



Unending JOY

DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL READINGS
BCEC 2020

ESV VERSION

*They will enter
Zion with singing;
unending joy will
crown their heads.
Gladness and joy
will overtake them
and sorrow and
sighing will flee away*

Isaiah 35:10

Unending Joy
Daily Advent Devotional Readings
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Introduction

It has always been a dream of mine to write a book, a novel or a memoir? A book that's worth pouring time, sweat and effort getting written, a book that's worth getting published, a book worth people spending their valuable time investing in by doing the simple act of reading. Instead, I gift you this book, which I know has been worth every minute compiling: a devotional book that instead of being filled with stories, contains something even better, the ultimate weapon, that's beautifully written, God-breathed and useful for teaching us, rebuking us, correcting us, training us in righteousness: His Word.

This is a Christmas gift to you and your walk with God. I pray that it will help you flourish and grow deeper in your walk, experiencing a deeper sense of His ever-increasing, everlasting, unending joy, especially as we come to the end of 2020. May the pages of this devotional inspire, transform, encourage, challenge, move and breathe life into your soul, daily. And may it help you develop a habit to pick up his sword, the word after you have completed this book.

Everyday there are set readings with questions which you have the option of answering. There are also action prompts, usually prayer, but occasionally a task which can be useful to challenge you and others to do together. The focus of this can either be for yourself individually, your family/household, the church community, the nation or as wide as the world.

Please do share with your lifegroup leaders or someone on the pastoral team if you've had any special moments or encounters during this Advent season—it's always super encouraging and inspiring to hear what God is saying to brothers and sisters in our church.

Special thanks to Henna for the artwork and beautiful calligraphy. And big heartfelt thanks to Dan Li for helping me with this project!

May God's word on the following pages speak and bless your soul with unending joy!
Love, Ansy

How to use this book

While there are many methods out there on how to spend time with God in His word, here are some tips to help you get the most out of reading scripture in this Advent Devotional book during the next 27 days.

1. Find a quiet spot that you know you won't fall asleep in, maybe have plenty of light to help you focus better on the words and as you let God speak to you.
2. Before you start reading the set scripture, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal either something new, or an old truth you need reminding about.
3. Spend some time reading and be open to the Holy Spirit's leading.
4. If you are printing this book, there's space for you to take notes, scribble or doodle. If you're reading this via an electronic device, feel free to add comment and annotating the pages. Alternatively, you can journal alongside this devotional.

Day number and dates are next to the title for your information

The bible passage is printed out for ease of reading, and so you are free to use a pen and annotate all over the passage!

There are lines provided for you in case the Spirit prompts you to take notes

Daily questions and action / prayer prompts to help spur and challenge you. Optional.

Sundays are marked as a "rest day". You can use this day to rest, pray, meditate on the scripture set for that day, or to simply catch up from previously missed days. There is also space for you to take notes from the Sunday sermon.

Day 1:
29.11.20

The First Sunday of Advent



May the God of
hope fill you with
all joy and peace
as you trust in Him,
so that you may
overflow with hope
by the power of
the Holy Spirit

Romans 15:13

Rest Day

*Use this extra day to rest, pray,
meditate on the following
scripture, or to simply catch up.*

*This space also allows you to take
notes from the Sunday sermon.*

What were some small
joys from today that
spring to mind?

Day 5:
3.12.20

God's Covenant

Genesis 12:1-9

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Genesis 21:1-7

21 The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.” ⁷ And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

John 8:54-58

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

Romans 4:13-25

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Root of David

2 Samuel 7.8-16

⁸ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Jeremiah 23.1-8

¹ “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³ Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

⁵ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

⁷ “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ ⁸ but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

Day 8:
6.12.20

The Second Sunday of Advent

JOY AND
gladness

The Word
became
flesh and
made dwelling
among us.
We have
seen His glory,
the glory of
the one and
only son, who
came from
the father, full
of grace and truth

John 1:14

Rest Day

*Use this extra day to rest, pray,
meditate on the following
scripture, or to simply catch up.*

*This space also allows you to take
notes from the Sunday sermon.*

What were some things of today
that make your heart glad?

Day 14:
12.12.20

The Nations will be glad

Micah 4.1-7

⁴ It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and it shall be lifted up above the hills;
and peoples shall flow to it,
² and many nations shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;
⁴ but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
⁵ For all the peoples walk
each in the name of its god,
but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God
forever and ever.
⁶ In that day, declares the LORD,
I will assemble the lame
and gather those who have been driven away
and those whom I have afflicted;
⁷ and the lame I will make the remnant,
and those who were cast off, a strong nation;
and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion
from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalms 46.4-11

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

Day 15:
13.12.20

The Third Sunday of Advent

JOYful Mysteries

After me comes
the one more
powerful than
I. The one
whose sandals I
am not worthy
to stoop down
and untie. I
baptize you with
water but He
will baptize
you with the
Holy Spirit

Mark 1:7b-8

What took you by
surprise today?

Rest Day

Use this extra day to rest, pray,
meditate on the following
scripture, or to simply catch up.
This space also allows you to take
notes from the Sunday sermon.



But when the fullness of
time has come, God sent
forth His Son, born of a
woman, born under law,
to redeem those who
were under law, so that
we might receive
adoption as sons. And
because you are sons,
God has sent the Spirit of
His Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba Father!" so
that you are no longer
a slave, but a son and
if a son, then an
heir through God.

Galatians 4:4-6

What were some
joyful moments from today
you can give thanks to God
for?

Rest Day

Use this extra day to rest, pray,
meditate on the following
scripture, or to simply catch up.
This space also allows you to take
notes from the Sunday sermon.

Bonus:

Year in Review 2020 reflection questions for personal journaling or sharing in small groups.

1. What are some things from this year that you're thankful for?
2. Why do you think hope is so important? And how do you remain hopeful in a world full of hopelessness?
3. Was there a moment this past year that you felt was an "enlightening" moment for you? What was it?
4. Share four achievements you are particularly proud of from this year.
5. What significant event happened in 2020, in which your reaction towards it surprised you, because in previous times you would react a certain way, but this time round, in 2020, your attitude towards it changed (for the better or for worse)?
6. What's been a verse / inspirational quote that has kept you motivated this past year?
7. Name seven people you are grateful for that went above and beyond this year for you.
8. What was one thing from this year that you wished you didn't waste time on? And how can you ensure it won't happen again next year?
9. Is there something that you wished you had done differently this past year?
10. List your top 10 songs of 2020 (most listened to or your favourites of this year).
11. Is there someone you need to forgive from this year? Why? Why have you been putting it off?
12. Using 12 words, sum up each month of this past year.
13. Is there someone you need to apologise to, from this year? Why? Why have you been putting it off?
14. What was an unexpected joy of this year? What was an unexpected obstacle of this year?
15. What bad habit would you most like to kick from 2020?
16. What major milestones happened with your family this past year. How has this affected you
17. Describe an event in the world that has impacted you this year. How? Why?
18. What were some answered prayers of this year?
19. If you were to be so bold, what audacious prayer request do you want answered for next year?
20. Who is the person you most want to invest and encourage in the next year?
21. What skills or hobbies would you like to improve, develop or start next year?
22. Describe one thing you'd like to achieve by this time next year. Why is this important to you?
23. What aspects of God did you learn or relearn this year? And what areas of theology would you like to learn about next year?
24. Write a message of advice to the "future you" so you can read it this time next year.

