

LIGHT *of the* WORLD

===== 10 Day Christmas Devotional =====

FOREWARD

Aloha One Love Ohana,

As we enter into that time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we want to encourage everyone to slow down and consider the timeless truths that have brought joy to the children of the Lord for generations.

A small group made up of our One Love 'ohana has put together this 10-day devotional for us all. Each devotional is meant to draw our hearts and minds to a different aspect of God's character to help us meditate on His glory and goodness.

As you read through these devotionals, the Scriptures that they point to, and take time to pray through these things, we pray that the Lord would give you a high and exalted view of the birth of our Savior and the way that we ought to live in light of such a gift.

May God bless you in this season with joy, grace, and peace. May our God be given glory in the highest as we seek Him and live for Him.

Merry Christmas,



Maiola Vivas
Pastor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Day One <i>“God Created Light”</i>	4
Day Two <i>“God Cannot Coexist with Darkness”</i>	5
Day Three <i>“God Exposes Evil”</i>	6
Day Four <i>“God Is Our Armor”</i>	7
Day Five <i>“God Is Purposeful”</i>	8
Day Six <i>“God Keeps His Promises”</i>	9
Day Seven <i>“God Is With Us In Our Suffering”</i>	10
Day Eight <i>“God Seeks True Worship”</i>	11
Day Nine <i>“God Gets the Glory”</i>	12
Day Ten <i>“God Is Light”</i>	13

GOD CREATED LIGHT

“Then God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

Genesis 1:3

On the first day of creation, God spoke light into existence. However, God didn’t create the sun until the fourth day when “God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night.” So, where was the light coming from on the first day? God Himself was the light.

“God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all,” according to 1 John 1:5. There are no scary dark parts of Himself that Jesus is hiding. There is no sin and no evil in His nature. With God, “there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Because He is unchanging, His promises will never change either. We can put our trust in His goodness knowing with full assurance that He will never deceive us. He is all powerful and all sufficient, able to literally light up the world with His presence.

During the Christmas season, we meditate on many of Jesus’ incredible names and attributes. Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace just to name a few. But as our streets and our trees are decked with beautiful lights, we also remember that Jesus is the Light of the world. And best of all, He always has been.

What biblical truths remind you that God is good? What areas of your life do you need to surrender completely to Him?

Dear Jesus, thank you that you are good and there is no shadow in you. Help me to trust You fully. Amen.

Further reading: *Genesis 1:1-18; James 1:17*



GOD CANNOT COEXIST WITH DARKNESS

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... This was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.”

John 1:5,9

When was the last time you were in darkness? True darkness, where you couldn't see two inches in front of you? Where light cannot easily be turned on with a switch. Fear creeps in and grows.

Darkness defined is “the state of total or near total absence of light; blackness; obscurity; gloom. A state of ignorance or error, especially moral or religious; hence, wickedness; impurity.” Then He calls His sheep with a gentle, loving voice, “Look up.... do not fear. Call out and come to Me.”

Light is one of several elements necessary to sustain life. For without the sun, life will cease to exist. Jesus is the true Light, the real deal, God in the flesh, the radiance of God's glory! Those who choose to trust in Jesus and “believe in the light” will become “children of light.” And as His children, we are called to bring His salvation gift to those we meet across the ends of the earth.

What is one thing you can do today to be a light that shines upon others?

Jesus, thank You that You are the true Light in the darkness. You see all things, You hear our prayers. Fill me with Your Spirit and lead me as my Lord and Savior. Today, I choose to walk in Your Light. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

Further reading: John 10:3-5, 27, 12:36



GOD EXPOSES EVIL

“And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

John 3:19-21

To all those who know Him and follow Him, this brings us “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.” But, there is a stark reality that while this light can guide us safely home, there are many who refuse to acknowledge this light.

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to take stock of our lives. Where have we failed? How have we grown? And most importantly, where do we stand with God? If our works have been evil, are we, like Adam and Eve in the garden, hiding from God? Or worse, have we loved our sin so much that we have hardened our hearts to Him?

Becoming like those who “For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened? (Romans 1:21) Or maybe, you have drunk deeply from the well of grace and chosen to draw near to Him and “walk in the light as He is in the light” (1 John 1:7). When we see the Light of the world, are we moths to the flame, or are we afraid of the light and run and hide?

Today, let’s humble ourselves before our Heavenly Father and ask Him to “create in me a clean heart.” Like the psalmist, let’s invite Jesus to “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Further reading: Psalm 51; Psalm 139; John 3:16-21; Philippians 4:7; Romans 1:18-23



GOD IS OUR ARMOR

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ... With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

John 3:19-21

An unofficial survey revealed Christmas is not a favorite holiday for many adults and even children. What was meant to be a day to honor the birth of Jesus Christ and dwell in His love, peace, and joy often turns into a busy time.

The acronym B.U.S.Y. (Burdened Under Satan’s Yoke) is one we’re often warned about during this time of year. Gift shopping and wrapping, decorating, scheduling gatherings, planning and cooking meals, travel, etc. Rinse, wash, repeat. But in the rare quiet moments when we’re not running around like Martha, He convicts us with the reality of Him, stirring our hearts to consider His truths. Then by His Spirit, He allows us to choose—to love Him in return by obeying His will and ways.

Busyness can be put to death by choosing to put on all the pieces of His armor as detailed in our benediction verses this year. Stand firm in the faith beloved, for all other ground is sinking sand. The schemes of the devil can come against us at any hour mentally, emotionally, physically but perhaps most detrimental spiritually. But God crushed the serpent’s head in the garden. It is through His divine power alone that we can win this ongoing battle by daily putting on truth, righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, faith and prayer.

Be honest, how consistently do you put on the full armor of God? How can you cover yourself and the saints with prayer against the schemes of the devil today? What fear(s) do you need to lay down at His feet?

Happy birthday, Jesus! I come to celebrate and (re)commit my life to You. Help me remember to not ignore the call every morning to put on the full armor of God, to recognize and stand firm against the life-destroying schemes of the enemy, and to pray and intercede for all the saints! Nothing is impossible for our victorious God. In Jesus name. Amen.

Further reading: Genesis 3: 1-5; John 8:44;
2 Timothy 1:7



GOD IS PURPOSEFUL

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 9:6–7

Hundreds of years before Christ’s birth, God promised that a King would come through David’s line. Isaiah declared that this child would reign forever as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Centuries later, Matthew and Luke carefully recorded the genealogy of Jesus—and yes, we should read it carefully along with the rest of Scripture. From Abraham to David and exile to restoration, every generation pointed to the One who would come. Even before Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and as Joseph wrestled with his role, God had already ordained Jesus’s birthline and His identity as the Son of David, the eternal King. And how did this promised King arrive? Not with armies or palaces, but in a humble manger.

Christmas shows us that God’s zeal accomplishes His purposes, even through unlikely circumstances, while calling us to reflect His character. God has plans for your life—plans He set long before you were born. God’s Word reveals He has prepared good works for us to walk in. Every opportunity, relationship, gift and resource is part of His greater plan. Just as Jesus was born to fulfill God’s prophecy, you too are called to walk in His purpose and shine His Light.

With your family and/or community, discuss the callings God has given each of you. Are you a “Peacemaker Daughter,” a “Joyful Brother,” a “Prayerful Grandparent”? Brainstorm simple good works you can do together this Christmas—acts of generosity, hospitality, or service.

Father, open my eyes to the good works you have prepared before me. Give me daily opportunities to shine your light.

Further reading: Matthew 1 and Luke 3 (full genealogies of Jesus); Ephesians 1–3



GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

Micah 5:2

The prophet Micah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus was born. Seven centuries of waiting—nations rose and fell, kingdoms shifted, God’s people endured exile, silence and oppression. Yet not one word of God failed. He promised His Son would be born in a small town, and He used a census, an evil king, and a young couple to fulfill it all in His perfect timing. On a crowded night in the little town of Bethlehem, heaven’s plan broke through. Christ, the Light of the world, was born exactly as foretold.

Acts 17:26–28 reminds us that God determined the times and places we would live, and He did so with purpose. He knew the families we would grow up in, the environments that would shape us, and the details of how He designed us to be. Before our first breath, He planned our lives—the number of hairs on our head, the struggles we would face, and the joys that would make us laugh or smile. None of it is wasted. God uses the little things, like our quirks and personalities, and the big things, like our scars and blessings, to weave together His story in us. Just as He chose Mary and Joseph to find refuge in Bethlehem, He has given us a path to follow and every ability we need to walk it faithfully.

Christmas reminds us that the God who kept His promise in Bethlehem is the same God who keeps His promises to us. He knows us, loves us, and is faithful to complete His good purposes in our lives. The Light has come into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Read Jesus’s birth story in Luke 1-2. Discuss Jesus’ humble beginnings and how God keeps His promises to His people. How has your birthplace, family, design, or personality that God has given you hint at His purpose for your life?

*God, thank you for being the Promise Keeper.
Remind me of your promises, let me walk in faith
that you will keep them.*



GOD IS WITH US IN OUR SUFFERING

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel”

Isaiah 7:14

Another prophecy fulfilled! Another name given! Another set of people called to trust God. Both Mary and Joseph were chosen by God to be Jesus’s earthly parents. They humbly accepted His purpose for their lives, even when obedience meant fear, uncertainty, and public scrutiny. Mary faced the shame and danger of being pregnant before marriage, while Joseph chose to trust Him and honor Mary, despite potential judgment from his community.

Neither were rich, powerful, or well-connected, yet God used their faithfulness to bring the Savior into the world. Imagine Mary traveling alone to visit Elizabeth, or Joseph journeying with a heavily pregnant Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, only to find no place to rest. Their newborn child, the long-promised Messiah, was laid in a humble manger. Shepherds arrived, startling them, and soon after, they were called to flee to Egypt to escape Herod’s deadly decree. All these things were scary, but they trusted in the Lord!

This Christmas, remember that God can use even our hardest moments—fear, uncertainty, grief, loneliness—for His purposes and our ultimate good. Like Mary and Joseph, trust God’s hand in your life, knowing that He is faithful. Even when provision is not immediately visible, He is moving to give the free gift of salvation, hope and light to those who believe. He rescues us from darkness of the world, working out all things for His glory and your good.

How has God brought you through hard times in your past? Write down three times when God brought good from difficulty in your life. Thank Him for His faithfulness.

Jesus, your name is Immanuel, or “God with us.” I need your strength and power to help me in my weakest hour. Help me to follow you, no matter how hard things get. (Share with the Lord your hardships).

Further reading: Genesis 50:20; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38, 1:46–56 (Mary’s Song); Romans 8:28



GOD SEEKS TRUE WORSHIP

“But an hour is coming and now is when the true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. For such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers.”

John 4:23

The song “Here I am to Worship” by Passion repeats “You came down into darkness” and “You came to the earth.” Twice! Jesus, You are the Light of the world, the Great I Am. But then You did something. You came! Humbly. And in that one moment of action followed many signs, wonders and miracles, including salvation of men and women spanning generations.

In John 4:23, the adjective “true” comes before worshippers. Worship in spirit and truth is the opposite of in flesh and lies. Do you long for the Father “as a deer to panteth for the water,” or praise Him with lip service to please man?

Truth says to present your body as a living sacrifice; to serve the Lord with gladness; and that He equips you for every good work. One major challenge for us today is that we live in a world that rewards self-interest, self-gain, and self-exaltation versus the truth found only in His Word. But remember, with Christ, we are no longer of this world.

Despite the self-gratifying distractions and busyness of these times, what are two things you can commit to do today to commune with God and serve someone with love? Keep it simple and specific. Remember His yoke is easy and His burden light.

Lord, You are the Son of the Living God, I desire to hear you say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Help me to worship You in spirit and truth today. In Jesus’ Holy name. Amen.

Further reading: Psalm 42:1; Matthew 6:6; 5:16; 1 John 3; Romans 12



GOD GETS THE GLORY

“And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.”

Revelation 21:23

God has always been the Light of the world and He always will be. Scripture tells us that one day, this broken, dying world will finally cease, and we will be in the presence of the Lord. God will make a new heaven and a new earth where “the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

Just as in the creation story, when God Himself is the light, here too, He will be our light. God is “the same yesterday, today, and forever.” His beautiful attributes are everlasting. We don’t have to worry that He will cease to exist and leave us vulnerable or in despair.

This light that we have come to depend on will never dim and will never go out. The light that we look to to guide our way and bring us comfort, just as we would a torch or a flashlight in a dark and unfamiliar place, will always be there. “The Lord will be our everlasting light.” We will never again be lost in darkness. God promises a future with Him, where “the night will be no more.” We have hope that our best days are still ahead of us because one day we will finally be face-to-face with our Perfect Savior.

Reflect on an undeniable attribute of God and praise Him for it in prayer, worship or song. How can you shine Jesus’s light in the present darkness?

Dear Jesus, thank you that you are our light and you always will be. We worship you! Thank you that I have a hope that can never be taken away because you are the Almighty God.

Further reading: Isaiah 6:19, 60; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 21, 22:5



GOD IS LIGHT

“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”

John 8:12

When we think of Christmas, we often think of Christmas lights, family, gifts, stockings, and maybe even snow — at least for those who’ve spent Christmas outside of Hawaii. If not, you can picture Santa in his boardshorts.

Winter brings shorter days and longer nights. Cloudy skies and rainy weather can make everything feel heavy. Add busyness, shopping, and expectations, and suddenly the shadows seem louder than the truth found in the Light.

This season tries to pull our identity in a dozen different directions. Expectations, performance, comparison, the pressure to feel a certain way — none of these are small things. And when we chase those identities, we usually end up feeling more lost, not more grounded.

But Christmas isn’t just a reminder about us — it’s a reminder of the glory of the One who came. The truth is, we have a Savior who is God, who was with God from the beginning, who created all things for His glory and for our joy in Him (John 1:1-5). In Him is the Light. He is the Light. And darkness has never — will never — get the final word.

And this is where our identity is anchored. Christmas tells the story of a God who didn’t stay distant, but stepped into the world to rescue us — not because we were impressive, but because He is infinitely worthy and infinitely loving.

Our identity isn’t built on how well we’re doing this season or how “together” we feel. It’s built on the fact that the Son of God wanted us. He came for us. He calls us His own. Every Christmas light we see is a small reminder of the greater Light that names us, claims us, and makes us new.

So as the world tries to name us, as it pushes us toward lesser identities, we look first to the glory of Christ. And because He is worthy — because He is the radiance of God's Light — we are restored. His presence steadies us. His truth calls us back to who we are in Him.

Maybe that's what Christmas truly celebrates: the glory of the incarnation — Light Himself stepping into our darkness to save us. And in His Light, we find our identity again.

Jesus, thank You for being the Light of my life. Shine Your light on the truth of my identity and who I am in You.

Further Reading: Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 1:4–5, 11–12, John 15:9–15



LIGHT *of the* WORLD

Kaka'ako Christmas Eve Celebrations

December 24th

4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

*670 Auahi St. Suite A-5,
Honolulu, HI 96816*

Windward Christmas Eve Celebration

December 24th

5 p.m.

*1276 Kailua Road,
Kailua, HI 96734*

For more information head to www.onelove.org or call (808) 955-9335