



LIGHT IN THE ORDINARY

Advent Devotional

2025



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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



HOW TO USE THIS ADVENT GUIDE

Each week begins with a short devotional thought and Scripture to help you pause, reflect, and notice God's light in the ordinary moments of life. After reading the devotional, choose the path that best fits your current season:

- **Family Path** – for households with kids or those wanting to engage together through conversation and shared practice.
- **Individual Path** – for personal reflection, prayer, and simple acts of faith in daily life.

You are welcome to read both paths, switch between them, or mix and match the practices. Make it your own. There is no wrong way to engage with this guide.

The goal isn't perfection, it's faithful openness. Come ready to listen, respond, and participate in whatever God has for you this week. Trust that He meets us right in the middle of ordinary days, and His light is already breaking through.



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Week 3

Moment of Light



Before you begin, take a simple action:

- Light a candle, turn on a lamp, or open a window/blinds

As the light appears, take one slow breath:

Inhale: Jesus, my Light

Exhale: Make me a light

Let this breath remind you that joy is already near, waiting to be received.



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Week 3

Joy in the ordinary moments



Weekly Devotional Thought

Too often, we treat joy like something reserved for special moments or future circumstances. We tell ourselves we'll feel joyful when life slows down, when things get easier, or when we feel more deserving. But Scripture tells a different story.

In Luke 1, Mary visits her relative Elizabeth, an ordinary act of showing up, sharing space, and being present. And in that ordinary moment, joy erupts. John leaps in Elizabeth's womb. Praise pours out. What could have been a simple visit becomes a holy moment of celebration.

Joy isn't something we manufacture. It's something we receive. Happiness fades. Circumstances change. But joy is eternal, rooted in God's presence and promises.

Jesus doesn't wait for the perfect moment to offer joy. He offers it now.

Advent invites us to open our eyes and hearts to the joy already woven into everyday life. Joy is for you. Joy is for all of us. We don't earn it. We don't wait for it. We simply receive it.




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Week 3

Family Path

for households with kids or those wanting to engage together through conversation and shared practice.



1. Read Together

Luke 1: 39-45

2. Talk About It


Discussion Question:

What are some small, ordinary moments that make you smile or feel thankful, and how can you notice them more often? *(For younger kids: "What made you happy today?")*

3. Act of Faithfulness

"Celebrate the ordinary."

Choose one simple moment this week to intentionally celebrate as a family:

- Share a "joy moment" at dinner
 - Take a short walk together and name things you're grateful for
 - Play a game or laugh together without rushing
 - Bake or cook something just for fun
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Joy grows when we pause to notice it.



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Week 3

Family Path

Continued



4. Listen and Respond


Take 60 seconds of quiet.

Pray: *"Jesus, open our eyes to the joy You've placed in our everyday lives."*

Invite each person to share one thing they're thankful for.

5. Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the joy You give so freely. Help our family see it, receive it, and share it with others. Amen.



*Light shines
on the righteous,
and joy on the
upright in heart
Psalm 97:11*




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Week 3

Individual Path

for personal reflection, prayer, and simple acts of
faith in daily life.



1. Read

Luke 1: 39-45

2. Reflect

Where might joy already be present in my life, but I've been too distracted or hesitant to receive it?

Write down one small moment from today that brought even a flicker of joy.

3. Act of Faithfulness

"Receive Joy!"

Choose one simple practice this week:

- Pause once a day to name one gift or grace you notice
- Do something small that brings delight (music, movement, creativity)
- Express gratitude to someone who brings you joy
- Stop rushing one ordinary moment and savor it (sipping coffee, walking in a grocery store, etc.)

Joy doesn't wait for the right moment; it meets us now.



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Week 3

Individual Path

Continued



4. Listen and Respond


Sit quietly for one minute.

Pray: *"Jesus, help me receive the joy You are offering."*

Notice what feelings or thoughts rise without judgment.

5. Prayer

Lord, thank You for joy that doesn't fade or depend on circumstances. Help me receive it fully and live it freely. Amen.



*Light shines
on the righteous,
and joy on the
upright in heart
Psalm 97:11*



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Week 3

Share Joy Invitation



This week, intentionally pass joy along in an ordinary way:

- Send a quick text that says, *"I'm grateful for you."*
- Laugh with someone instead of rushing past the moment.
- Celebrate someone else's win, big or small, without comparison.
- Write a short note or message naming one thing you appreciate about them.

**Joy doesn't have to be loud or big to be real.
When we choose to share it, joy multiplies.**

Go with a joyful heart. Amen.



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