



Christmas Gratitude: Embracing God With Us



Explore the true meaning of Christmas by reflecting on God's presence, grace, and unending love throughout the holidays.



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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey celebrating Christmas Gratitude: God With Us. As we enter the holiday season, it's common to get caught up in the hustle and bustle – the lights, gifts, and festivities. Yet, the heart of Christmas is far greater: the profound truth that *God is with us*. This timeless message calls us to pause and reflect on the wonder of Christ's birth, God's presence in our lives, and the gratitude that naturally flows from knowing Immanuel – God Himself.

During these seven days, you'll be guided through Scripture readings and reflections centered on themes of God's presence, grace, hope, and peace. Each day raises meaningful questions and provides space for prayer and journaling, inviting you to experience a deeper sense of awe and thankfulness.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas for the first time or revisiting the message with seasoned faith, this study aims to help you connect personally with the miracle of God becoming human – Emmanuel, God with us! 🎄 Let's explore how this truth inspires gratitude beyond just the holiday and touches every part of our lives.

As you engage with the Word this week, may your heart be warmed, your spirit lifted, and your perspective renewed by the simple but profound gift of God's presence.





Day 1: ✨ The Promise of God With Us



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Your Verse

Matthew 1:23 – "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us')."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 7:14 – "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*
- *John 1:14 – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son..."*



Day 1: ✨ The Promise of God With Us

Devotional: God's Promise: He Is Truly With Us

The name Immanuel reveals the heart of Christmas: God coming near to us. In the midst of uncertainty and longing, God promised to be with His people. How amazing that this promise was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus! Rather than remaining distant, God chose to enter human history as a vulnerable baby to dwell among us and restore relationship.

This truth invites us to be grateful—not just for the gift of a Savior, but for God's closeness every day. No matter our circumstances or feelings, Emmanuel reassures us that we are never alone. This presence brings comfort, hope, and a deep sense of belonging during the holiday season and beyond.

As you reflect today, consider what it means for God to be with you personally. How does this change your perspective on challenges or celebrations? Be thankful for the intimate, loving presence of God right now.



Day 1: ✨ The Promise of God With Us

Reflect and Apply

1. What does the name 'Immanuel' mean for my life today?

2. In what ways have I experienced God's presence during difficult or joyful times?

3. How can remembering God is 'with us' change my attitude this Christmas season?



Day 1: ✨ The Promise of God With Us

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you felt God's presence clearly in your life.

2. List three ways God's nearness brings you comfort this season.

3. Describe how the promise of Immanuel encourages your faith.



Day 1: ✨ The Promise of God With Us

Prayer for Today

Dear God, thank You for coming to us as Immanuel—God with us. Help me to feel Your presence deeply today and every day. May Your nearness give me peace and joy, especially during this Christmas season. Teach me to be grateful for the gift of Your presence in every moment. *Thank You for loving me so closely and never leaving my side.*





Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace



Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace

Your Verse

Ephesians 2:8 - "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- *2 Corinthians 9:15 - "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*



Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace

Devotional: Receiving and Sharing God's Gift of Grace

Christmas is a celebration of the greatest gift: God's grace. Grace means unmerited favor—something we cannot earn or deserve. Through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, we receive the gift of salvation freely. This grace changes everything about how we live and relate to God.

Recognizing grace inspires deep gratitude. It reminds us that God's love and forgiveness are accessible to all, despite our flaws. This knowledge frees us from guilt and shame, offering hope and a new beginning.

Let gratitude for this gift shape your heart today. How can you reflect God's grace to others during the holidays? Celebrate the grace that rescues and restores you anew.



Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace

Reflect and Apply

1. How have I personally experienced God's grace in my life?

2. In what ways can I extend grace to others this holiday season?

3. What does it mean to live a life shaped by grace rather than works?



Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about moments you felt undeserving yet received God's grace.

2. List practical ways you can show God's grace to someone this week.

3. Reflect on how grace has transformed your relationship with God.



Day 2: 🎁 The Gift of Grace

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of grace that saves and sustains me. Help me to receive it fully and to show grace to others as a reflection of Your love. May this Christmas season be a reminder that Your favor is freely given and that Your grace covers all my imperfections. Teach me to live with thankful hearts every day. *In Your name, Amen.*





Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger



Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger

Your Verse

Luke 2:10-11 - "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."*
- *Isaiah 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*



Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger

Devotional: Embracing the Joyful Hope of Christmas

The arrival of Jesus brought hope to a weary world. His birth broke through darkness, offering joy and renewal to all who would receive Him. The shepherds' fear turned to gladness upon hearing the angel's announcement—good news that changed history.

In our lives, hope can sometimes feel distant amid hardships or uncertainty. But Christmas reminds us that hope is born in a humble manger and is not dependent on circumstances. It is anchored in the character of God who remains faithful and loving.

Today, embrace this hope as a powerful gift. Let it fill your heart and inspire you to share this joy with others who need light in their darkness.



Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger

Reflect and Apply

1. What areas of my life need the hope that Jesus brings?

2. How can I share this hope with someone facing difficulty right now?

3. What does the birth of Jesus teach me about God's plans for the future?



Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about what hope means to you during Christmastime.

2. Recall a time when hope in Jesus brought you peace or joy.

3. List people you can encourage with the message of hope this week.



Day 3: ✨ Hope Born in a Manger

Prayer for Today

Dear God of Hope, thank You for sending Jesus as the light in our darkness and the hope for all people. Fill my heart with joy and peace as I trust in You during this Christmas season. Help me to be a beacon of Your hope to those around me, reflecting Your everlasting love. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence



Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence

Your Verse

Psalm 100:1-2 - "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 2:13-14 - "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"*
- *Hebrews 13:15 - "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name."*



Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence

Devotional: Offering Joyful Praise for God's Presence

Music and praise are powerful ways to express gratitude for God's presence during the holidays. The Christmas story is filled with songs of joy—from the angels glorifying God to Mary's humble song of praise.

Praise shifts our focus from worries to worship, filling our hearts with gladness. It reminds us that God's presence is reason enough to celebrate with joyful noise and thankful hearts.

Make today a day of worship through song or prayer. Even a simple melody or spoken word can be a meaningful gift to God in response to His incredible closeness.



Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence

Reflect and Apply

1. How does worship affect my awareness of God's presence?

2. What songs or scriptures inspire me to praise God during Christmas?

3. How can I incorporate more praise into my holiday celebrations?



Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence

Journaling Prompts

1. Write a personal praise or thanksgiving to God for His presence.

2. List favorite Christmas hymns or worship songs and why they uplift you.

3. Describe a time when worship helped you feel close to God.



Day 4: 🎵 Singing Praises for God's Presence

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, I lift my voice in praise and thanksgiving for Your constant presence. Your love and faithfulness inspire songs in my heart and joy in my soul. May my worship today be a sweet offering that honors You and deepens my awareness of Your nearness. Help me to carry this spirit of praise into every day. *Thank You for being worthy of all glory and honor.*





Day 5: Embracing Peace Among Us



Day 5: 🧡 Embracing Peace Among Us

Your Verse

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Isaiah 9:6 - "...and he will be called...Prince of Peace."*
- *Philippians 4:7 - "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*



Day 5: 🧡 Embracing Peace Among Us

Devotional: Receiving the Prince of Peace's Gift

One of the gifts Jesus brings is peace—not as the world gives, but a divine peace that calms anxiety and fear. This peace is especially meaningful during the often hectic and stressful holiday season.

Though external circumstances might be chaotic, God's presence settles our souls. He invites us to rest in His peace, trusting that He reigns over all situations.

Today, ask God to fill you with this supernatural peace. Let it guard your heart and mind, and inspire you to be a peacemaker in your community and family.



Day 5: 🧡 Embracing Peace Among Us

Reflect and Apply

1. What worries or fears do I need to surrender to God's peace?

2. How can I practice being a peacemaker this Christmas?

3. How does God's peace differ from the peace the world offers?



Day 5: 🧡 Embracing Peace Among Us

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about moments when you experienced God's peace amid trouble.

2. List steps you can take to create peace in your home or relationships.

3. Reflect on how trusting God's peace changes your feelings about stress.



Day 5: 🧡 Embracing Peace Among Us

Prayer for Today

Prince of Peace, thank You for the gift of calm and rest that only You can give. In this busy season, help me not to be overwhelmed by anxiety or fear. Fill my heart with Your peace and teach me to share it with others. Guard my mind and spirit, and guide me in being an agent of Your peace. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible



Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible

Your Verse

1 John 4:9 - "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."*
- *Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*



Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible

Devotional: Experiencing and Extending God's Love

Christmas is love made visible through the person of Jesus. God's sacrificial love is on full display in His sending the Messiah to rescue humanity. This love is unconditional, persistent, and radical.

In reflecting on this love, we are called to respond with gratitude and to mirror it in our relationships. Love transformed the world at the manger and can transform hearts today.

Consider how deeply God loves you personally and how you can express that love tangibly during the holidays.



Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible

Reflect and Apply

1. How has God's love changed my life this year?

2. In what ways can I demonstrate God's love to others during Christmas?

3. What does it mean to love like God loves?



Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible

Journaling Prompts

1. Write a letter to God expressing your gratitude for His love.

2. List three acts of love you can do for someone this week.

3. Describe moments when you felt God's love tangibly.



Day 6: ❤️ Love Made Visible

Prayer for Today

God of Love, thank You for the incredible gift of Your Son—love come to earth. Help me to grasp the depth of Your affection for me and to live out that love daily. Teach me to love others with patience, kindness, and generosity, reflecting Your heart. May this Christmas season be marked by visible acts of love that honor You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





Day 7: Living With Gratitude Year-Round



Your Verse

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalms 107:1 – "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*
- *Colossians 3:15 – "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."*



Devotional: A Heart of Gratitude Beyond the Season

Our journey ends by embracing gratitude not just during the holidays, but **every day**. Living with a heart of thankfulness changes how we see the world and respond to challenges.

God's presence, grace, hope, peace, and love are gifts to be celebrated daily. Choosing gratitude reflects trust in God's goodness and faithfulness.

As Christmas concludes, commit to carrying this spirit of thanksgiving into your life year-round. Let gratitude shape your attitude, your prayers, and your actions as you continue to walk with God.



Reflect and Apply

1. How can I cultivate a daily practice of gratitude?

2. What blessings might I be overlooking that deserve thankful recognition?

3. How does gratitude affect my relationship with God and others?



Journaling Prompts

1. Make a list of daily blessings to thank God for.

2. Reflect on a challenging situation and find reasons to be grateful within it.

3. Write a prayer of gratitude as a commitment to live thankfully.



Day 7:  Living With Gratitude Year-Round

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You because Your love is eternal and Your gifts are endless. Help me to live with a grateful heart each day, recognizing Your hand at work in my life. Teach me to give thanks in all circumstances and to encourage others to do the same. May my life be a continual expression of gratitude and praise to You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





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