as "sheep without a shepherd" — confused and vulnerable — and His heart was moved to teach them. His instruction always flowed from love.

A Classroom Without Walls

Unlike rabbis who taught primarily in synagogues, Jesus's classroom was life itself. He taught everywhere, weaving lessons into the fabric of the everyday.



Core Idea: Learning from Jesus was not an academic exercise; it was a relational journey.

Discipleship: Transformation Through Relationship

Jesus did not establish a formal school; He invited people to walk with Him. His disciples learned by observing His life in action.



They saw how He:

- Responded to criticism.
- Prayed in solitude.
- Spoke to the hurting.
- Handled immense pressure.



Core Principle: This is not information transfer. It is life transformation.

The Teacher who walks with us has walked the path Himself. He taught about faith while in a storm and about forgiveness while on the cross. He shaped His followers not only by what He said, but by who He was and how He lived in their midst.

His teaching ministry on earth was a foreshadowing of His ongoing ministry for us in heaven, where He now stands as our eternal Intercessor.

Reflection & Application

Learning from Jesus is a relational pursuit, not just an academic one. He invites us to "come and see" what He is doing in our daily lives, to walk with Him, ask Him questions, and observe His

character. This requires us to slow down, listen, and create space for the Teacher to speak into our circumstances.

- How can you better "come and see" what Jesus is doing in your life, rather than just reading about Him?
- In what area do you need to hear the compassionate, authoritative voice of your Teacher today?
- What is one practical way you can create more space to "walk with" Jesus this week?

Holy Spirit, my Teacher, thank you for making Jesus known to me. Open my heart to learn from Him not just with my mind, but with my whole life. Illuminate His words and His ways, that I might be transformed more into His likeness. Amen.

The Invitation Still Stands

The call to "come and see" echoes in Jesus's invitation to take on His yoke. Learning from Him is the pathway to true soul-rest.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls."

Matthew 11:29 (AMPC)

Key Insight: His instruction does not burden; it lightens and frees.



DAY 7: The Teacher Who Walked With Us

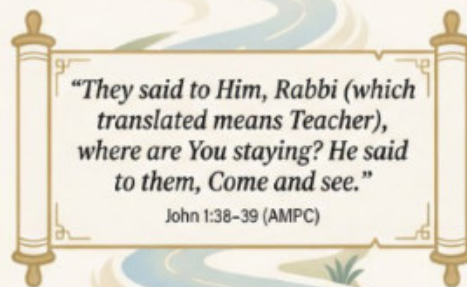
His instruction came through shared life, not distant lectures.

To walk with Jesus is to be continually taught by love.



Core Revelation

Jesus taught not with lectures, but with encounters. He revealed truth through His presence, shaping disciples by how He lived among them.



With-Us Emphasis

- ! Taught as He walked.
- 🛏 Revealed truth through presence.
- 🏠 Lived among His disciples.

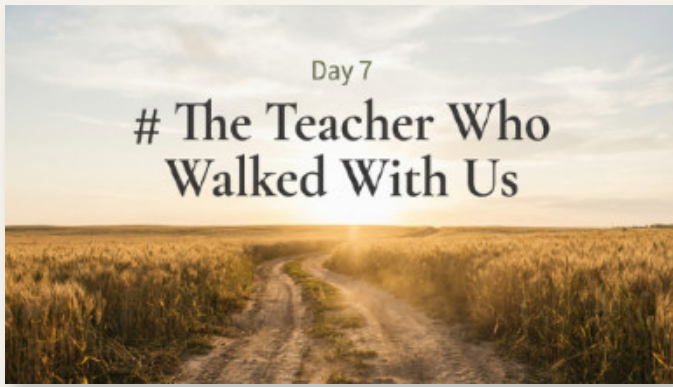


Why This Matters Today

- 💬 Learning from Him is relational, not just informational.
- 👤 His character is the curriculum we observe and follow.
- 🕊 He still teaches us step-by-step through His Spirit.



How are you inviting the Teacher to "come and see" your daily life?



The Curriculum Was Himself

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus demonstrated the ultimate theme of His teaching. He positioned Himself as the focal point of God's entire redemptive story.

"Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the Prophets, He went on explaining and interpreting to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning and referring to Himself." Luke 24:27 (AMPC)

He Taught With Inherent Authority

The crowds immediately recognized a fundamental difference in Jesus's teaching. It carried an intrinsic weight and power that was self-evident.

"For He was teaching them as One Who had [and was] authority, and not as the scribes."

Matthew 7:29 (AMPC)

The Nature of His Authority (Exousia)

Main Body
The Greek word *exousia* signifies power and right that comes from one's inherent being, not from delegated permission.

Analysis:

- The Scribes**
Quoted other esteemed rabbis as the basis for their teaching.
- Jesus**
Spoke from His own authority. He didn't just interpret truth; He was the source of it, saying, "You have heard it said... but I say to you."

Conclusion
His words carried power because of who He was.

His Teaching Flowed From Compassion

Jesus wasn't motivated by a desire to display knowledge. He was moved by the deep needs of the people He saw.

"He had compassion (pity and deep sympathy) for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."

Mark 6:34 (AMPC)

The Depth of His Compassion (Esplagchnisthē)

The Greek term *esplagchnisthē* goes beyond simple pity. It means "to be moved in the inward parts"—a visceral, emotional response.

Insight:

- It is not detached sympathy.
- He saw the crowds as confused, wandering, and vulnerable.
- His heart was moved, and His response was to teach.

Conclusion: Jesus teaches because He cares.

The Teacher Who First Became a Student

The Teacher who walks with us has walked the path Himself. He did not speak from an ivory tower but from lived experience. His teaching is grounded in the reality of the human journey.

Key Truths

- He "grew in wisdom" (Luke 2:52).
- He "learned obedience through suffering" (Hebrews 5:8).
- He knows the struggle of growth because He experienced it.

He does not demand what He has not first demonstrated.

The Teacher's Ongoing Presence

Jesus promised that His teaching ministry would not end. He sent the Holy Spirit to continue instructing His followers from within.

"But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit... He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall... everything I have told you."

John 14:26 (AMPC)

Part III: The Provision of Presence



DAY 8 - THE INTERCESSOR

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

Hebrews 7:25 AMPC

“He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make intercession for them.”

Romans 8:34 AMPC

“Who is there to condemn us?... Christ Jesus Who died... is at the right hand of God... actually pleading as He intercedes for us.”

1 John 2:1 AMPC

“If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate [One Who will intercede for us] with the Father-Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Hebrews 4:16 AMPC

“Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace... that we may find grace to help in good time for every need.”

Core Truth: Jesus stands with us and for us forever..

Today's Devotional Reading

The work of Jesus did not end at the empty tomb. After His ascension, He began an eternal ministry that provides profound security for every believer: He is our Intercessor. He stands

From the Manger to the Throne

The Intercessor was born to die and rise again.

His birth was not the end goal; it was the necessary beginning.



The Child would become the Priest.
The Savior would become the Advocate.

The story of Advent points forward to the cross, the resurrection, and the throne.

And from that throne, He lives to pray for you. Forever.

before the Father, not as a distant observer, but as our personal representative. The One who died for you now lives forever to pray for you.

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is "always living to make intercession." His prayer is not occasional; it is continuous. This ensures that He is able to "save to the uttermost" — completely, perfectly, and for all time. Your salvation is not fragile

or dependent on your flawless performance; it is secured by His perfect, ongoing work. There is never a moment when you are unrepresented before the throne of God.

When we sin, we have an *Advocate* (*paraklētōs* in Greek) with the Father. An advocate is one called alongside to help, a defense attorney who pleads our case. Jesus does not plead our innocence; He points to His

How His Intercession Sustains You

When you are weak...
His prayers sustain you. Even when your faith wavers, His intercession holds you.



When you are tempted...
He prays for your victory. He who was tempted in all things prays you through temptation.



When you fail...
He does not stop praying for you. Your failure does not end His advocacy.



When you are accused...
Satan may accuse, but Jesus defends. His voice overrules every charge against you.



Our Advocate with the Father

The Role: *paraklētōs* (Greek)
One called alongside to help; a legal defender; a counselor who stands with you in court.



The Reality: When we sin, we have a defender before the Father. He does not deny our guilt; He presents His righteousness and covers our failure with His blood.

"But if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate (One Who will intercede for us) with the Father—[it is] Jesus Christ [the all] righteous."
1 John 2:1 (AMPC)

righteousness and His finished work on the cross. His blood speaks a better word than our failures. When Satan, the accuser, brings a charge, Jesus answers with His scars. This is the prayer that never stops, ensuring not only our standing *before* God but also providing the sustenance we need *from* God, like the Bread of Life.

Reflection & Application

Living under Christ's intercession gives us unshakable confidence. We do not have to fear condemnation or accusation, because our Advocate is greater. We can face weakness and temptation knowing that Jesus is

The Prayer That Never Stops

The Engine: *pantote zōn* (Greek)
Living perpetually, continuously, at all times. This describes an uninterrupted, ongoing life.

The Consequence
Because Jesus rose from the dead and lives forever, His intercession *never* stops. He does not pray for you occasionally; he prays for you *always*. There is *never* a moment when you are unrepresented before God.



actively praying for our victory. This truth should embolden our own prayers and quiet our deepest fears.

- How does the reality of Jesus's constant prayer for you change how you face temptation or weakness?
- When you feel accused by your own heart or by the enemy, how can you remind yourself that you have an Advocate with the Father?
- How does this truth give you confidence to approach God's throne of grace today?

Lord Jesus, my Intercessor, thank you for praying for me when I cannot pray for myself. Thank you for being my Advocate when I fail. I rest in the security of your unending intercession and approach the Father with confidence because of you. Amen.

The Scope of His Salvation

The Meaning: *sōzein eis to panteles* (Greek)

To save **completely, fully**, to the end. The term implies something all-complete, perfect, entire, lacking nothing.

The Impact

Christ's saving work is **total**. It covers every sin, every failure, and every weakness. There is no part of your life His salvation cannot reach or perfect.



The Throne is Now a Place of Grace

Because we have a High Priest interceding for us, the throne of God is not a place of fear, but of help.



"Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]."

Hebrews 4:16 (AMPC)

Who is there to condemn us?

Will Christ Jesus (the Messiah), Who died, or rather Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God actually pleading as He intercedes for us?

> Romans 8:34 (AMPC)

A Case Study: The Prayer for Peter

Jesus knew Peter would fail, yet His response was not preemptive judgment, but proactive prayer.

"Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him... that he might sift [all of] you like grain, but I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren." Luke 22:31-32 (AMPC)

The Insight: His intercession sustained Peter through failure and was the very power that brought him back to strength.

He Saves to the Uttermost

“Therefore He is able also to **save to the uttermost** (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is **always living to make petition to God and intercede** with Him and intervene for them.”

Hebrews 7:25 (AMPC)

DAY 8 — THE INTERCESSOR

Christ's Role: Your Eternal Advocate

THE CORE REVELATION



The One who died for you now lives to pray for you. His advocacy is rooted in understanding, fueled by love, and empowered by His finished work on the cross.



WITH-US EMPHASIS



He stands with you.



He presents your case.



He supplies your grace.

WHY THIS MATTERS TODAY



You are never without help.



Your failures do not end His advocacy.



His voice in heaven is your anchor on earth.

KEY SCRIPTURE

He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25 (AMPC)

REFLECTION PROMPT

How does knowing Jesus is always praying for you change the way you face today's challenges?

The Intercessor is for you—and His prayers do not fail.





DAY 9 - THE BREAD OF LIFE

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 6:35 AMPC

“Jesus replied, I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in Me will never thirst any more.”

John 6:57 AMPC

“As the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so whoever continues to feed on Me shall live because of Me.”

Psalms 34:8 AMPC

“O taste and see that the Lord [our God] is good!”

John 6:51 AMPC

“I Myself am this Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever.”

**Core Truth: Jesus
nourishes from
within, not from
afar.**

Today's Devotional Reading

Every human heart experiences a deep, spiritual hunger that no earthly success, relationship, or possession can satisfy. God's answer to this universal longing is not a program or a principle, but a Person. Jesus declared, "I am the Bread of Life." Just as physical bread sustains the body, Jesus is the essential spiritual substance that nourishes the soul.

More Than Manna in the Wilderness



“Your forefathers ate the **manna** in the wilderness, and [yet] they died. [But] this is the **Bread** that comes down from heaven, so that [any]one may eat of it and **never die.**”

John 6:49-50 (AMPC)


Unlike manna that sustained temporarily, the Living Bread gives eternal life.

Jesus contrasts Himself with the temporary manna Israel ate in the wilderness. He is the "Living Bread" from heaven. To "feed on" Christ is an intimate, ongoing act. Jesus's language here is intentionally visceral. The Greek word He uses, *trōgōn*, means to chew or consume. To "feed on" Him is not a polite, abstract idea. It is to continually,

almost ruggedly, take His life into the very fabric of our being, chewing on His words and consuming His truth as the essential nourishment for our souls.

The symbolism of Christ's birth is profound. The Bread of Life was laid in a manger—a feeding trough. From His very first moments, He was presented as the provision for our deepest hunger. The psalmist invites us to an experiential knowledge of God: "O taste and see that the Lord is good!" He is the only one who truly satisfies. This internal nourishment is the basis for a vital, life-giving connection, making us branches of the True Vine.

The Bread Laid in a Feeding Trough



Advent Insight
The Bread of Life was laid in a manger—the place where animals eat. The symbolism is deliberate. From the very beginning, He was identified as food, as nourishment, as the provision that sustains.

God's answer to human **hunger** is not a program, but a **Person**.

An Invitation to Experience

You cannot know God's goodness by hearsay; you must taste it yourself. Do not settle for secondhand faith. Experience His goodness personally. He invites you to prove Him.



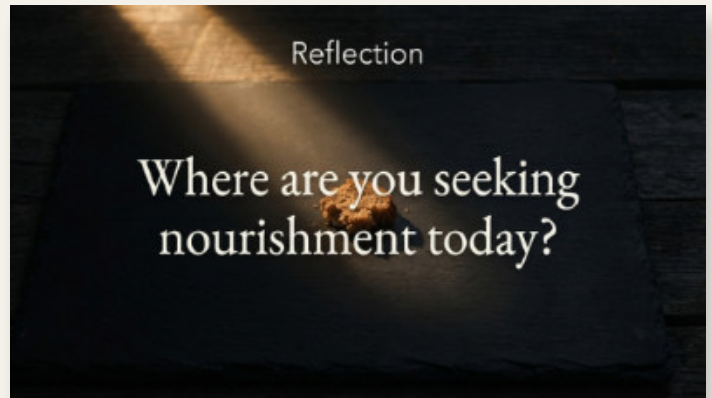
“O **taste and see** that the **Lord [our God] is good!** Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts and takes refuge in Him.”

Psalm 34:8 (AMPC)


Reflection & Application

We are constantly tempted to satisfy our spiritual hunger with lesser things—entertainment, ambition, approval. But these are like junk food for the soul; they never truly satisfy. The Bread of Life invites us to a daily feast. This requires a conscious choice to turn to Him as our source of life and satisfaction.

- What lesser "foods" are you trying to satisfy your spiritual hunger with?
- What simple habit can you start today to "feed on" Christ more consistently?
- How can you "taste and see" that the Lord is good in a tangible way this week?



Jesus, You are the Bread of Life. Forgive me for seeking satisfaction elsewhere. I come to You today, hungry and thirsty for what only You can provide. Be my daily bread, and satisfy my soul as only You can. Amen.



He Came to Sustain


Jesus nourishes from within, not from afar.

Jesus came not only to forgive—He came to sustain. As the Bread of Life, He nourishes the inner man with strength, wisdom, courage, and peace. He satisfies the hunger no earthly thing can fill.

Nourishment for Every Season of the Soul

To 'feed' on Christ is to receive His words, trust His heart, and draw from His presence. He becomes the daily nourishment that:

-  **Strengthens** us when weary
-  **Lifts** us when fainthearted
-  **Renews** us when empty



A Continual Feast

Word Study
To Feed On (Greek: *trōgōn*)

This word means to eat, to chew, to consume. It is a present participle, indicating a continual action, not a one-time meal. Relationship with Him is ongoing nourishment. Yesterday's feeding will not carry you through today.

This is the heart of the prayer,
"Give us this day our daily bread."

The Divine Proclamation

I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me will **never (at any time) be thirsty.**

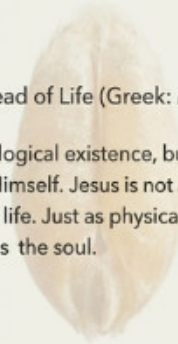
John 6:35 (AMPC)



The Substance of Divine Life

Word Study: Bread of Life (Greek: *ho artos tēs zōēs*)

Zōē is not mere biological existence, but spiritual, eternal life—the life of God Himself. Jesus is not a supplement to life; He is the **substance** of life. Just as physical bread nourishes the body, Jesus nourishes the soul.



DAY 9 — THE BREAD OF LIFE

Role of Christ: The Bread of Life

The Revelation of the Bread of Life

"I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me will never be hungry, and he who believes in and cleaves to and trusts in Me will never thirst any more."
— John 6:35 (AMPC)



He is not a distant source of help.

He is the immediate, available bread placed directly into our hands.



Jesus came to sustain, not just forgive.

He is the Bread of Life who nourishes the inner person with strength and peace.



Daily Nourishment for the Soul



To "feed on Christ" is to receive His life

This involves absorbing His words, trusting His heart, and drawing from His presence.



He strengthens the weary and renews the empty.

He satisfies the deep soul-hunger that nothing on earth can fill.

Reflection: How can you "taste and see" that Christ is good and enough for you today? This is an invitation to experience His goodness personally, not just theoretically.



DAY 10 - THE TRUE VINE

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 15:4 AMPC

"Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you... Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me."

John 15:5 AMPC

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit."

Acts 17:28 AMPC

"For in Him we live and move and have our being."

Galatians 2:20 AMPC

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me."

Today's Devotional Reading

One of the most liberating truths of the Christian faith is found in Jesus's beautiful metaphor of the Vine and the branches. He declares, "I am the True Vine; you are the branches." In this simple picture, He shifts our entire focus from striving to abiding, from self-effort to vital connection. A branch does not strain to produce grapes; it simply stays attached to the vine. The life flows from the vine, and fruit appears as a natural result.

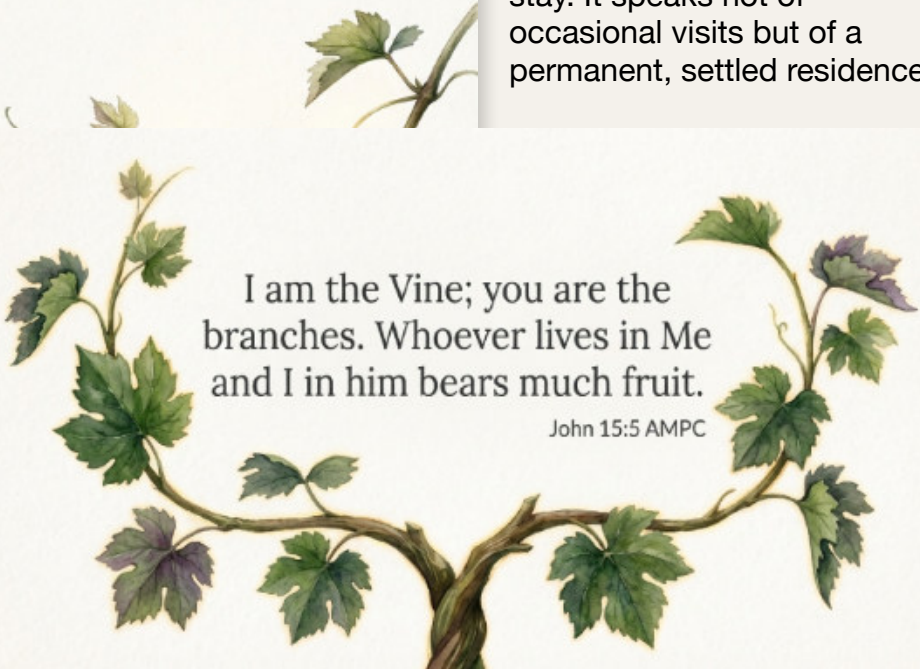
Core Truth: He shares His life with us in continual connection.

The Invitation

Jesus invites continual connection, not separation.

This is the posture of the Christian life: a continual, conscious dependence on Christ as our source. Jesus makes it clear: "apart from Me you can do nothing."


The key to this life is one simple command: "Abide in Me." The Greek word *meinō* means to remain, to dwell, to stay. It speaks not of occasional visits but of a permanent, settled residence.



I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit.

John 15:5 AMPC

Why This Matters Today



Fruit comes from connection

Growth is relational

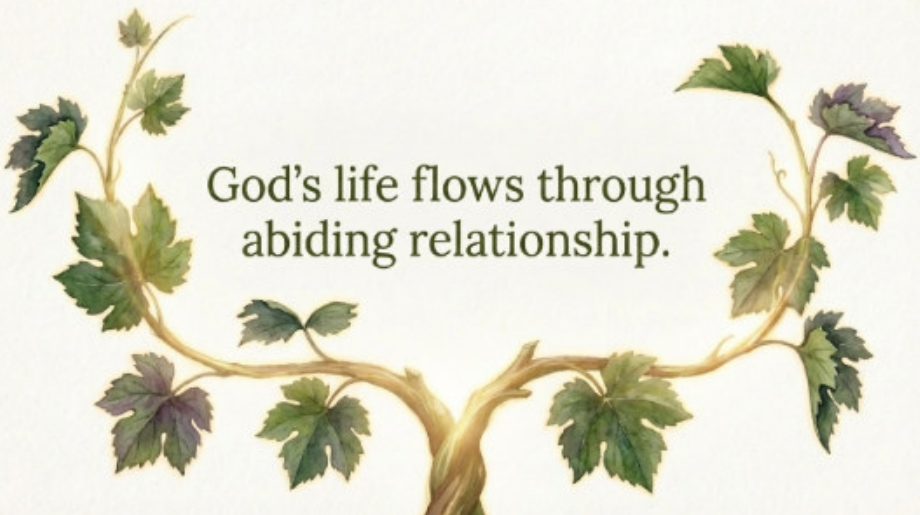
Strength flows from nearness

Fruitfulness is not the product of our hard work; it is the evidence of His life flowing through us. This is effortless fruitfulness. When we abide, peace settles without us striving for it, and love flows without us manufacturing it. Our very existence is bound up in Him: "In Him we live and move and have our

being." The fruitfulness of His life in us is made possible only by the selfless sacrifice of His life for us, as the Lamb of God.

Reflection & Application

The call to abide brings immense peace. It releases



God's life flows through abiding relationship.

us from the pressure to perform and the stress of self-reliance. Our primary responsibility is not to produce, but to connect. When we feel spiritually dry, barren, or exhausted, the first question is not "Am I trying hard enough?" but "Am I abiding?"

- Where are you striving in your own strength instead of abiding in the Vine?
- What does it look like for you to practically "abide" in Christ throughout your day?
- What "fruit" (e.g., patience, joy, kindness) do you need today that can only come from His life in you?

Lord Jesus, You are the Vine and I am a branch. I release my own efforts to be fruitful and choose to simply abide in You. Let Your life flow in me and through me today, producing the fruit that brings glory to the Father. Amen.

Reflection

What helps you remain connected to Christ?



Day 10: The True Vine

Role of Christ: The Source of Life

He is the vine from whom all spiritual life and fruitfulness flow.

Core Revelation

Spiritual life flows from Christ to us when we remain connected; our role is to receive, not to strive.




Key Scripture

I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much fruit.
— John 15:5 (AMPC)

Why This Matters Today

- Fruitfulness (love, joy, peace) is a result of connection, not just effort.
- Your strength for today flows from His life, not your own resources.
- True rest is found by abiding in Him, not by working harder for Him.

With-Us Emphasis

-  Shares His very life
-  Dwells within us
-  Sustains our being

Reflection Prompt

Where are you striving in your own strength instead of resting in your connection to the Vine?

Anchor Line

Everything grows from closeness.

Part IV: The Purpose of Presence



DAY 11 - THE LAMB OF GOD

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 1:29 AMPC

"Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!"

Isaiah 53:5 AMPC

"But He was wounded for our transgressions... and with the stripes that wounded Him we are healed and made whole."

1 Corinthians 5:7 AMPC

"For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed."

Revelation 5:12 AMPC


"Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Core Truth: He entered our suffering to redeem us.

Today's Devotional Reading

At the very heart of God's plan is the concept of a perfect sacrifice. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, his declaration cut to the core of His mission: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" With these words, he identified Jesus as the fulfillment of every sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament—most importantly, the Passover lamb whose blood protected Israel from judgment.

From Manger to Cross



The Lamb of God was born to die. The angels announced His birth, but they knew His destiny. From the manger to the cross is a straight line. Advent points forward to Calvary. The baby wrapped in cloths would one day be laid in a tomb. The Lamb was born to save.

Jesus is the innocent Lamb who came to bear our guilt. Isaiah prophesied that He would be "wounded for our transgressions," pierced not for His own sin, but for ours. He did not die as a martyr for a noble cause; He died as a substitute for guilty sinners. Every wound He bore was in our place. As our "Passover Lamb," Christ's sacrifice protects us from judgment. The Lamb did not just cover our sin temporarily; He "takes away" (*airōn*) the sin of the world, lifting it up

and carrying it away completely.

Advent points to the manger, but the manger points inexorably to the cross. The Lamb of God was born to die. Before the world was even made, the Lamb was "slain" in the heart of God (Revelation 13:8). Redemption was never Plan B. He walked willingly into suffering because He loved you. The finality of His sacrificial death paves the way for the ultimate victory of His resurrection.

The Power of His Blood



It Secures Our Victory

"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony..."

Revelation 12:11 (AMPC)



It Purchases Our Redemption

"...for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your blood You purchased men unto God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

Revelation 5:9 (AMPC)

Why This Matters Today

- Our debt is paid in full.
- We are accepted because of His **sacrifice**, not our performance.
- Peace with God is a finished reality.

How does knowing the Lamb was sacrificed for you change how you see yourself today?

unworthiness?

- In what area of your life do you need to apply the victory won by the blood of the Lamb?
- How can you express your gratitude today for the incredible price the Lamb of God paid for you?

Reflection & Application

Living under the blood of the Lamb means living in the security of a finished work. We no longer have to strive to earn God's favor or fear His condemnation. Our sin has been dealt with, once and for all. This truth quiets our guilt, frees us from shame, and empowers us to live in the victory He has won.

- How does meditating on the sacrifice of the Lamb quiet feelings of guilt or

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Thank you, Lord Jesus, for taking away my sin and bearing my punishment. I receive the forgiveness, peace, and healing that Your sacrifice purchased for me. May my life be an offering of worship to You. Amen.

The Prophetic Foundation

*"But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities;
the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace
and well-being for us was upon Him, and
with the stripes [that wounded] Him we
are healed and made whole."*

Isaiah 53:5 (AMPC)

"Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!"
— John 1:29 AMPC

The ultimate expression of 'God with us' was God becoming the **sacrifice for us**. His presence among sinners required a payment for sin, which He Himself became.

The Willing Lamb



"He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth."

Isaiah 53:7 (AMPC)

The Language of Sacrifice

ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ θεοῦ

Lamb of God (ho amnos tou theou)

- **Definition:** Points to an innocent, sacrificial lamb led to slaughter, fulfilling every sacrificial type in the Old Testament.
- **Implication:** Jesus is the ultimate and final sacrifice. His death was once for all, sufficient for every sin.



αἶρων

Takes Away (airōn)

- **Definition:** To lift up, to carry away, to remove, to take upon oneself. This is substitutionary bearing.
- **Implication:** Sin is not merely covered or overlooked; it is permanently removed and carried away.

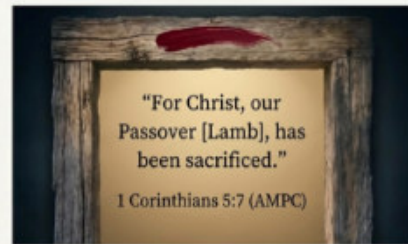


The Perfect Sacrifice

“For you know that you were redeemed... not with corruptible things [such as] silver and gold, but [you were] but [you were purchased] with the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot.”

1 Peter 1:18-19 (AMPC)

Our Passover



Just as the Passover lamb's blood protected Israel from judgment in Egypt, Christ's blood protects us from the just consequences of sin. You are safe under the blood of the Lamb.

The Lamb on the Throne



Revelation 5:12 (AMPC)

The Shepherd, the King, the Lamb...



...are all the same Person. Each name is another brushstroke revealing the masterpiece of **Emmanuel God With Us**. He is the Shepherd who guides us, the King who models for us, and the Lamb who died for us. His presence is gentle, humble, and sacrificial. And because He is the Resurrection and the Life, His victory becomes our victory.

DAY 11 — THE LAMB OF GOD

The Lamb Who Redeems Us

Role of Christ

The perfect sacrifice who entered our suffering to take away our sin.

“Look! There is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!” – John 1:29 (AMPC)

Core Revelation

God came near not only to live with us, but to suffer for us, carrying our sin to bring us back to Him.

Why This Matters Today

- ✦ His sacrifice removes guilt, brings victory in battle, and offers deep healing and peace.

With-Us Emphasis



Carried our sin



Bore our sorrow



Paid our debt

✦ How does knowing the Lamb was sacrificed for you change how you see your own worth? ✦

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.



DAY 12 - THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Scripture Foundation (AMPC)

John 11:25 AMPC

“Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me... shall never die.”

John 14:19 AMPC

“Because I live, you will live also.”

Romans 8:11 AMPC

“If the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you... He will also restore to life your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.”

Ephesians 2:6 AMPC

“And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together with Him in the heavenly sphere.”

**Core Truth: His
victory becomes
our victory.
connection.**

Today's Devotional Reading

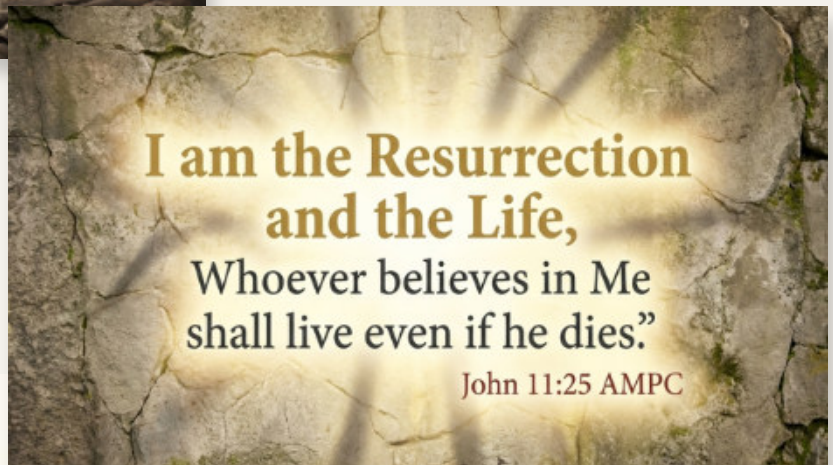
The journey that began in the quiet humility of a manger culminates in the world-altering power of an empty tomb. The resurrection is the ultimate validation of Jesus's identity. Standing before a tomb, Jesus made one of His most profound declarations: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

He does not merely *give* resurrection; He *is* the Resurrection. He embodies the very power that conquers death.



The resurrection is not just a future hope; it is a present reality we live from. Jesus promised, "Because I live, you will live also." Paul takes this even further, explaining that in God's eyes, our resurrection is an accomplished fact: He "raised us up together with Him." We are not fighting *for* victory; we are living *from* a victory that has already been won.

This victory is applied to our daily lives through the Holy Spirit. "If the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you," Paul writes, "He will also restore to life your mortal bodies." The same divine



power—the same *anastasis* or "standing up again"—that brought Jesus out of the grave is now at work within us. Our 12-day journey comes full circle. Emmanuel, who came as a vulnerable baby to be "God with us" in our humanity, now reigns as the victorious Resurrection and Life, fully accomplishing His mission.

Reflection & Application

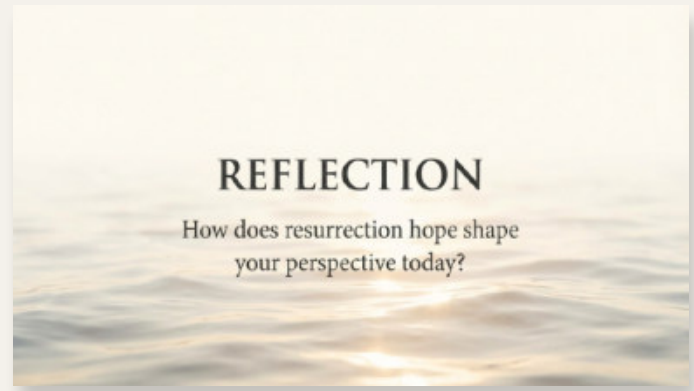
Living in resurrection power means we no longer have to be defined by our defeats, our weaknesses, or our fears. The power that conquered the grave is available to us every moment of every day. We can face challenges not in our own strength, but in the strength of the One who has overcome the world.

- How does knowing "the same



Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you" empower you to face today's challenges?

- Where have you been living as if death, failure, or sin has the final say, instead of living in resurrection power?
- How can you consciously live from your position of being "seated with Christ" in victory today?



Father, thank You for the victory of the resurrection! Thank You that because Jesus lives, I live also. Fill me with Your Spirit and empower me to walk in the reality of this resurrection life today, overcoming every obstacle by the power that is at work within me. Amen.

DAY 12 - THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE
Role of Christ: The Resurrection and The Life

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me... shall never die."
John 11:25 (AMPC)

The "With-Us" Emphasis

- Restores what is lost
- Revives what has grown cold
- Lives within us

Why This Matters Today

- The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you
- Because He lives, your future is secure and death is not the final word
- His victory means you cannot be ultimately defeated by any circumstance

Reflection Prompt
How does knowing His life lives in you change how you face today's challenges?

Death is defeated. Life has won.

Conclusion: Living as Emmanuel's People

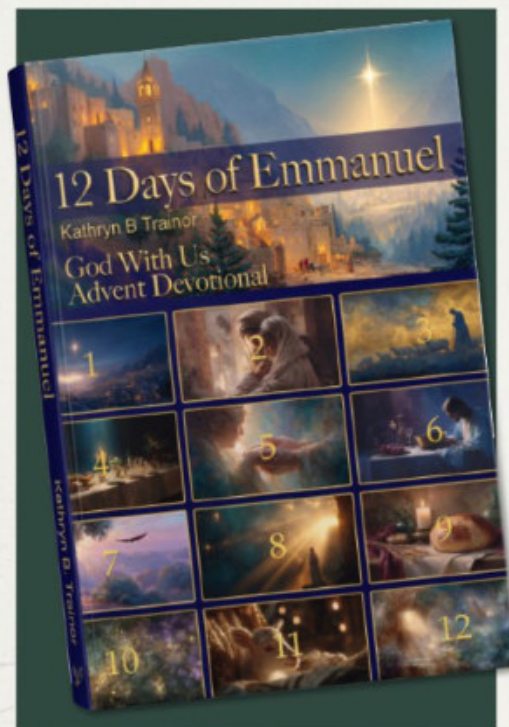
We have journeyed through twelve names, twelve facets of the God who chose to be with us. From the foundational promise of *Emmanuel* to the ultimate victory of the *Resurrection and the Life*, each name has revealed another layer of His nearness, His character, and His provision.

These are not just titles to be learned, but invitations to be experienced. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who guides you, the Friend of Sinners who welcomes you, the Healer who touches you, the Bread of Life who sustains you, and the Intercessor who prays for you. Each name is a doorway into a deeper, more personal relationship with Him.

As this devotional journey concludes, the true adventure of living as Emmanuel's people begins. May you continue to explore the depths of who He is, learning to recognize His presence in every circumstance. May you live in the unshakeable reality that you are never, ever alone. For the God who came near has promised to stay near, forever.

"For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life." **John 3:16 (AMPC)**

Emmanuel - God With Us - Forever



Key Themes



Nearness & Companionship



Relationship Over Rules



A Tangible Experience of God

Not Just For Christmas! This is important ALL the time! It's Love!

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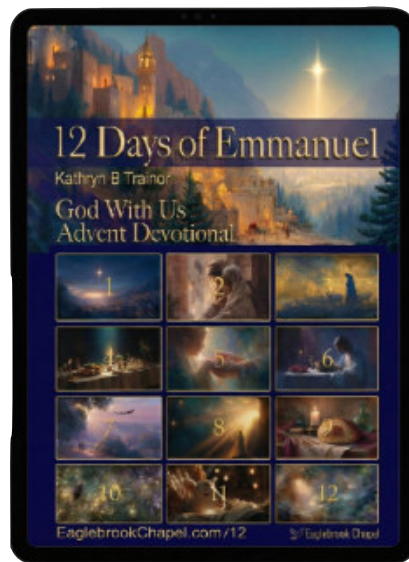
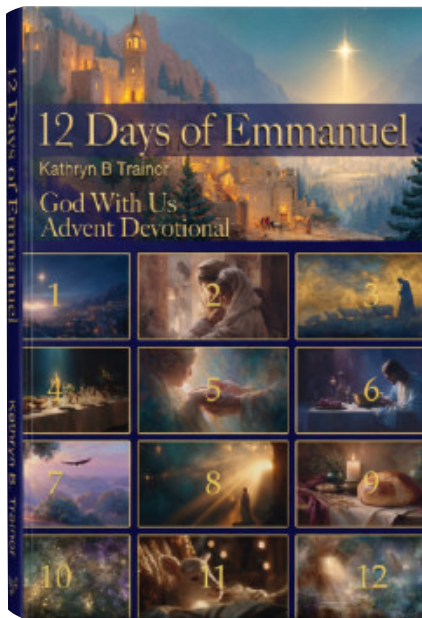
Companion Publication

This devotional is followed by a companion work titled:

12 Days of Emmanuel – “God With Us” Christmas Mini Book

Digital Edition & Accessibility

These digital editions are produced with selectable text, embedded fonts, and accessibility features enabled to support reading across devices and platforms.



Pictures and Resources On Website Are More Robust, Because Shareable Files Are Small

- Online Advent Calendar: <https://eaglebrookchapel.com/12>
- Download Other Formats: <https://eaglebrookchapel.com/get-12>
- Share With Someone: <https://eaglebrookchapel.com/share-12>