

# JESUS CALLING

365 DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS



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December 2

## Prince of Peace

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

—Isaiah 9:6

I have many names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, King of kings and Lord of lords. But in this messed-up world, it is perhaps as Prince of Peace that you need Me most.

Because I never leave your side, My Peace is always with you. You need this Peace each moment to live out My plan for your life. Sometimes you may want to take shortcuts—to reach your goal as quickly as possible. But if taking the shortcut means you turn your back on My peaceful Presence, then don't do it. Keep walking with Me along paths of Peace—even in this crazy world.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

John 20:19–21; Psalm 25:4

December 3



## Your Hope and My Promise

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

—Ephesians 6:12

**T**here is nothing that the evil one hates more than your closeness to Me. He will do anything to pull you away. So don't be surprised by his fiery attacks on your mind.

There is a massive spiritual war being fought every day. When you find yourself in the thick of the battle, cry out, "Jesus, help me!" At that very instant, the battle becomes Mine. Your job is simply to trust Me as I fight for you.

When My Name is used in the right way, it has unlimited Power to bless and protect. At the end of time, every knee will bow *at the Name of Jesus*. People who have used My Name as a swear word will tremble in fear. But all those who have used My Name to draw near Me will be filled with glorious Joy. This is your hope—and My promise to you.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

1 Samuel 17:47; Philippians 2:9-10; 1 Peter 1:8-9



December 4

## A Small Sacrifice

*Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.*

—Colossians 4:2 (NLT)

**M**y thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways and thoughts higher than yours.

When you come to spend time with Me, remember who I really am. I am the King of kings and Lord of lords! Never stop being amazed at being able to talk with the King of the entire universe—anytime, anyplace.

As you spend time in My Presence, I am training you to think My thoughts. My Spirit goes to work inside you. Sometimes He speaks to you through certain Bible verses. And other times He allows you to hear Me “speak” into your mind. Either way, this training strengthens you and prepares you for whatever you will face.

Take time to listen to My voice. Give Me this small sacrifice of your time, and I will bless you far more than you could ever imagine.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Isaiah 55:8–9; Psalm 116:17

December 5



## A Prayer I Love to Answer

*When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."*

—Genesis 28:16

**W**hen Jacob ran away from his angry brother, Esau, he went to sleep on a stone pillow in a land that seemed empty and gloomy. But he dreamed about heaven and angels and promises of My Presence. And when he awoke, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

Jacob's discovery was not only for himself, but for everyone who seeks Me. I am everywhere. I am above you, below you, and all around you. There is no place that I am not. So if you find yourself feeling distant from Me, say: "Surely the Lord is in this place!" Then ask Me to open the eyes of your heart so that you can "see" My Presence. This is a prayer I love to answer!

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 31:20; Genesis 28:11–15



December 6

## What I Want Most

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

—Deuteronomy 6:5

**S**taying close to Me is really all about love—My Love for you and your love for Me.

Too many people believe their faith is all about what they *do*. They give Me their time, their money, and their service, but they don't give Me the one thing I want most—their hearts.

Be careful not to let your faith become a set of rules to follow: church on Sunday, read your Bible, pray ten minutes each day. Rules lead to habits—things you do without even thinking—lulling your soul to sleep.

What I search for in My children is an *awakened soul* that finds My Presence thrilling! There is abundant Joy in My Presence—and it is for *you*. After all, I created you to glorify Me and enjoy Me forever. I provide the Joy; your job is to live close to Me. This brings Glory to Me and Joy to you!

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Colossians 3:23; Psalm 16:11

December 7



## Every Detail

*And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

—Matthew 10:30

I am with you in all that you do. At home, at school, on the playground. When you sleep, when you eat, when you laugh, and when you cry. I know every detail of your life—even the number of hairs on your head. There is nothing that I don't notice.

But your own awareness of Me comes and goes. Sometimes you feel Me right next to you, and you feel safe and whole. Other times the problems of the day fill your mind and you lose sight of Me. Then you feel alone and empty.

Learn to keep your eyes on Me at all times and in all situations. This world is constantly changing, but My Presence is always with you. Fix your eyes on what is unseen—Me. Then the whole world can march by, and you'll still know My Presence right beside you.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Matthew 10:29–31; Hebrews 11:27; 2 Corinthians 4:18



December 8

## Be Glad You Are Needy

*I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love.  
I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's  
mysterious plan, which is Christ himself.*

—Colossians 2:2 (NLT)

**Y**our needs and My riches are a perfect fit—like the pieces of a puzzle that join together to make a beautiful picture.

I never meant for you to “go it alone,” to do it all by yourself. I designed you to need Me, not only for your daily bread but also to fill that deep emptiness inside you. I created that emptiness to lead you to Me. It’s part of My plan. So don’t try to pretend the emptiness doesn’t exist. And don’t try to fill it with the lesser gods of this world: people, possessions, and power.

Come to Me with all your needs. Let your defenses down and seek My blessings. As you spend time with Me, your emptiness gets filled with My Love, Joy, and Peace. Be glad you are needy—that helps you get filled up with Me.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Philippians 4:19; Colossians 2:2–3



December 9



## Out on a Limb

*If you serve me, you must go with me.*

—John 12:26 (CEV)

**B**e willing to step out of your comfort zone. Take a risk and go out on a limb with Me. If that is where I am leading you, then out on that limb is the safest place for you to be.

You want to play it safe, avoid all the risks you can. But taking risks is part of living close to Me. Trying to live a risk-free life tells Me that you don't really trust Me. You have to make a choice: Will you keep trying to be safe at all costs? Or will you follow Me with all your heart?

I may ask you to stand up for someone who can't stand up for himself, to say no to a friend, or to tell a stranger about Me. But I'll give you the strength and the courage to do it.

Life with Me is an adventure. If you stick with Me, you'll not only have My protection, but you'll learn to relax and enjoy the adventure. So be willing to follow wherever I lead—even out on a limb.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 23:4; Psalm 9:10



December 10

## Safe and Secure

*Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

—Psalm 139:10

**Y**ou want to feel safe and secure. You say you trust Me, but in your private thoughts, you are still trying to fix your world so that it is safe and predictable. Not only is this an impossible goal, but it actually makes you *less* safe and secure.

True safety and security are found only in Me—in depending on My Presence. When your world seems unsteady and scary, grab My hand. I will hold tightly to you and keep you safe.

Instead of searching for a problem-free life, be glad that you have troubles. In the darkness of your trouble, you can see the brightness of My Face more clearly. This helps you feel closer to me.

So hold tightly to My hand, confident that today's problems have a purpose. And remember—you have an eternity of trouble-free living just waiting for you in heaven.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Isaiah 41:10; James 1:2

December 11



## Faith Is Knowing

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for  
and certain of what we do not see.*

—Hebrews 11:1

**E**very moment of every day, I am working for your good. So bring Me all your worries and fear. Talk with Me about everything. Let the Light of My Presence chase your shadows away.

Bring Me your hopes and dreams too. Let's work on them together, changing them little by little from wishes to reality.

All this takes time. Don't try to take shortcuts or rush the process. When you work with Me, you must learn to accept My timing. Remember how long Abraham and Sarah waited for a son? But when Isaac finally came, their joy was even greater because of their long wait.

Faith is *knowing* I will keep My promises—believing that things you are hoping for are as real as things you can already see.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 36:9; Genesis 21:1-7



December 12

## The Tip of the Iceberg

*I know that you can do all things. No plan of yours can be ruined.*

—Job 42:2 (ICB)

I am taking care of you. Every detail of your life is under My control. When you give your heart to Me, I make sure that everything in your life works together for good—even the hard stuff.

Some people look at what happens in the world, and they think the universe is ruled by chance. Things just happen, with little or no meaning. But they are looking at the world through eyes that cannot really see.

Your understanding of this world is like the tip of an iceberg. Only a small part of an iceberg can be seen; the rest is hidden under the surface of the water. And hidden under the surface of this world, there are *mysteries* too big for you to understand.

If you could look through My eyes—seeing how everything fits together—you would see how wonderfully I am caring for you. This is why you must live by faith, not by sight—trusting in My mysterious, loving Presence.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Romans 8:28; Job 42:1–3; 1 Peter 5:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7

December 13



## Time to Be Holy

*You surely know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives.  
The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God.*

—1 Corinthians 6:19 (CEV)

**T**ake time to be holy. But how? *Holy* doesn't mean being a goody-goody, or thinking you are better than others. Being holy simply means setting yourself apart for sacred use—*My* use.

Spend some quiet moments with Me. Let Me work in your heart and mind. I am re-creating you into the person I designed you to be.

Be sure to set aside enough time for just being with Me. Your closeness to Me will strengthen your faith and fill you with My Peace. It will also prepare you for the many blessings I want to give you.

When you take time to be holy, your heart becomes a clean temple of My Holy Spirit. He is able to do more in and through you than you could ever ask or imagine. So make time for Me. You won't regret it.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

2 Thessalonians 1:10; Psalm 27:4; Ephesians 3:20



December 14

## I Never Change

*Jesus Christ never changes!  
He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*  
—Hebrews 13:8 (CEV)

**Y**our heart and your mind are much like a radio. The kind of music you hear depends on the station you tune in to. When your heart and mind tune in to the world, you hear confusion. Everything is constantly changing—often for no reason. And it can leave you feeling anxious and afraid.

But when you choose to tune in to Me, you hear the beautiful music of My Peace. It soothes away the worries of this world. And it helps you know how safe and secure you are—because you're Mine.

Unlike the world, I *never* change. You can always count on Me. Start your day by tuning in to Me. Listen quietly in My Presence. Then get up and begin your journey through the day, holding tightly to My hand. I will show you which way to go, and I will smooth out the path before you.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Ecclesiastes 1:2; Proverbs 3:6

December 15



## Grab Hold of Hope!

*So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.*

—Hebrews 6:18 (NLT)

**T**he hope of heaven. Too many of My children don't really understand what this means. When I talk of *hope*, it isn't just wishful thinking. This hope is My promise for all My children.

As soon as I became your Savior, heaven became your final, permanent home. But there are blessings of this hope that you can enjoy right now! Because your true home is heaven, you know that any troubles you face today are only temporary. *The hope of heaven* helps you through your tough times, brightening even the darkest days. It also helps you keep trusting that I am taking care of you—and everything will be all right.

Don't just wish for heaven—grab hold of the hope of heaven! Let its blessing fill your life today.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Romans 8:23–25; Hebrews 6:19–20; Romans 15:13



December 16

## Listen to Me

*Every morning he wakes me. He teaches me to listen like a student.*

—Isaiah 50:4 (ICB)

I am always speaking to you, in the depths of your heart. But you must be still so that you can hear My Voice. I speak in the language of Love. My words fill you with Life and Peace, Joy and Hope. I am teaching you to listen to Me—like a student listening to the teacher.

I want to talk with all My children, but many of them are too busy to listen. This world prizes busyness. A lot of people go along with that mind-set, convinced that being still is a waste of time. Then they wonder why I feel so far away.

To live close to Me, you must put Me first. Seek Me before anything else—before chores, before school, before practice, before fun. When you seek Me first, I pour out My Peace and Joy on you. And My Glory shines in your life like the sun.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Revelation 2:4; Isaiah 60:2



December 17



## A Perfect Day to Trust

*God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

—Matthew 5:3 (NLT)

**C**ome to Me with all your needs, with that huge emptiness inside you. Facing that awful emptiness is the first step toward being filled with My Presence.

So be glad on those days when you can barely get out of bed—when you feel sluggish and just not ready to face the world. Yes, be glad! Tell yourself that this is the perfect day to practice trusting and depending on Me.

If you keep depending on Me throughout your day, you will make a wonderful discovery as you crawl into bed at night. You will discover that My Joy and Peace have become your companions. You may not know exactly when they joined you on your journey through the day. But you will feel the benefits of having been in their company.

The perfect ending to a day like this is to sing yourself to sleep with My praises.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

2 Corinthians 4:6; Matthew 5:6;  
Colossians 2:9–10; Psalm 150:6



December 18

## Eternal Glory

*We have small troubles for a while now, but they are helping us gain an eternal glory. That glory is much greater than the troubles.*

—2 Corinthians 4:17 (icb)

**W**hen you have a problem that goes on and on, with no end in sight, see it as a wonderful opportunity. An ongoing problem is like having a tutor who is always by your side. If you are willing, you can learn so much from your trouble.

Ask Me to open your eyes and your heart to all that I am doing through this problem. I may be teaching you patience or persistence. Perhaps I am strengthening your faith or your courage.

Then thank Me for the lessons you are learning. When you can be thankful for a problem, it loses its power to drag you down. In fact, your thankful attitude lifts you up into heavenly places with Me, where you see the situation from My point of view. This lets you see your problem as a small, temporary trouble that is helping you *gain an eternal Glory*—blessings that will never end!

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Isaiah 30:20–21

December 19



## Clearing the Clutter

*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,  
and he will give you everything you need.*

—Matthew 6:33 [NLT]

**D**o not be overwhelmed by the clutter in your life. By “clutter,” I’m not just talking about all that stuff under your bed. I’m including all those endless little chores that you need to do sometime, but not necessarily *now*. For instance, you told your friend you would download that song for her. And your bike tires really need airing up.

All those little tasks will eat up as much time as you give them. So, instead of trying to do everything at once, choose the chores that really need to be done today. Then let the rest of them slip to the back of your mind, so that *I* can be in the front of it.

Remember, your real goal in this life is not to check everything off a to-do list. It is to live close to Me. Seek My Face all throughout this day. Let My Presence clear away the clutter in your mind, and flood you with My Peace.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Proverbs 16:3



December 20

## I Did It for You

*The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."*

—Luke 23:35

**W**hen I came to earth, it wasn't to a palace or a rich family. I was born to a peasant girl and a carpenter, in a stable. My Glory was hidden from all but a few people.

At times, some of My Glory would shine out of Me—especially when I began to do miracles. When the sick were healed, when the storms were stilled, and when the demons fled before Me, people saw it . . . briefly.

At the end of My life, I could have used My awesome Power to save Myself. Thousands of angels would have come to rescue Me from being beaten and made fun of and nailed to a cross. But that was not My Father's plan. So I stayed on the cross—for you. I did it so that your sins could be forgiven and heaven could become your home. I did it so that we could be the best of friends. So let your life become a song of praise to Me, showing My Glory to all the world.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

John 2:11; Luke 23:36; Psalm 92:1–5

December 21



## Traveling

*Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?"*

—John 11:40 (CEV)

I have a perfect plan for your life. But I don't show it to you all at once. It is like a road that you must travel one step at a time.

Sometimes the road seems blocked, or it opens up so slowly that you feel frustrated. But then, when the time is right, the way before you suddenly clears. All that you have longed for and worked for is given to you freely—as a gift. And that is when you catch a glimpse of My Power and My Glory.

Don't be afraid of your weakness. It's like a stage where My Power and Glory are the actors, putting on amazing shows. Just keep walking along the path I have prepared for you, depending on My Strength to keep you going. Expect to see some miracles—and you will. Not just anyone can see My miracles, but those who live by faith can see them clearly. When you walk by faith—going step by step with Me—you are able to see My Glory.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 63:2; 2 Corinthians 5:7



December 22

## Do as the Wise Men Did

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.*

—Matthew 2:10–11 (NKJV)

**C**ome and sit with Me for a while. I want you to think about who I really am.

I am the only Son of God. I was born completely human and yet I am completely God—all at the same time. This is a mystery that is beyond your understanding. Rather than trying to figure it out, do as the wise men did. They followed a spectacular star, and then they fell down in humble worship when they found Me.

Praise and worship are the best responses to the wonder of who I am. Sing praises to My holy Name. Gaze at Me in silent worship. Look for a “star” of guidance in your own life, and be ready to follow wherever I lead you. I am the Light from heaven that shines upon you—to guide you along the path of Peace.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Matthew 2:9; Luke 1:78–79

December 23



## Both God and Man

*Come, let us bow down in worship,  
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God.*

—Psalm 95:6–7

I am the King of kings and Lord of lords. I am also your Shepherd, your Companion, and your Friend—the One who never lets go of your hand.

Worship Me in My holy Majesty. Come close to Me, and rest in My Presence. You need Me as both God and Man. Even though I am God, I had to come into this world as a baby and grow into the Man who became your Savior. That's the only way I could meet your biggest need—to be saved from your sins.

Since I was willing to give up all of heaven for you, and to die a terrible death for you—then you can be sure I will give you everything you need. So trust Me as your Savior, Lord, and Friend. Rejoice in everything I have done for you, and My Light will shine through you into the world.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

1 Timothy 6:15–16; Romans 8:32; 2 Peter 1:19



December 24

## Celebrate the Gift

*Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth  
and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.*

—Psalm 90:2 (NLT)

I am eternal. Forever. When I speak, it is from the depths of eternity. Before the world was formed, I AM! And when this world is gone, I will still be the same.

I have come to live inside your heart. I am Christ in you. I, your Lord and Savior, am alive within you! Learn to tune in to My living Presence by seeking Me in quietness.

As you celebrate the wonder of My birth in Bethlehem, remember to celebrate also *your* birth into eternal life. This amazing gift was My purpose for coming into your world. Enjoy My gift with a humble, thankful heart. Take time to explore how huge My Love for you really is. And let My Peace rule in your heart, because you know how much I love you.

### READ ON YOUR OWN

Colossians 1:27; Colossians 3:15