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# *The Days of December*

**DAYS OF GIVING**

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Lana Wynn Scroggins

 GIVING JESUS

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## **DAYS OF GIVING**

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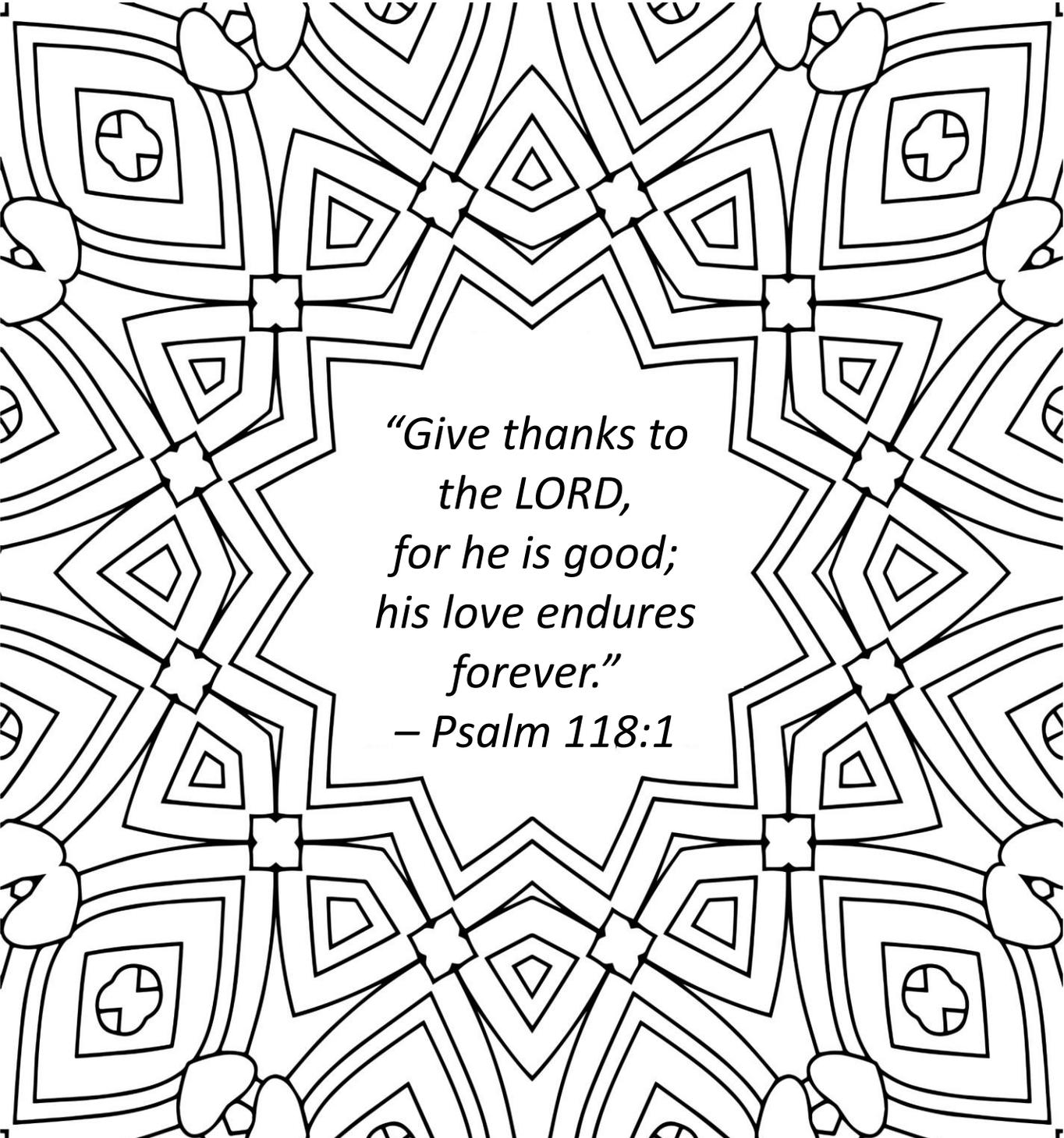
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# *The Days of December*

## **DAYS OF GIVING**

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



*“Give thanks to  
the LORD,  
for he is good;  
his love endures  
forever.”*

*— Psalm 118:1*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today

1

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Generosity Starts with the Heart

Valerie clutched her last five dollars tightly in her sweaty palms. Since being widowed a year ago, every dollar went toward keeping food on the table for her growing sons. She worked two jobs and each night, she crawled into bed exhausted.

She could hold onto her last bit of cash but she thought of her church's homeless fund. "There are others out there with even less," Valerie reminded herself as she dropped the money into the offering box in her church foyer.

A similar situation happened one day when Jesus was visiting the local temple (church).

Many gave with much fanfare, drawing attention to their extravagant gifts. They were seeking acknowledgement and praise from those around them.

But their gifts didn't impress the Messiah at all. Instead, He highlighted a widow who had thrown in two coins. Though she was poor and could use the money for her own household, she gave generously to others.

This story illustrates a simple truth about Jesus: The size of your gift doesn't matter. What does is the intention behind the gift. When you give from your heart, Jesus is delighted with your offering whether it's big or small.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 1

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. — 2 Corinthians 9:7

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." — Luke 21:1-3

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, please let me be a generous giver. Let me give—not to receive praise or recognition—but from a sincere desire to honor You.

### Today's Scripture

Proverbs 19:17 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today

2

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Boomerang Gift

Todd and Nancy were successful business owners. Their friends often joked that the couple had a golden touch. Every project they worked on became successful. One week at a local networking event, Todd and his wife met another couple, Amanda and Paul. They were down on their luck and trying to fund their newest business endeavor. The two couples spent some time talking and even enjoyed a meal together.

When they went home, Nancy turned to Todd. She had the strongest feeling they were meant to invest in Amanda and Paul's business. The next day, they met together for lunch. Todd and Nancy presented the other couple with a check. They explained the money was a gift and not to be repaid. As the years passed, Todd and Nancy forgot about the gift. Then came the day they learned a trusted business partner had embezzled funds from their company and disappeared.

They fought hard but the financial damage was done. They were going to lose everything they owned including their home. While Todd and Nancy struggled with what to do, they received a phone call. Amanda and Paul wanted to meet again at the same restaurant they had all those years ago.

When they arrived, Paul and Amanda presented the other couple with a check. Every penny they'd given plus years of interest. It was enough to give Todd and Nancy time to get back on their financially. Todd and Nancy called the experience a boomerang gift. It was a gift that God had given back to them in their moment of need.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 2

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**

...It is more blessed to give than to receive.' - Acts 20:35

**Today's Tasks**

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” – Luke 6:38

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

Father, You are so gracious! When I'm tempted to hoard my resources, remind me that You are an abundant giver and that You'll meet my needs as they come.

### Today's Scripture

Deuteronomy 15:10 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today

3

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Sharing with Others

Bryan was in the fourth grade when his dad was hurt in a severe car accident. He survived, but he wasn't able to work. He had a long road to recovery ahead that would include multiple surgeries and months of physical therapy.

Overnight, Bryan's life changed. His mom started working long hours, trying to keep a roof over their heads. As the Christmas season neared, the Christmas tree went up but there were no gifts under it.

Bryan's older brother explained that there wasn't enough money to go around. "We'll have Dad and that's the best gift," His brother comforted him.

A few days before Christmas, there was a knock on the door. When Bryan's mom opened it, an older man introduced himself. He explained that he was from a local organization and they wanted to provide Christmas for the family.

Years later, Bryan still remembers that as his best Christmas. Not because of the gifts but because it meant his family hadn't been forgotten.

Now Bryan saves up year round to afford gifts for other families in need. He wants them to know that God sees their situation and cares.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 3

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. - Luke 6:38

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” – Hebrews 13:16

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, please show me a family I could bless this Christmas. I want to be part of comforting families like Bryan's this holiday season.

### Today's Scripture 2 Corinthians 9:10 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today

4

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Whose Day Will You Brighten?

Edith lived a healthy, active lifestyle until a fall changed everything. With a broken hip and her arm badly sprained, she couldn't live on her own any longer. Her son found an assisted living facility a few hours away and helped her move.

Despite her new limitations, Edith remained positive. She quickly made friends with other patients and staff members. But she still had moments when she felt lonely.

One day, a letter came in. It was a sweet note from a young child then another message from a single mom came a week later. Each letter brightened her day but she wasn't sure how the messages were getting to her. She mentioned them to her son who laughed. "There's a website, Mom," he explained, "Where people can write letters to people in assisted living facilities. I knew you were feeling blue, so I signed you up."

When most people think of giving to others, their first thought is financial. But you don't have to give dollars and cents to make a difference. Instead, you can give of your time and attention through writing notes to the elderly or soldiers

You can do this by going online to sites like [LoveForTheElderly.org](http://LoveForTheElderly.org) or [AMillionThanks.org](http://AMillionThanks.org). Both of these websites will show you sample letters and offer suggestions for what to include in your note. You never know whose day you might end up brightening!

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 4

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*  
- Malachi 3:10

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." – Proverbs 11:25**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

**God, let me refresh someone else today. I want to be a blessing to those around me!**

### Today's Scripture

**Proverbs 11:25 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 5

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – When You Encounter a Family in Crisis...

Shelley thrived on routine. She ran several ministries at her local church, looked after her two toddlers, and had a small online business. Despite all of the activities she was juggling, Shelley loved her life.

But everything came crashing down the moment she discovered her husband left town with another woman. He cleaned out the checking account, leaving Shelley penniless. He refused to see his children and wanted nothing to do with his family.

Shelley had never felt so alone and she didn't know what to do next. That's when her community began to step in. A family who lived across the street stocked her fridge and pantry. An elderly couple from her church came over to mow the lawn and trim her hedges. A woman from her preschool group showed up each week with a box of diapers.

Every time Shelley had a need, it was met. She'd spent her life helping others and now, those same people rallied around her, eager to provide for and protect her little family.

Sometimes, helping a family in crisis is hard. You may see all of the things that are needed and feel overwhelmed. That's a natural response. But try to clear your mind and focus on meeting one need at a time. Start with the most urgent like food, shelter, or medication. If possible, rally others to help you start meeting these needs, too.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 5

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. - 2 Corinthians 9:6

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:19

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, sometimes a crisis scares me and I don't know how to help. Please calm my fears and help me to focus on serving each need as it comes.

### Today's Scripture Romans 12:13 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 6

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Paying It Forward

Jeremy's day was off to a rough start. He overslept and was running late. Traffic was worse than usual and his smartphone's battery was dying. He stopped at his usual coffee shop but when he went to pay, the cashier excitedly told him the person before him had already paid his bill.

The act of kindness made Jeremy smile. So, he decided to pay it forward and bought the coffee for the person in line behind him. For the rest of the day, Jeremy tried to look for little ways he could brighten someone else's day.

He helped his co-worker unload the latest inventory, even though it wasn't his turn to do the task. He bought an extra sandwich at lunch for Rebekah, who always ran late and usually ended up skipping her midday meal. Like Jeremy, you can do random acts of kindness as a way of giving back.

If you're stuck for ideas, try doing one of these things:

- Pay for the coffee of the person behind you
- Leave a big tip for your server
- Write a sweet note and put it in your child's backpack.
- Give a stranger a simple compliment.
- Call a friend going through a hard time.

Kindness doesn't cost much and it only takes a few minutes to start a chain reaction.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 6

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. - Proverbs 3:27*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**"Do to others as you would have them do to you." – Luke 6:31**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

**God, help me find little ways to give back to others. I want to cheer up those around me who might be having a bad day.**

### Today's Scripture

**Luke 3:11 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 7

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – When You Need Wisdom

Hannah was a senior in high school. She had good grades and she'd been accepted into several colleges. They were all excellent schools and she knew she'd be happy at any of them. But she didn't know which one to choose.

When she asked her dad for advice, he said the same thing he always said. "Ask God for wisdom, pumpkin." Hannah sighed but sent up a prayer. "God, I could really use some help making this decision. Wisdom would definitely make this easier!"

Then Hannah waited. A few weeks went by with seemingly no answer. Each day that passed made Hannah feel more anxious. Where should she go? Did God not hear her prayers for help?

Hannah was with her mom, shopping for groceries, when an old family friend greeted them. Her mom introduced the woman as her best friend from elementary school. As the two women talked, the topic of college came up.

Her mom's best friend mentioned she had attended the college that Hannah liked and told her about her experience there. As she talked, her mom's friend told such vivid stories that Hannah knew that's where she was meant to go. Like Hannah, you may be wondering what your next step should be. Ask God for wisdom to guide you during this time.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 7

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Every good and perfect gift is from above,  
coming down from the Father of the  
heavenly lights, who does not change like  
shifting shadows. - James 1:17

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask  
God, who gives generously to all without  
finding fault, and it will be given to you.”  
– James 1:5

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I need wisdom. I have to choose  
between different paths and I'm not sure  
what to do. Please show me what  
direction I should go.

### Today's Scripture Matthew 6:26 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 8

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Finding Strength

Sam knew his son wasn't feeling well but he thought his toddler was just fighting off a virus. But after a few days, his son wasn't better and Sam took him to the doctor. The doctor immediately admitted the child to the local children's hospital.

Sam watched helplessly as his little boy became sicker and sicker. His wife became fearful and he didn't know how to comfort her. His other children were scared and kept asking when their brother was coming home. Sam didn't have an answer. He was busy trying to be strong for his family. He didn't want to let them down. But he was scared, too.

After another grueling round of testing, his son finally fell asleep in his wife's arms. Sam slipped out of the tiny hospital room and went to the cafeteria. His stomach twisted at the smell of the food though and he headed outside instead. He walked into the courtyard and fell to his knees. He'd never felt more lost or alone. He wasn't even sure what to pray. That's when he heard a mechanical whir noise and he turned to see an older man in a motorized wheelchair. The man gave Sam a small smile and asked him about his day.

Sam poured out his heart to the stranger, sharing all his fears and his sadness. When he was done, the other man gently encouraged him. By the time, he left to check on his son again, Sam felt refreshed and peaceful. That conversation has given him the strength he needed to keep fighting for his family.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 8

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.”  
– Psalm 29:11

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I need strength to keep going. I feel overwhelmed and I need help. Please give me strength and peace so I can rest in You.

### Today's Scripture Galatians 2:10 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 9

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Giving of Your Time and Energy

One evening Vince was mugged while traveling through a rough neighborhood. The attacker took all of Vince's money only to beat him and leave him for dead. The night was cold and temperatures were expected to dip into the teens. Two cars passed. Each driver saw Vince lying on the pavement but neither would leave the comfort of their car to help him.

Then Richie drove down the street. He was on his way home to have dinner with his family but an accident had forced him to take a different route. Seeing the injured man, he immediately stopped his car and went to him.

Richie grabbed his phone, prepared to call for help when he saw he had no cell reception. So, he did the first thing he could think of. He gently carried the Vince and put him in the passenger seat. Then he drove to a local hospital and stayed until Vince's family arrived to look after him.

Like Richie, the Good Samaritan gave of his time and his energy, not just his money. Sometimes, when you see a need, it's easy to throw money toward it. But it's a different kind of sacrifice to give of your time and energy.

Often, it involves setting aside your plans for the day or evening. Maybe your child had a rough day at school and needs to talk. Perhaps your friend was injured and needs someone to run errands for her. Challenge yourself to a Good Samaritan to someone in need today.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 9

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

*For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. - 2 Corinthians 8:12*

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.” – Luke 10:33-34

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, help me not be so caught up in my to-do list and tasks that I miss helping someone in need. I want to give freely from my time and my energy.

### Today's Scripture Proverbs 3:9 (Write Out)

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 10

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – For the Love of Others

Lauren Puryear is a single mom living in New Jersey. Like many single parents, she works hard to keep food on the table.

Several years ago, her grandmother who was passionate about helping others, died.

Determined to follow in her grandmother's footsteps and show kindness to others, Lauren started handing out food to the homeless in her city. But there was still only so much she could do on her limited budget.

Then one day, she realized she could use coupons and buy items in bulk. Doing this allowed her to make meals for even more people. Many of Lauren's friends were inspired by her action. They began going grocery shopping with her and helped her organize a storage unit.

Lauren even started an organization called For the Love of Others in memory of her grandmother. She's expanding to offer more services to the homeless and needy around her.

God may have given you a passion to meet a need like He did for Lauren. The problem is that your big dream may feel overwhelming at times.

That's when it's important to trust God to provide and focus on serving just the person in front of you.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 10

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“The generous will themselves be blessed,  
for they share their food with the poor.”  
- Proverbs 22:9

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, show me how I can meet the needs of those around me. Give me a passion to reach out to others who need to know that someone cares about them.

### Today's Scripture 1 John 4:16 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 11

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Gift of Immanuel

Harper took a deep breath and let it out slowly as she stared up at the giant tube. She'd had a seizure earlier in the day and her head had hit the asphalt hard. Her doctor didn't think anything was wrong but he'd ordered an MRI anyway.

The medical test involved putting Harper on a small bed and moving the bed into what looked like a small tunnel.

The machine was loud, even with the earplugs she'd been given. The noises made it hard for her to think.

Trying not to let herself worry about the narrow space, she started reciting the names of God to herself. Wonderful Counselor. Prince of Peace. Mighty God. Immanuel.

Harper paused. That name of God meant something special. Then she remembered her grandmother reading her the Christmas story when she was little.

"Immanuel means God is with you wherever you are," Her grandmother had whispered as she wrapped Harper in a thick quilt and tucked her into bed.

The memory made Harper feel warm and safe again. It gave her a sense of peace and kept her calm until the test was over.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 11

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*All day long he craves for more,  
but the righteous give without  
sparing. - Proverbs 21:26*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’” – Matthew 1:23

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, thank You for being with me always!  
Please let me live each day aware of Your  
presence and your unfailing love.

### Today's Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:7 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 12

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – When Generosity Is Contagious...

A few months ago, Betty and her husband heard the news came that her favorite missionary was still overseas and in desperate need of supplies. There was a small collection box set up at the front of the church and Betty was disappointed to see it unfilled week after week.

She talked it over with her husband, James. Despite living on a limited budget, they decided to spend a little bit of money to send a care package. When another member of the church heard about Betty's decision, he added a few things to the box. Then another member wanted to cover the shipping costs. A fourth member rallied even more people to help.

Betty watched in amazement as their tiny little care package became a huge box filled to the brim with supplies and gifts. "Generosity really is contagious," she told her husband as they went to the post office to send it out. In his letter to the Philippian church, Paul mentioned how generously they gave to help him on his mission trip. It wasn't that the people of Philippi were wealthy. It's just that they gave when others wouldn't.

No one was willing to help Paul until one person in the Philippian church said yes. This began a domino effect as someone else also volunteered a gift which prompted a third person to be generous. In the end, the church sent so many gifts that Paul was "amply supplied". Their gifts were sacrifices back to God, a way to honor their Heavenly Father. Will you be the first to start the kindness domino effect in your community or place of worship?

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 12

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. - 1 Chronicles 29:9

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

"I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." – Philippians 4: 18

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, when I'm tempted to hold tightly to my things, help me to remember the importance of giving. I want to live with open hands and an open heart.

Today's Scripture **Philippians 2:13 (Write Out)**

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 13

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Multiplied Meals

It was another busy day of ministry for Jesus. He'd been healing people afflicted with illnesses and diseases. Then He'd taken the time to share stories and parables with the crowd, giving them all of his energy and attention.

As the day wore on, Jesus became tired and ready to retreat. He tried to slip away with His disciples but the crowds continued to follow Him anyway. Looking into the faces of so many, Jesus felt compassion. He longed to gather each person close and whisper how precious they were to him. Instead, He turned to his friends. "Let's feed these people."

His disciples quickly pointed out how expensive feeding the crowd would be. It would take almost half a year's wage, they argued.

That's when a shy boy tugged on Peter's outfit. He glanced down at the kid who gestured for him to bend low. When Peter dropped to his knees, the boy whispered that he'd share his own lunch.

Jesus instructed the disciples to sit then He gave a prayer of thanks. And the meal was multiplied—enough for 5,000 people with leftovers, too!

It can be hard when we feel like the need is so much greater than what we have. Follow the example of the little boy who shared his meal and concentrate on what you can give. Remember, God can and often does multiple your sacrifices.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 13

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. - Proverbs 25:21*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" – John 6:8-9

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I don't always have much to give but it's all Yours. I hold nothing back from Your hand.

### Today's Scripture

Hebrews 13:16 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 14

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Discovering a New Purpose

George lived an active life and he was known around his community as someone that looked out for everyone. But as he aged, George started having trouble taking care of his home and lawn.

His son and daughter-in-law lived several hours away and invited him to move in with them. Although the move relieved some of George's stress, he found himself lonely and wanted something to fill his life.

That's when his daughter-in-law introduced him to knitting. George quickly found he loved the hobby and began knitting to keep busy. It wasn't long before George had a big box filled with projects he'd completed.

He was trying to decide what to do with them when he stumbled across charities that accepted hand-knit items.

The organization, [Knit with Love](#), passes out hats and scarves to the homeless and needy. [Crochet for Cancer](#) is a Christian charity that donates handmade hats (knit or crochet) to cancer patients across the US.

Discovering these foundations gave George purpose again. Now, he knits each day and considers it his part-time ministry.

As he works, George prays for each receiver, that they would know the deep and rich love of God.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 14

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” – Proverbs 19:17

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, help me to use each season of my life to honor You. I long to show the world how much You care. Use me to shine Your love.

### Today's Scripture

Proverbs 10:22 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 15

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Playing Secret Santa

Glenn was a third generation firefighter who loved Christmas. Every year, he and his crew would choose a family in need and provide them with Christmas. It was one of Glenn's favorite traditions.

In order to find a needy family, Glenn and the other firefighters would visit homes around the county, under the guise of checking fire alarms.

This gave them the chance to make sure low-income homes had working smoke detectors and spot people who could use a miracle.

Glenn and his crew found a family in need and made a list of what they'd like to provide. But while they were still making plans, a call came through emergency dispatch. There was a fire at the house of the family they selected.

Although their home was destroyed, each family member was safe and survived. One of his crew members created a fund for the family online and donations poured in. By the time it was Christmas Eve, there were so many donations that the firefighters were able to move the family into a new home.

Look for a way you can quietly bless someone else this Christmas season. It could be a family down the street that lost their income, a single mom in your workplace who's struggling, or a widower who needs to know he hasn't been forgotten.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 15

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. - Psalm 50:10*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” – Matthew 6:3-4

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I want to be a secret Santa to someone. Show me who I can help!

### Today's Scripture

Proverbs 22:7 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 16

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Giving to a Friend

Jonathan and David were the best of friends. Jonathan was King Saul's son but he also loved David. Jonathan must have heard the rumors about David and how he was selected to be the future king of Israel.

It was a position that Jonathan may have looked forward to one day holding.

Perhaps he'd even imagined as a young boy what it would be like to be king over a great nation that God had richly blessed.

But he never showed any malice toward David over this. If anything, Jonathan cared for David as he did his own soul.

He embraced his friend as the future king without letting his ego get in the way.

It can be hard when someone else is promoted in your place. Perhaps your co-worker got the raise you wanted or a friend was publicly commended for an idea that you came up with together.

Be like Jonathan and refuse to become focused on what should have been yours.

Instead, seek to love your friend or co-worker and provide them with what they need to serve God wholeheartedly.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 16

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*Honor your father and your mother,  
as the Lord your God has  
commanded you, so that you may  
live long - Deuteronomy 5:16*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**“Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.” – 1 Samuel 18:4**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

**God, I confess: sometimes, I get so caught up in what I want that I forget Your plans are so much bigger than my own! Help me to be gracious and kind even when others get what I want.**

### Today's Scripture

**Proverbs 22:2 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 17

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Understanding Your Spiritual Gift

Diana had heard of “spiritual gifts”, abilities God gives to a person so they can serve others. But she was never sure what hers was. She wondered if God had even given her one.

One day, she decided to share her concerns with her friend, Carol. The two had met at a meeting for divorced women. At the time, Carol was going through a nasty divorce and Diana took her under her wing. She spent hours listening to Carol’s concerns, showing up at court hearings, and sharing advice. When Diana shared her fear that she didn’t have a spiritual gift, Carol just laughed. “A lot of people miss what their spiritual gift is. That’s because a spiritual gift is sometimes so natural that you’ve been using it your whole life without realizing it.”

Then her friend went on to point out how Diana had a habit of “adopting” women who were going through divorces. “You bring healing to these women. That’s your gift—the gift of healing.”

When Diana thought about it, she realized she’d been helping others find healing for a long time—as a girl, she would care for wounded animals. In college, she’d volunteered at a local hospital, cheering up sick patients.

Now, she worked with divorced women. Like Diana, you may be uncertain of what your spiritual gift is. But know that God has given each of his children a special gift. It delights your Heavenly Father to see you recognize and use your gift!

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 17

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Pray for us. We are sure that we  
have a clear conscience and  
desire to live honorably in every  
way. - Hebrews 13:18

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Each of you should use whatever gift you  
have received to serve others, as faithful  
stewards of God’s grace in its various  
forms.” – 1 Peter 4:10

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, would you reveal to me the spiritual  
gift You shared with me? I want to use it to  
serve others – please show me how to do  
that!

Today's Scripture **Luke 6:20 (Write Out)**

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 18

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – When Giving Is a Struggle

As chief tax collector, Zacchaeus's job was to tax the Israelites living in the Roman Empire. Although it's never expressly stated in Scripture, many believe that Zacchaeus used the job to collect more money than was fair. He took the excess to pad his pockets and live in luxury.

But something happened to change Zacchaeus—the Messiah took notice of him. Sitting in a tree, he'd been hoping for just a glance of Jesus. What he received was an invitation to friendship. When Jesus told Zacchaeus that He wanted to come to his home, Zacchaeus joyfully accepted Jesus. He threw open his doors and served him the best of what he had.

Then Zacchaeus made a bold declaration. He tells Jesus, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Because of his encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus became a giver. Sometimes, giving doesn't feel natural. Maybe you were brought up with a poverty mentality, a belief that there's only so much to go around.

But Zacchaeus shifted his focus from how much he had to how much he'd been given. In light of the grace and friendship he received, Zacchaeus couldn't help but respond in kind. When you focus on the depth and the breadth of God's love, you'll discover that there is often an overflow of abundance.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.—Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 18

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor. - Proverbs 21:21*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**"A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way."  
– Luke 19:2-4**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

**God, I confess: sometimes, I struggle with giving to others. I want to be more generous with my time, attention, and talents.**

### Today's Scripture

**Proverbs 19:17 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 19

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Gift of Music

Darren was a music teacher at a high school. Every year, he took his class on a trip to the Disney Performing Arts Onstage in Orlando, Florida. He loved doing it because he had enjoyed watching the excitement and wonder on the faces of his students.

As the trip neared, Darren urged all of his students to get their parents to sign their parental approval slips. One student, James, a troublemaker, said his slip had been lost so he wasn't able to get it signed. Darren checked up on James and found he was living with distant relatives who didn't care much what happened to the teen. Darren managed to get James's legal guardian to sign an approval form.

But the cost of the trip for each student was still expensive and Darren knew that James's family wouldn't pay for the costs. So Darren talked it over with his wife and they used part of their savings money so that James could go, too. Years later, Darren was grading papers when James showed up at the school. After a few minutes of small talk, James said, "When I was in your class, everyone else had given up on me. They said I was a troublemaker who wasn't worth the effort."

James paused to show Darren a picture from his smartphone of two little girls that were smiling at the camera. He grinned, "I got a music scholarship into a good college. I turned my whole life around. You believed in me back when no one else did. I'll never forget that."

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 19

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. - Psalm 143:8

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." – 2 Corinthians 9:11**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, when I'm tempted to see the worst in people, help me to remember that they may be carrying heavy burdens. Let me be someone who champions the underdog and fights for the oppressed.

### Today's Scripture Revelation 19:17 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 20

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Giving in Honor of Loved Ones

After David was made king over Israel, he remembered Jonathan, his best friend who had died in battle. So, he asked his servants if Jonathan still had family in the kingdom.

When he discovered that Jonathan had a son by the name of Mephibosheth, he sent for him immediately. In Biblical times, when a king from a different family took over, it was common for him to kill the old king's descendants. This prevented a revenge killing and protected the throne.

This made David's invitation to Mephibosheth unusual. As he got closer to his childhood home, Mephibosheth must have felt a variety of emotions including fear, dread, and sadness.

But Mephibosheth quickly found that David longed to show kindness to him, for the sake of his father, Jonathan. His deep love for his friend prompted David's hospitality.

If you've lost a loved one and want to honor their memory, a wonderful way to do that is to donate to a charity in their name. You can do this by choosing a cause that they were passionate about.

If you feel called to do so, you may even want to establish a scholarship or foundation. Giving in someone else's name can be a special way to keep their memory alive.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 20

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Wisdom's instruction is to fear the Lord, and humility comes before honor. - Proverbs 15:33

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Don't be afraid,” David said to him, “for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan.” – 2 Samuel 9:7

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I want to find a way to do something kind in remembrance of [loved one's name]. Please show me how I can honor their memory.

### Today's Scripture James 4:8 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 21

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Least of These

Naomi was clothes shopping with her daughter, Reagan, who was in the third grade.

Her daughter asked for a new backpack and Naomi said, “You already have a perfectly good one at home. If you want a second backpack, you’ll have to pull it out of your allowance fund.”

Reagan thought for a moment, touched the backpack tenderly and carefully counted out her dollars to pay for it.

Later that evening, Naomi went to tuck her daughter into bed. The girl was stuffing notebooks, pens, and other items into the new backpack. “Are you going to take that one tomorrow? Do you need help transferring your things?”

Her daughter shook her head and continued packing. Naomi sighed, “You can’t take two backpacks to school. They’ll be heavy. You should pick one. Maybe rotate them out or something.”

Reagan looked up from her task, “But Mom, this one is for my friend. He doesn’t have any supplies so I told him I’d share some. You said, in this house, we take care of the least of these.”

Naomi laughed, delighted by her daughter’s kindness, “Then come on, we’ll go to the store and find more supplies right now.”

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 21

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:40

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, let my eyes be open to the needs of those around me. I want to show the world how deep and bountiful Your love really is.

### Today's Scripture John 4:24 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 22

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Speaking Life over Others

Peter and John were headed into the local temple (church). Along the path into the church, beggars would often sit beside the road. Since many of them were disabled, the only way they could earn money would be to beg for kindness from the Christians entering the church.

One of the beggars was a man who'd been disabled since birth. He called out to Peter and John for charity. But what happened next changed his life. Peter said, "I don't have money to share with you. But I can share something even better! In the name of Jesus, walk!" Then he helped the beggar to his feet.

The man couldn't stop looking at his feet. He'd spent years staring at them, silently willing them to heal. As a kid he'd begged to wake up with two legs that worked perfectly.

He wiggled his toes. He lifted his foot, taking one halting step and another. Then he broke out into joyful laughter. He started to leap and run, entering the church with such elation that every head turned to stare.

Peter and John had nothing to give to a beggar. Through Jesus, they gave him more than mobility. They gave him hope and a new identity. No longer was he the disabled beggar. He was now a favored child of the Lord. Like Peter, you may not have money to help out someone in need. But you don't have to give money to someone—you can give hope. Do this by speaking life over them and over their dreams.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 22

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



**Today's Promise**  
*Thanks be to God for his  
incredible gift!  
- 2 Corinthians 9:15*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."  
– Acts 3:6

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, put someone who needs encouragement and kindness into my path. I'd like to speak life over a hurting heart today.

### Today's Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:7 (Write Out)

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 23

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Good Works to Do

When Laura was growing up, she spent almost every weekend at her grandfather's home. Early Saturday morning, he would nudge her awake while she was still sleepy. Together, the two would make sticky cinnamon rolls and chat about their lives.

After they were done eating, her grandfather would take her on a walk around the neighborhood.

Often, their walks would lead them to help others. One time, they did lawn work for a widow who'd moved to the area. Another weekend, they cleaned out the gutters for a disabled man.

When Laura was a teenager, she was headed out with her grandfather when she paused to ask him, "What is it we're doing, Grandpa?" Her grandfather laughed, "We're doing the good works we were created to do."

It's tempting to believe that if you're not running a charity or starting a huge foundation that you can't have a lasting impact.

But God has specific good works in mind for you to do. Maybe you'll reach out to a homeless teen in a way that only you could. Maybe you'll bring comfort to an elderly neighbor who's lonely. Whatever your good work, do it with all of your heart.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.—Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 23

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*for God's gifts and his call are  
irrevocable. - Romans 11:29*

**Today's Tasks**  
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**Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection**

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**Today's Encouragement**

**"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."  
– Ephesians 2:10**

**Today I Am Thankful For**

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**Today's Prayer**

**God, it's easy to get so caught up in my life that I forget the good works You've created me to do. Help me to be on the lookout for those I could do a good deed for.**

**Today's Scripture**

**Psalm 37:21 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 24

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – Every Good Gift

Yvette struggled to be generous. She wanted to become more giving but every time she had an opportunity to give, fear entered her heart.

She found herself asking the same question again and again, “What if there’s not enough? What if this is my last paycheck? I’ve been unemployed before.”

Yvette shared her concerns with her counselor. “Am I alone with this? Am I like Scrooge in The Christmas Carol?”

Her counselor handed Yvette a beautiful journal and a pen. “For the next two weeks, I want you to record every single gift God has given you. From each new day to the food you eat, try to write down what you’re receiving.”

The first day, Yvette struggled to come up with blessings. But day by day, it got easier. Pretty soon, she could rattle off dozens of gifts that came her way – from her unborn grandchild’s heartbeat to the feel of the soft grass under her feet, Yvette knew she was blessed.

Then she noticed a curious thing—the more she focused on her blessings, the easier it was to give to others.

When she thought about the abundance God was pouring out on her, it seemed a small thing to share money or time with someone in need.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 24

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

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

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” – James 1:17

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, sometimes I'm tempted to withhold my time, talents, or money from someone else. Let me instead count all of the wonderful gifts You've given to me so that my heart would be gracious.

### Today's Scripture **Philippians 4:19 (Write Out)**

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 25

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – When You Surrender A Dream...

Abraham had spent years, hoping and praying for his son. Despite all of his wealth and his wisdom, a child was still his deepest desire. When Abraham was very old, God granted his request. A son was born and Abraham called him Isaac.

How Abraham and his wife, Sarah doted on the boy! After years of infertility, he was their reminder that God had heard their anguish. Years passed, and one day, God called out to Abraham. He told the wandering nomad to take his beloved son and sacrifice him as an offering. Abraham must have trembled at the request. His chest went tight and he probably thought, “If only God had asked for me! I am old and I have lived a good life. But Isaac, my beloved, is only a boy.”

Despite the pain, Abraham gathered his things and set out on a journey with the child. They arrived at a mountain and just as Abraham was about to sacrifice the son he loved so much, God stopped him. “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!”

Abraham offered God his only son. He was willing to let go of what he’d spent decades hoping for. He got his dream and when the moment came, he was willing to give it all back to God.

It’s easy to give to God what means little to you. When the gift requires sacrificing – giving up the vacation you dreamed of, going to a different college, or moving to a new city – it’s hard to give. But a gift that requires a sacrifice is beautiful and precious to your Heavenly Father.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 25

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great. - Proverbs 18:16*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." – Genesis 22:2

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, I give it all to You—my time, my talents, my job, [your sacrifice]. All of it is for You. Use it as You see fit to bring glory to Your name.

### Today's Scripture

Proverbs 19:17 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 26

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Kindness Rocks Project

Megan Murphy, a woman living in Barnstable, Massachusetts often went to the beach for the peace and calm it gave to her. She'd recently lost both of her parents and the loneliness was crushing.

As she walked on the sand, Megan often found bits of sea glass and rocks. She viewed them as little reminders that her parents were still with her. She wanted to comfort others the way she was comforted, so Megan took a few rocks home and began doodling on them with markers and adding positive messages to each rock. The next day, she returned to the beach and scattered her new creations along the shore.

As other people discovered her rocks, a movement began. People wanted to join in, so Megan started hosting rock decorating events and invited her community to help her.

Now, The Kindness Rocks Project is a global movement. You can see the various rocks that have been painted and discovered when you visit Megan's Instagram profile, [@TheKindnessRocksProject](https://www.instagram.com/TheKindnessRocksProject).

Art can be a wonderful way to give of your time and talents. Whether you're painting rocks for strangers, knitting a sweater for a loved one, or coloring a positive thought for a friend, you can use your art to encourage those around you.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 26

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap...” - Luke 6:38

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“...Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”  
– 1 Thessalonians 5:11

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, when I'm tempted to complain and grumble, help to stop and shift my focus. I want to be someone who lives in continual gratitude. Let me never lose sight of the blessings You've poured out on me.

### Today's Scripture 1 Chronicles 16:34 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 27

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – From Your Abundance

Nathan was devastated when his wife abandoned him and their young daughters. Although his parents lived on a fixed income, they welcomed Nathan and his daughters with love and compassion.

A few weeks after the move, Nathan lost his job. Until then, they'd been scraping by but he knew he had to find another job soon. He sent out resumes, went to a few interviews, and heard "we'll call you" more times than he could count.

When a neighbor heard about the family's difficulties, she shared their story with her local church. The congregation was moved but their benevolent fund for the year was already depleted.

Still, one member volunteered to bring over a few home-cooked meals. Another said she had clothes her children had outgrown that would be perfect for the girls. An older man said he might know of job that would work well for Nathan's unusual situation.

One by one, those in the church service pledged their help to the needy family. Each member decided to share from their abundance so that Nathan and his children wouldn't have to do without.

Giving doesn't have to be about giving huge amounts of money away or donating fancy cars. Sometimes, it's just about looking at the resources you have and finding a way to share them with another in need.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 27

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. - James 4:6"

**Today's Tasks**

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

**"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they shared with anyone who was in need." – Acts 2:44-45**

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

**God, please show me what areas of my life You've blessed with abundance. I want to take the extra blessing and pay it forward to someone else.**

### Today's Scripture

**John 14:15-16 (Write Out)**

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*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 28

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – The Gift of a Father's Presence

Michael took his three-year-old daughter to the park to play. He watched from a bench while the little girl happily toddled around the slide, enjoying time with her friends.

He glanced down at his smartphone, anxiously waiting on a call from his wife. They'd just learned that she had a serious health condition and would need surgery soon. The question that'd been haunting him since the diagnosis came to mind again.

"Why? Why my family? We try to be good people. My wife's a good person. Please show me that You care about me!" he whispered. But no one seemed to answer him and Michael felt his heartbreak all over again.

Before he could continue to ponder, he heard a little girl whimper. Michael looked up to see a small blonde girl sitting up from the dirt with a scraped knee. Instantly, the other dad ran to his daughter who was crying and pulled her close.

"Daddy's here, Daddy's here," He said over the squealing toddler as he rocked her back and forth.

Those four words rocked Michael to his core. He'd always assumed God was quiet during times of stress and chaos in his life. He imagined God gathering him up into His arms and whispering those same words as he cried out in pain, "Daddy's here. Daddy's here."

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 28

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, ... - 2 Corinthians 9:11

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort...”  
– 2 Corinthians 1:3

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, sometimes my pain makes me feel alone. In those moments, help me to feel Your arms wrapping around me and holding on.

### Today's Scripture Ecclesiastes 5:19 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 29

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – A Rich Inheritance

Mallory had bounced around from foster home to foster home. She'd never known what it was like to have a stable family, to have a father who lovingly tucked a blanket around her or a mother who tenderly cared for her during a cold.

She found herself feeling left out, always on the outside longing to be let in. Until the day the Brooke and her family moved in the apartment across the hall from Mallory.

Although Brooke was busy caring for her young sons and helping her husband build a business, she felt drawn to help Mallory.

Knowing the younger woman was alone prompted Brooke to invite her to join her family during the Thanksgiving holiday. That holiday dinner quickly turned into weekly dinners. As time passed, Mallory found the hole that had always been in her heart was slowly closing.

When one of her foster fathers passed away, Mallory felt sad. It was a reminder of what the strength and stability of a father, a love that she hadn't received as a child. She shared her feelings with Brooke. "The only inheritance I have is brokenness and pain."

Brooke wrapped her arms around Mallory in a tight hug, "Your Heavenly Father has left to you a rich inheritance, one that's filled with all the love and compassion in the world."

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 29

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



**Today's Promise**  
*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. - Romans 12:11*

**Today's Tasks**  
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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”  
– 1 Peter 1:3-4

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, help me to remember that You are the One who surrounds the lonely and the outcasts with love. Let me be an instrument of that love for someone else.

### Today's Scripture

Psalm 23:6 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 30

*This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*



### Today's Devotion – God's Positioning System

Lacey and Tabitha headed out of town for a girl's weekend at the lake. They had found a cabin for rent in Maine on the water and they were looking forward to spending time together, just relaxing and having fun.

The lake was in a remote area and Lacey's GPS that she'd brought along began to malfunction. Instead of showing them the entire path, it would only show them the very next step they were supposed to take. At first, this troubled Tabitha. She held the steering wheel in a white-knuckle grip, afraid to get lost in the remote mountains.

But Lacey just laughed. "It's like trusting God with my publishing journey. You're not going to stop driving just because we can't see the cabin. I'm not going to stop writing just because I haven't been published yet."

Tabitha let out a shaky breath and didn't move her eyes from the road, "Well, I'd rather see the complete journey at once, kind of an overview from God so I know what to expect."

"Wouldn't that be kind of missing the point?" Lacey fiddled with the GPS setting, "God already knows the path you're meant to walk."

It's easy to panic when you can't see the future. But you can rest secure in the knowledge that God has promised you a future and a hope. He's already gone before you and knows what you need on your journey. Your only job is to follow step by step, even if you don't understand or can't see what's going to happen next.

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17*

# The Days of December

## DAYS OF GIVING

Today 30

This is the day the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24



### Today's Promise

That each of them may eat and drink,  
and find satisfaction in all their toil—  
this is the gift of God. - Ecclesiastes 3:13

### Today's Tasks

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### Today's Devotion – Notes for Reflection

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### Today's Encouragement

“For I know the plans I have for you,”  
declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you, plans to give you  
hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11

### Today I Am Thankful For

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### Today's Prayer

God, sometimes I can't see what's coming  
next and that freaks me out. Help me to  
trust You when I can't see the future.

### Today's Scripture Psalm 50:23 (Write Out)

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And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the  
Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. —Colossians 3:17





# *The Days of December*

## **DAYS OF GIVING**

## **About the Author**



*Originally from Harrison, Arkansas. Lana graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a BA degree in physical education. She worked with many families during the years as a helper and nanny for many children. She has a heart and love for children. She worked as a physical education teacher at Faith Christian School for a year when she moved to Port St. Joe.*

*After many years of working with children, while living in Port St. Joe, she went back to school and graduated from Kaplan University with her BS degree in information technology and her MS degree in information technology. She is currently working on her PhD in information technology with a specialization in IT education.*

*Today Lana resides in a small coastal community, loves living by the water and walking on the beach. Her days are centered on her faith, her business [www.givingjesus.com](http://www.givingjesus.com) and writing her books. Her favorite pastime is coloring and creating her craft projects.*

*Her favorite quote to live by is "Every strike brings me closer to the next home run" (Babe Ruth).*

**[www.givingjesus.com](http://www.givingjesus.com)**