



# *Advent*

An Integration Journal from Victory Life Church

SECOND EDITION

# Advent

INTEGRATION JOURNAL  
SECOND EDITION

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CREATED BY  
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## WHAT IS ADVENT?

The Advent season is a time for setting our gaze afresh on Jesus Christ, celebrating the hope, peace, joy, and love that he brings with his coming. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the Christ child at Christmas.

For hundreds of years, Christians have used the Advent wreath as a visual example of a symbol that is borrowed from the emphasis throughout Scripture of Jesus Christ being the Light of the World (Matt. 4:16; John 1:4-9, 8:12). Each week, a new candle is lit, building up anticipation for Christmas Eve.

The last candle, called the Christ Candle, is lit on Christmas Eve to represent Jesus’ first Advent. Through this theme of increasing light breaking into the darkness, we see a visual picture of the gospel. We are reminded about the meaning of Christ’s birth and become more excited about his coming in the past, in the future, and in the present through each of our lives.

In an increasingly busy and frenzied world, Advent is an opportunity for believers to slow down and remember God’s promise to send a Savior who would overcome sin and death forever; a promise fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As we set our gaze upon him, Christ becomes the substance of our hope, the source of our peace, the object of our joy, and enfolds us in the gift of his love.

# Integration Explanation

Our hope is that this journal does not simply inspire you to dive into this Advent season nor just provide content that furthers your revelation.

Our greatest desire is to give you practical ways of integrating the themes of Advent into your personal discipleship and your community this season. We know every disciple of Jesus is at different levels of maturity and stages of development. What integration looks like for one may be completely different from another person. Because of this, we want to provide a framework for integrating this journal's content no matter where you are on that journey! Pastor Jacob has introduced our church to language that will be helpful in giving us steps for integration. We want to give you a definition of this framework so you know how to engage as you see this language throughout the journal.

## Basic:

This is a great place to start if the content is completely new or something you have never incorporated into your discipleship journey before this journal. This is the first step!

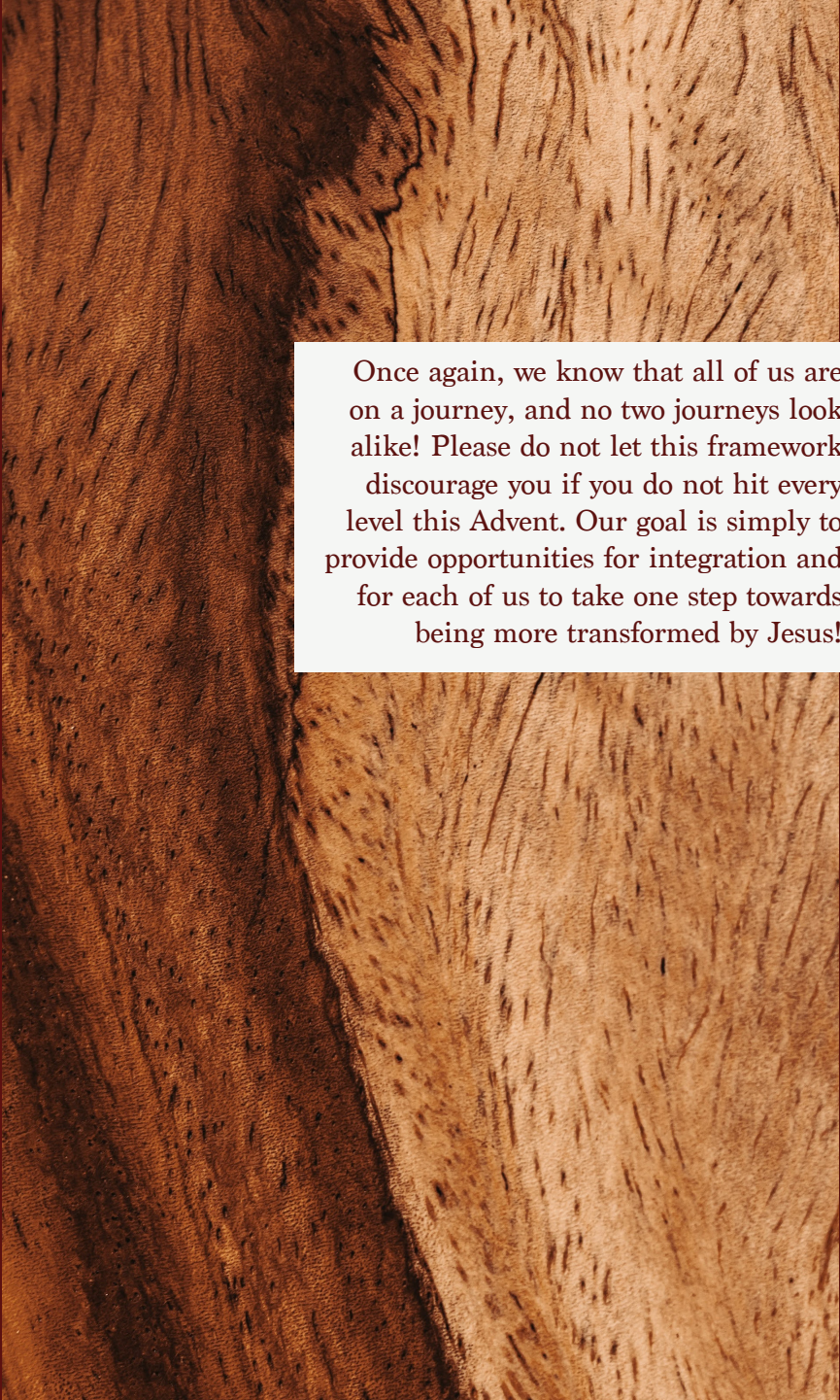
## Baseline:

This is for those who have begun the journey of integrating and want to grow and stretch themselves.

This is a great way to try something new and incorporate new disciplines into your journey.

## Build:

This is for those who have been working on the practical integration for a while and desire further growth. Not everyone will land on this step this Advent season, and that is completely okay!



Once again, we know that all of us are on a journey, and no two journeys look alike! Please do not let this framework discourage you if you do not hit every level this Advent. Our goal is simply to provide opportunities for integration and for each of us to take one step towards being more transformed by Jesus!

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide will lead you on a journey through the 4 weeks of Advent beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, ending on December 24th, the 12 days of Christmas (Dec 25th – Jan 5th), and finally, the day of Epiphany (Jan 6th). As we look at various parts of the narrative of Jesus’ birth, we will focus on the hope, peace, joy, and love we have in the coming Christ.

The story begins in the Garden with God’s promise of a Savior and ends with eager anticipation of Jesus’ promised return. We see the hope of all creation rest on Gabriel’s message to Mary, that she will bear the Savior of the world. We see God’s glorious declaration of peace on earth through the heavenly hosts’ appearance to the lowly shepherds. We see the joy of the coming Christ in the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth. We see the demonstration of God’s amazing love and desire for all nations to come and worship His Son through Simeon’s moment of consolation.

Even if you know the Advent narrative well, don’t rush past what God has for you in this season. For many, this may be the first time to consider all that God is saying through the birth of His Son. For others, it will be an opportunity to rediscover the way God intimately works in the details of life for His glory and the good of man. For all of us, may this season be one marked by hope, expectation, remembrance, and worship. The King has come and is coming! There is much to celebrate.

Advent is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the birth of Jesus. But especially for families, this time of year can be filled to the brim with activities and obligations. Before the calendar begins to overflow, set aside time to consider what you want this season to be for your family. Then, make a plan so that a time intended to remember and celebrate Jesus doesn’t get swallowed up by lesser things.



# Weekly Overview

Before diving into the content, we wanted to provide an overview of what you can expect for each week. Advent is broken down into four themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We will focus on one theme each week and have provided you with several ways of engaging with the weekly theme!

## THEME EXPLANATION

We will use these pages to give you further content and an explanation of each week's theme. Our hope is this sparks revelation in your heart and serves as a starting place for further study.

## THEME INTEGRATION

These pages are where you will see our integration language: Basic, Baseline, and Build.

We have offered suggestions for integrating the weekly theme into your personal discipleship journey and fun suggestions for interacting with community this season.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

We know abiding in God's Word is how we bear fruit and a vital part of discipleship. On these pages, you will find daily scripture readings to help you dive deeper into the story of Christ.

## JOURNAL REFLECTIONS

This is an opportunity to reflect and journal on how you took one step toward personal integration this week. Reflection is a vital part of learning from our integration practices.

We have provided a few journaling prompts to help you reflect on your integration for the week.





A close-up photograph of golden-brown grasses, possibly a type of reed or tall grass, with a soft, bokeh background. A white horizontal line runs across the middle of the image, and the word "Hope" is written in a white, elegant cursive script across it.

Hope

## Week One: Hope

The story of Advent begins in the beginning. In the Garden of Eden, we see that God speaks a beautiful world into being, creates humanity in His image, and then blesses and gives humanity dominion over the earth. There in the garden, God and His image bearers walk together in the cool of the day, and it is good. It's the reality every human being was made for. But lo and behold, not even 4 chapters into the story, a deceitful serpent, an apple, and a wretched conversation later, all of creation is plunged into darkness, sin, and death. Man is separated from God, but God has a plan.

In Luke 1:26-35 (ESV), when the angel Gabriel reveals to Mary that she will supernaturally become pregnant with the Messiah, he says to her, *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*

When Gabriel speaks the name of the promised child, he gives substance to the hope of all of mankind. Jesus literally means salvation or savior, rescuer, and deliver. Messiah will reign over an unending Kingdom in which all that was lost to darkness in that garden will be salvaged, rescued, and delivered once and for all. What Mary must have felt in that moment for her people, for herself?

Have you ever experienced the thrill of hope? When all seemed lost, there in the darkness, a light appears. Jesus Christ is our hope of hopes. We look to his coming: past, present, and future, and as we allow him to daily come stunningly into view, we let our hope arise and rest in him alone. That he came as a child, that we who receive and grow up in him might be called the children of God, is reason to expect every awaited promise will be kept. In a world consumed with hopelessness as dark as night, Jesus shines like the dawn. It is in His advent that we find the hope of the nations.

Gabriel speaks these powerful words to Mary in Luke 1:37.  
May they resonate with us this Advent season,  
*“For nothing will be impossible with God.”*

*The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*  
-O Holy Night by Placide Cappeau, 1843

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*  
-Isaiah 9:2 ESV

See Isaiah 9:6-7 Gen. 49:10 Mic. 5:2 Isaiah 53 Isaiah 9:2 Isaiah  
61 Isaiah 42:1

Read Luke 1:26-35, Luke 1:46-55

What is the hope you have for yourself, your family, your  
friends, and your community as you begin the Advent season?  
How can you strengthen that hope this season?

## J E S U S I S O U R H O P E

There are too many people who live hopelessly. Hopelessness is a blindness to the Love of God. We get to partner with God in helping those who feel unseen or unloved to recognize they are seen and loved by Him. We get to offer Hope to our community.

Week 1 | Hope | Integration

### *Basic:*

Give to an organization that helps people.  
Give something or an amount of money of your choosing to a local organization that helps families. This will start to tune your heart toward Jesus and His heart for those hurting.

Read through Psalm 42 one time this week.

### *Baseline:*

Help meet a basic need for an individual or a family.  
Finding out who has a need may be a little foreign to some. If you look at who is usually helping others meet basic needs, they will be able to help you get connected to a need that you are able to meet.  
This is why community is important.

Read and meditate on Psalm 42 throughout this week.

### *Build:*

Be a champion of Hope.  
Start being someone who is identifying people in need and being a champion for that individual or family. You will be the person posting about needs so that others can help meet that need. Don't try to do it alone!

Commit to reading through Psalm 42 daily with your Life Group this week.







*Scripture Reading  
Week One*

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

MATTHEW 24: 36-44

MARK 1:2-3

JEREMIAH 33:14-15

ISAIAH 11:1-2

ISAIAH 61:1-2

ZECHARIAH 6:12-13

# Reflections

## HOPE

Where did you start this week? Circle one: Basic | Baseline | Build

What did you take away from your integration this week?

Do you feel more equipped to offer hope to others?

What is the next step for you to offer hope in the coming year?





*Peace*

## Week Two: Peace

In the Garden of Eden, we see the heartbreaking separation of God and man, but in a field of shepherds, heaven reintroduces itself in a big way. On the outskirts of the town of Bethlehem, shepherds are keeping watch of their flocks by night when the heavens burst forth in the sky overhead. An angel speaks, and a heavenly host erupts in praise for the Advent of Christ. Can you imagine? You're quietly tending to a work you've done night after night for years when heaven interrupts on a grand scale. Scripture says that the shepherds were filled with great fear. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*" -Luke 2:14

Peace is the great reintroduction, the great interruption! Heaven invades Earth with a declaration of peace and goodwill while Jesus is yet a baby in a manger. The word of promise is made flesh, and his coming has already initiated the reconciliation of heaven and Earth. It is the reconciliation for which God has longed for generations. Since the time Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and hid at the sound of His coming, God has waited for millennia to declare "peace!" He declares it in the coming of His Son.

Like the angelic arrival among the shepherds that night, God's peace often arrives like an interruption. It is an interruption to any fallen thought patterns, habits, or expectations. Peace is an interruption to our propensity to fear. Christ's Advent is a declaration of peace to our fears and a promise that God wills to work all things together for our good. After generations of separation, this is heaven's first message to mankind, and it is God's daily invitation to us to receive His peace, His will, and His pleasure in us.

Arriving at the place of his birth, the shepherds worship the Christ child  
and share the account of their heavenly interruption with Mary.

Scripture says,

*And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.  
But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*  
May we, too, treasure up the promises of God, pondering them in our  
hearts this Advent season.

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall  
be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

-Isaiah 9:6

*O come, Desire of nations,  
bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace.*  
-O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Read Luke 2:8-20

## J E S U S I S T H E P R I N C E O F P E A C E

He has empowered us to live in peace. Peace is both a gift and a fruit of the Spirit. Jesus has provided peace for us, but it's up to us to cultivate an environment of peace and be persons of peace.

Week 2 | Peace | Integration

*Basic:*

Each night, speak the Lord's blessing over your household.  
Mark 12:30-31 ESV *Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.* Numbers 6:24-26 ESV *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Spend 5 minutes in silence as many days as you can this week.

*Baseline:*

Do things that will make your home a peaceful home.  
Start one habit of resetting your home at night.

Examples: Lay clothes out at night so you aren't rushing in the morning.  
Get rid of the clutter in that corner you've been ignoring for a year.

Spend 15 minutes in silence and prayer each day this week.

*Build:*

Bring peace wherever you may go.  
Reflect on your responses toward others or situations when you have been wronged or inconvenienced. Did that disturb your peace? Do you join every debate and argument on social media? Do you allow other co-workers to speak in a dishonorable way about your supervisor in your presence? Crazy enough, peace can be disruptive to a non-peaceful culture.  
Offer peace in every situation. "*A gentle answer turns away wrath*"—not just of the person you're responding to, but your wrath, too!

Begin the discipline of daily spending 30 minutes in silence and prayer.







*Scripture Reading  
Week Two*

MICAH 5:2

JOHN 1:1-3

MATTHEW 2:1-2

JOHN 1:4-5

MATTHEW 2:3-6

LUKE 2:4-5

JOHN 7:42

# Reflections

## PEACE

Where did you start this week? Circle one: Basic | Baseline | Build

What did you take away from your integration this week?

Do you feel more equipped to bring peace to your world?

What is the next step for you to live in peace in the coming year?





Joy

## Week Three: Joy

Months before angels appear to the shepherds in Bethlehem, Mary, having received the news from the angel Gabriel that she is to conceive the Messiah, visits her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth herself is with child, carrying John in her old age, the one who will prepare the way of the Lord. Scripture tells us, *In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. -Luke 1:39-44*

Mary has told little to no one of the promise that she carries. She has pondered the angel's words quietly to herself. No one yet sees the evidence of the child growing within her, and it is in this greeting between her and Elizabeth we are met with the joyous confirmation Mary must have been longing for. Elizabeth's unborn son recognizes the presence of the Messiah. In this moment, Elizabeth's baby leaps within her, and she is filled with the Holy Spirit. The arrival of the King does that! It is his presence in our lives that causes the life within us to leap. When Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit, she immediately begins to speak words of thanksgiving and praise. The Advent season is pregnant with joy. As we acknowledge the coming of Christ in our lives and in the lives of those around us, past, present, and future, we must celebrate it.



Mary's situation seemed impossible, and Elizabeth's situation was called barren, yet in the presence of the Savior, by the handiwork of God, life and joy! This is the promise of God to all of creation. Where impossibility and barrenness have reigned, a new reign has come. Like Elizabeth, may words of thanksgiving and praise erupt from our hearts. As we do this, his joy is released in our lives for ourselves and for others. May we prepare a way for the Lord in our lives, celebrating the past and present, and expecting to celebrate the future.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let Earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing  
-Joy to the World*

*Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD.  
-Isaiah 54:1*

## J E S U S I S O U R J O Y

Joy seems to be a difficult thing for people to achieve. What if we told you that it's not just an emotional destination but a daily choice of remembrance and hope for the future, fueled by a heart of gratitude? During Advent, we remember the joy the shepherds in the field had when they learned of the Messiah's birth. All of Heaven rejoiced in front of the shepherds! What an amazing sight that would have been! When we choose to trust that God will never forsake us and He has only good for us forever, we can't help but have joy in anticipation for Jesus's second coming!

Week 3 | Joy | Integration

### *Basic:*

Train your soul for gratitude.  
Start a routine of thanking God for something in the morning when you wake up or at night before bed

Find one person to celebrate this week in a small way.

### *Baseline:*

Offer joy to someone else.  
So many times, we forget to be specific in our thanks to others. When you decide to put thoughtfulness behind an encouraging word instead of something generic and "safe" that everyone else uses.

Find two to three people to celebrate this week.

### *Build:*

Plan a party!  
Celebrating others will help you live a life of joy!  
It's Christmas time— you can plan a party to celebrate Jesus and the joy He has brought to your life.

Look for ways to daily celebrate the people you encounter.





*Scripture Reading  
Week Three*

PSALM 80:1-3

PSALM 23: 1, 1 PETER 2:25

ISAIAH 40:11

JOHN 10:10-18

EZEKIEL 34:11-16

LUKE 2:15-20

JEREMIAH 23:5-6

# Reflections

## JOY

Where did you start this week? Circle one: Basic | Baseline | Build


What did you take away from your integration this week?

Are you inspired to live a joyful life powered by gratitude?

What is the next step for you to live joyfully in the next year?





A vast, hazy mountain landscape with rolling hills and valleys, overlaid with the word "Love" in a white cursive font. The scene is captured in a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The hills are covered in dense green vegetation, and the valleys are filled with mist or low clouds, creating a sense of depth and tranquility. The word "Love" is written in a elegant, flowing cursive script, centered horizontally and slightly above the middle of the frame. Two thin white horizontal lines extend from the left and right sides of the word, framing it. The overall mood is romantic and serene.

Love

## Week Four: Love

After Jesus is born, Mary and Joseph take him to the Temple to present him to the Lord and to offer sacrifices according to the law. It is there they encounter Simeon. The story of Simeon beautifully ties many Advent themes together. Just like Israel, God's covenant people, had been waiting and hoping for the Messiah, and all of humanity had been waiting for the Savior, Simeon is looking, waiting, and hoping for the consolation of Israel, the One who would come and save Israel. He waited many years, hoping he would see it with his own eyes. The Holy Spirit even promised him that he would.

Then, one day, somehow, he sensed the Spirit leading him to the Temple to see what he had waiting so long to see. He sees this young couple carrying a tiny baby and knows that He is the One. He picks up the little One in his arms and brings all the prophetic promise into one moment, *"a light for the nations."* He had waited and hoped; he had prepared for the moment God's promise would be fulfilled for him, and this was the moment. Hope, joy, and peace culminated in the Child. He had received the gift of God's perfect love.

For many of us, Christmas Day is one of the most important days of the entire year. We adjust schedules, plans, and budgets months in advance. Family members travel in from far away. Decorations are perfectly placed, menus are planned, and gifts wrapped. There is intentionality, joy, and anticipation, all because this day is significant. And also, because we believe it is a reality. Christmas isn't a pretend day; it's real. We trust it to come on the same date every year. Out of love and expectation, we make every necessary preparation, so that when it comes, we are ready.

We spend months preparing to celebrate and remember Christ's first coming. How much more should we seek to be ready for His second coming? That day, too, is a reality; an absolute certainty. Unlike Christmas Day, which happens every December 25, only the Father knows the day and hour His Son will return. But He is coming. How, then, are we to prepare, and how shall we wait?

We wait in love. As we receive the gift of the love of Christ, we allow him to transform us into his same likeness, extending his love to all we encounter. This is the daily Advent of Christ in us each day. That his love would be made manifest in every one of his children and given lavishly away is the heart's desire of the Father who made us for himself.

*Come, Desire of nations, come!  
Fix in us Thy humble home:  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head;  
Adam's likeness now efface,  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
Final Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in Thy love.  
-Hark the Herald Angels*

## J E S U S I S L O V E

Love is a multifaceted word, yet there is only One who holds all facets perfectly. When we are in the season of observing Advent before Christmas, we are remembering the anticipation of the Messiah's coming, and we celebrate His birth. Without His birth, there would be no death or resurrection. We are in an advent awaiting His return right now. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son..."* It was Love that brought Jesus to us. It was Love that kept Him on the cross. It was Love that brought Him back to life. It is Love that will power His return.

How do we give of ourselves as Jesus gave Himself?

What does love look like? These are not to be taken as the only steps you can take, but simple suggestions if you are having a hard time getting started.

Week 4 | Love | Integration

### *Basic:*

Love through your prayer.

Pray for the leaders of organizations that are helping those in need. That certainly includes the churches in your community.

Read 1 John 4:7-12 this week.

### *Baseline:*

Love through serving.

Give some of your time and skills to a local organization

Read and meditate on 1 John 4:7-12 each day this week.

### *Build:*

Be consistent in your love.

Sign up to give and serve regularly.

Memorize and meditate on 1 John 4:7-12 this week.





*Scripture Reading*  
*Week Four*

PSALM 89:5

LUKE 1:30-35

PSALM 148:1-2

ISAIAH 60:1-3

MATTHEW 1:20-25

LUKE 2

GALATIANS 4:4-5, 1 PETER 1:13

# Reflections

## LOVE

Where did you start this week? Circle one: Basic | Baseline | Build

What did you take away from your integration this week?



Do you feel more equipped to sacrifice your time/energy to show love to others?

What is the next step for you to grow your love for Jesus and others?

# Twelve Days of Christmas

As we have been faithful in realigning and preparing our hearts this Advent season, it is now time to celebrate! Imagine being Mary and Joseph the first night Christ was on the earth, holding the savior of the world. As many thoughts flooded their heads, we can be sure celebration was one of those thoughts. An angel of the Lord even commissioned a group of shepherds nearby to participate in the celebration:

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

-Luke 2:10-14

Historically, the Church did not celebrate Christmas in a single day but rather used the 12 days following Christmas to celebrate the most significant birth in human history. We want to join in this celebration! As we spend time with friends and family over the next few days, let us be intentional to keep our hearts in a posture of celebration and gratitude. May we give Christ the honor and glory He desires this Christmas!

In the next few pages of this journal, you will find prompts and activities to help keep our hearts engaged in the celebration!

Merry Christmas!



*Christmas*

D E C E M B E R 2 5 T H  
D A Y 1

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Word of God

- John 1:1-2
- Genesis 1:26

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Open one gift each day of the 12 days of Christmas.
- Tell each of your family members what you are most thankful for this year.
- Sing your favorite carols with family or friends.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What are you most thankful for this Christmas?

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A partridge in a pear tree = Jesus Christ

D E C E M B E R 2 6 T H  
D A Y 2

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is Immanuel

- Isaiah 7:14
- Hebrews 13:5-6

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Bake your favorite Christmas dessert.
- Give away something you are no longer using.
- Share your favorite Christmas memory.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What does the birth of Jesus mean to you?

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D E C E M B E R 2 7 T H  
D A Y 3

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is Deliverer

- 2 Corinthians 1:10
- Romans 10:13
- Romans 11:26-27

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Create a Christmas card for your neighbor or co-worker and explain the 12 days to them.
- Drive around and look at Christmas lights while listening to Christmas carols.
- Read the Christmas story from the Bible.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

Who most impacted your life this year and how?

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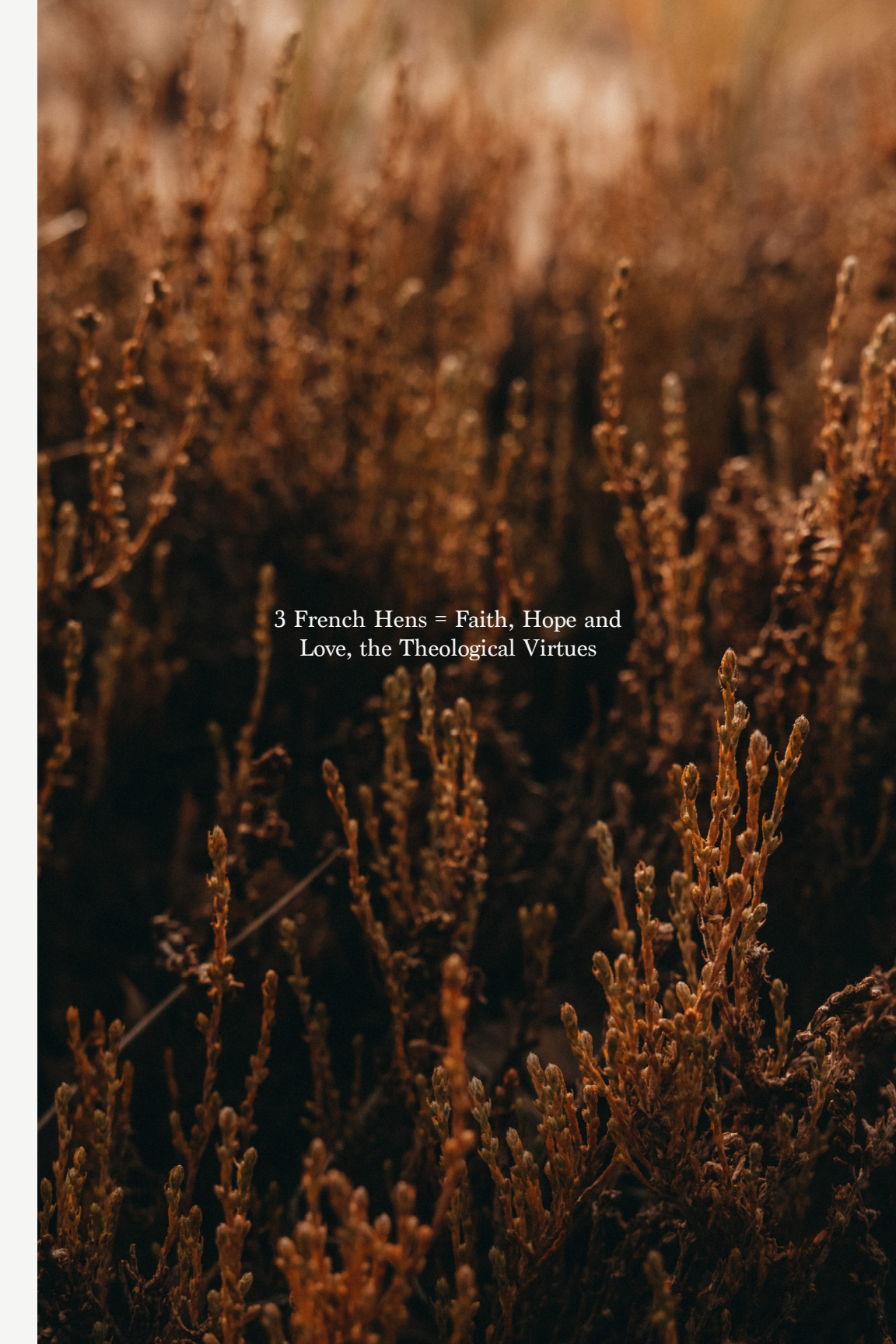
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3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and  
Love, the Theological Virtues

DECEMBER 28TH  
DAY 4

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Lamb of God

- John 1:29
- Hebrews 10:19

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Watch your favorite Christmas movie.
- Call a friend and thank them for their friendship.
- Play “Name that Christmas Carol.”

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What do you think Mary was thinking on this day?

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DECEMBER 29TH  
DAY 5

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Bridegroom

- Revelation 19:7
- Song of Solomon 8:67

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Drink hot cocoa and share your favorite memories from this year.
- Spend time in prayer and silence reflecting on Jesus' love.
- Give something away!

JOURNAL PROMPT:

How has the love of God changed your life?

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5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the “Pentateuch”

DECEMBER 30TH  
DAY 6

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is our Chief Cornerstone

- Ephesians 2:19-20

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Go for a prayer walk.
- Watch a Christmas movie.
- Play your favorite board game with friends and family.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What is one area you want to intentionally grow in this next year?

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6 Geese A-laying = The six days of creation

D E C E M B E R 3 1 S T  
D A Y 7

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Head

- Ephesians 1:22-23

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Celebrate the New Year with friends and family.
- Sing Christmas songs together!
- Give a gift to a friend.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What is something you need to surrender to Jesus this next year?

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7 Swans A-swimming = The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit  
(prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion)

J A N U A R Y 1 S T  
D A Y 8

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is our Companion

- Matthew 28:20
- Revelation 3:20
- John 13:23

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Spend time thanking God for last year.
- Find someone to invite for a meal.
- Watch your favorite Christmas movie.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What are you believing for in your family this next year?

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JANUARY 2ND  
DAY 9

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Bread of Life

- John 6:33-35
- Romans 15:13

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Light a candle and reflect on the goodness of God.
- Eat your favorite Christmas candy.
- Host a “joke-telling” competition.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What are you believing for in your personal relationship with Jesus this year?

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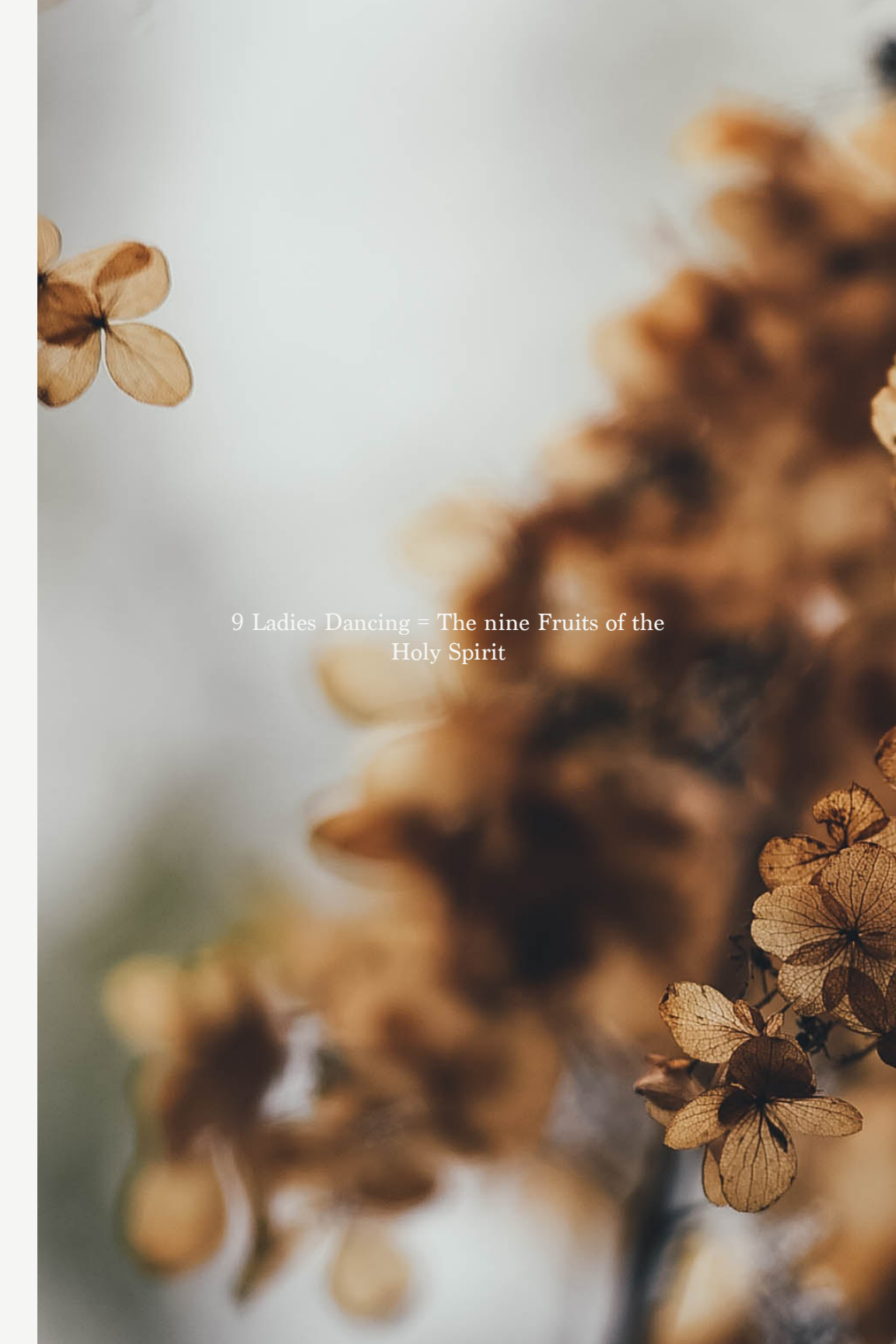
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9 Ladies Dancing = The nine Fruits of the  
Holy Spirit

JANUARY 3RD  
DAY 10

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Life of the World

- John 8:12
- Psalm 119:130

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Invite a friend over for dinner.
- Call a family member and tell them you love them.
- Play Christmas charades

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What are you believing for in your relationships this next year?

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10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments



J A N U A R Y 4 T H  
D A Y 1 1

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is our Provider

- Romans 8:32
- Hebrews 4:16

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Find one way to bless someone who can do nothing for you in return.
- Pray over your budget and finances.
- Read the Christmas story through the lens of God's generosity.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What do you want generosity to look like in your life this next year?

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J A N U A R Y 5 T H  
D A Y 1 2

SCRIPTURE READING:

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

- John 11:25-26
- Romans 8:11
- Ezekiel 37:3-4

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Bake a King Cake for Epiphany.
- Sing the 12 Days of Christmas song!
- Spend some time in worship, thanking God for the gift of Jesus.

JOURNAL PROMPT:

What was your favorite part of this Christmas? Why?

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12 Drummers Drumming = The twelve  
points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

## JANUARY 6TH EPIPHANY

Epiphany may be an unfamiliar word to many within the Church today, but it is one of the longest-celebrated festivals within the Christian Church. Also referred to as “Three Kings Day,” it is a time when we remember the Wise Men who came to visit, bringing gifts to the Christ child. The word “epiphany” translates to “manifestation” or “appearance,” thus, on this day, we once again celebrate the manifestation of the gift of Jesus.

### EPIPHANY SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
- Ephesians 3:2-6
- Matthew 2:1-12

As we conclude this Christmas season, there are many ways we can intentionally celebrate today! If Epiphany is new for you, just pick one of our suggested activities and engage with your friends and family today!


### SUGGESTED EPIPHANY ACTIVITIES:

- Gift your family with three gifts representing the Wise Men’s gifts.
- Throw an Epiphany party!
- Spend time in worship and gratitude for the gift of Jesus.
- Eat King’s Cake (recipes can be found online).
- Bless your home!
- Reenact the arrival of the Wise Men.

# Conclusion

The Christmas season is an annual rhythm in which we share with our families, friends, and community to receive Christ's Advent not just in this season, but daily. From his first Advent to his second Advent, it is every moment lived in between in which we may receive his being revealed in and through us: his hope, his peace, his joy, and his wondrous love.

Now, as we move into this new year, let us prepare our hearts to consider his cross. We remember that the promised Savior came as the spotless lamb of God, able to remove the sins of the world...

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a lion's paw and the lower part of its leg. The lion is resting on a highly textured, pebbled surface, possibly a rug or carpet. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and bright highlights on the fur and the texture of the surface. The lion's head is partially visible in the upper left corner, looking towards the right.

...but he will return the second time, the lion of Judah,  
King of the Universe.





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