

Keep Christ in Christmas Advent and Beyond Devotional

> by Dana Susan Beasley



Advent in a traditional Christian calendar is the first four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of prayer and fasting.

It is a time of waiting for His appearing. Waiting to celebrate His incarnation as the baby Jesus, definitely. But even more so, it is a reminder that He will come again!

Why is this important? Because in our world, consumerism has all but overtaken Christmas and it has become more and more secular. It's so easy to forget the "reason for the season!"

And sadly, less and less Christians, especially families, are in the Word. In fact, according to a LifeWay survey more than half of Americans have read little or none of the Bible.

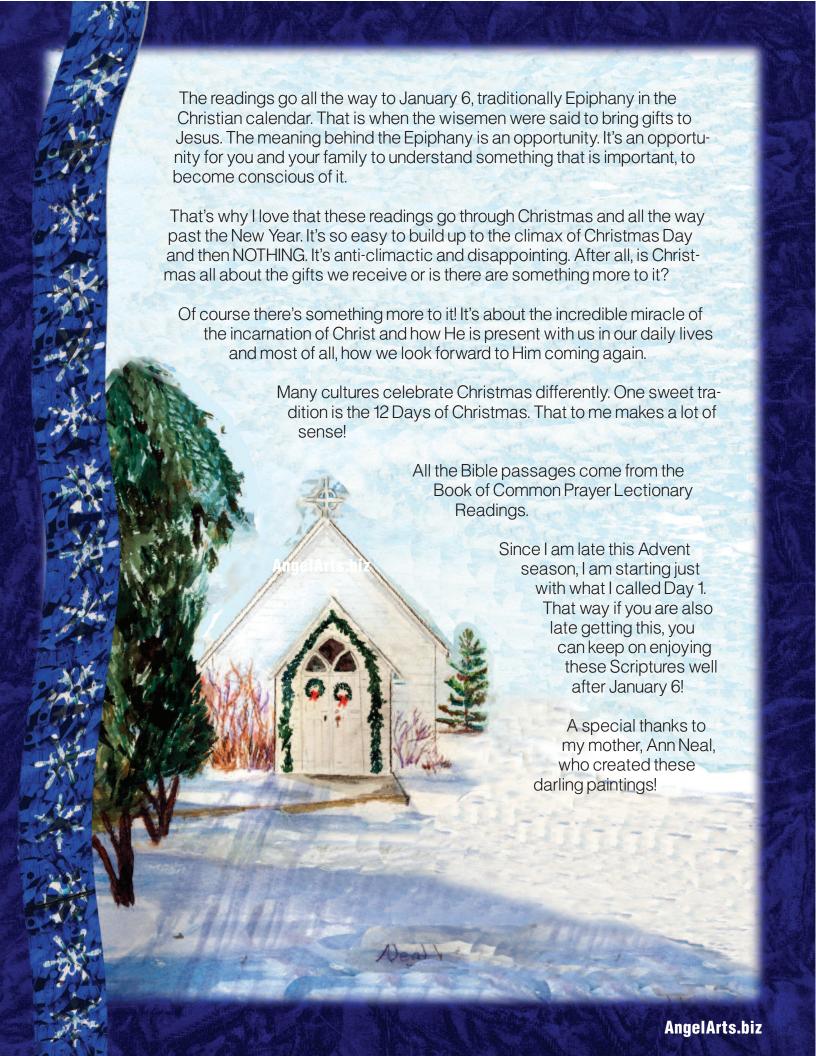
Reading the Bible personally, as a family, and in your homeschooling will bring you closer to the Lord and closer to each other. And during Christmas, it will help you keep focused on the true "reason for the season!"

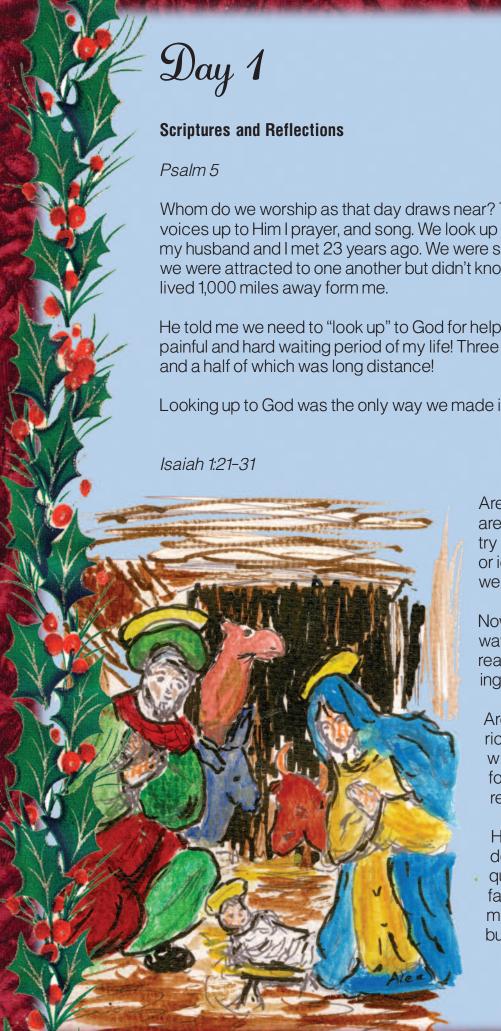
## **How to Use this Devotional?**

I have included four readings for each day. You choose how you want to use them. To use them all for your homeschooling, personally, as a couple, or your family. Read the passage and then the reflection that follows.

I've provided each day a worksheet you can use for your own personal reflection. Your children can use these, too.

I've also included prayers, songs to sing, and activity ideas that you can do as a family to keep your focus on the Savior during the Christmas season.





Whom do we worship as that day draws near? The King, our God. We lift our voices up to Him I prayer, and song. We look up to Him. It reminds me of when

my husband and I met 23 years ago. We were set up on a blind date. We knew we were attracted to one another but didn't know what the future held as he

He told me we need to "look up" to God for help. And we did! That was the most painful and hard waiting period of my life! Three years of dating followed, two

Looking up to God was the only way we made it!

Are we faithful servants of God or are we engaging in idolatry? Idolatry is putting any person or thought or idea or thing above God. Have we missed the mark in some way?

Now is the time to consider our ways to make a change, to be ready for our great God's appearing.

Are you following after polluted riches or are you defending the widow and fatherless? Are you following the world or God's restoration and redemption?

He will take away in order to redeem. He knows what's best. The question is—are you working in faith or in selfish desire? The former will last forever. The latter will burn!

