



# CHRISTMAS

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL



*God so loved the world that he gave his  
one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him  
will not die but will have eternal life.*

**John 3:16**

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DERRICK

Hello Friends! Who can believe another Christmas is already here? Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. During my childhood I remember my greatest memories being when my family spent time together. I loved spending time with my family. Christmas was about family. Christmas was about love. Christmas was about taking time from all the busyness of life and connecting with the ones you love.

Much like every kid in the world, as a young boy, I would often get focused on receiving gifts at Christmas. Many times I would forget that Christmas was not about my gifts but rather about God's gift to me. I remember every year my grandmother reading Isaiah 9:6 to me. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." She used this scripture to remind me of the true meaning of Christmas.

My prayer is that this Christmas Family Devotional will be a blessing to your family. I pray that you take time during this very busy season and connect with your kids. Your child needs you. There are so many things that distract from the true meaning of Christmas. Realizing that every family is different, we have included many options for creating special memories for your family. I can't encourage you enough to share stories, sing songs, make Christmas treats, read scriptures, ask questions and most importantly take time to pray with your kids.

While I would love for you to do everything in this devotional, just doing a few will be a transformational step in helping your child keep Christ at the heart of their Christmas.

I am thankful to be on this journey with your family. I pray you have a wonderful Christmas season with your children.  
From my family to yours, Merry Christmas.



**Derrick Skelton**  
**KID's Pastor • First Baptist Orlando**



M A R Y

# WEEK 1

**Character:** Mary, Mother of The Gift

**Virtue:** Love

**Bottom Line:** Mary loved God, we should love God!

## Key Memory Verse:

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you."

**Luke 1:30**

## Who Was Mary?

- We believe she was a teenager, between the ages of 12-14
- She was born into a poor family from the insignificant town of Nazareth
- God had taken note of her and was delighted
- She was willing to be available to God
- She showed unconditional love to God and her family.

## Read This:

### **Luke 1:26-38**

*"In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, 'The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.'"*

*Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end."*

*"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin." The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true." "I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would" Then the angel left her."*

## **Ask This:**

### **Questions for Your Family:**

**Preschool & Special Needs:** Who appeared to Mary? What did the visitor say? What was the baby's name?

**K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** What did the angel tell Mary? Why did God choose Mary?

**Preteen:** Do you think it was hard for Mary to overcome her fear and trust God? What are some ways we struggle with fear when God calls upon us?

## Play This:

"Mary Did You Know"  
By King Digital Media

**CLICK HERE**  
to listen on Youtube!

## Do This:

### *God's Love Challenge!*

Decide on ways you can share the love of Jesus with those around you, starting with your neighborhood! As a family, bake some cookies for your neighbors or leave a gift/note for your mail carrier. Be sure to include John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

You'll be surprised at how small acts of service can be the biggest blessing to others during the Christmas season. What a great way to show God's love to others!





## Cook This:

### *Love Drops* *White Chocolate Peppermint Drops*

**Prep Time**  
1 hr 50 mins

**Cook Time**  
20 mins

**Yields**  
Aprox. 18

#### **Ingredients**

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 stick unsalted butter, at room temp  
1/3 cup sugar  
6 ounces white chocolate, chopped  
1 large egg  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
4 teaspoons heavy cream  
1 to 2 drops peppermint extract  
1 candy cane or 6 hard peppermint  
candies, roughly crushed

# RECIPE

Love Drops

## Directions:

1. Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Place one-third of the white chocolate in a small microwave-safe bowl; microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring, until melted. Set aside to cool slightly. Whisk the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl. Beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl with a mixer on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Beat in the melted white chocolate until smooth, then beat in the egg and vanilla. Reduce the mixer speed to low; add the flour mixture in 2 batches and beat until combined. Beat in half of the remaining chopped white chocolate. Roll heaping tablespoonfuls of dough into balls and arrange about 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets. Bake the cookies, switching the position of the pans halfway through, until the edges are slightly golden, about 15 minutes. Let cool 3 minutes on the baking sheets, then transfer to a rack to cool completely.

2. Make the glaze: Microwave the remaining chopped white chocolate (you can use the same bowl as before) in 30-second intervals, stirring, until melted; stir in the heavy cream, and peppermint extract to taste. Dip the tops of the cookies in the glaze and return to the rack. Sprinkle with the crushed candy cane and let set, about 1 hour.



[illegible]





J O S E P H

## WEEK 2

**Character:** Joseph, father of the gift.

**Virtue:** Trust

**Bottom Line:** Joseph trusted God, we should trust God!

### Key Memory Verse:

"The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit."

**Matthew 1:20b**

### Who Was Joseph?

- Joseph was a carpenter
- He was most likely 16-18 years old
- There are no spoken words by Joseph in the Bible
- Joseph trusted God

## Read This:

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

*"This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly.*

*But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."*

*All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said*



through the prophet, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." The name Immanuel means "God with us."

Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus."

## Ask This:

### Questions for your family:

**Preschool & Special Needs:** Who appeared to Joseph? What did the visitor in his dream say? What was the baby's name?

**K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** What did the angel tell Joseph to do? What did the angel say that Mary's baby would do?

**Preteen:** Why did God send Jesus to Mary and Joseph? Why was Joseph afraid? What can you learn from Joseph?

## Play This:

"Strange Way to Save the World"  
By 4Him

**CLICK HERE**  
to listen on Youtube!

## Do This:

### *Pass the Ornament*

Sit in a circle with your family. Find a Christmas ornament that can be passed around the circle. Let each family member pass the Christmas ornament. When you are holding the ornament share a time when you were afraid and had to trust God. Talk about how you trust God to overcome your fears.

## Cook This:

### *Family Fun Peppermint Fudge*

**Prep Time**  
20 mins

**Cook Time**  
2 hrs

**Total Time**  
2 hrs 20 mins

### **Ingredients:**

4 tablespoons salted butter melted  
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk★  
3 cups high quality milk chocolate chips

1 teaspoon vanilla or peppermint extract  
1 cup Andes peppermint crunch chips or crushed peppermint

**Instructions:**

1. Line an 8 x 8 pan with parchment and set aside.
2. In a large microwave safe bowl, add the butter and melt.
3. Pour in the sweetened condensed milk on top of the butter and whisk to combine.
4. Add in the chocolate chips and stir.
5. Microwave in bursts of 15 seconds stirring in between each burst for 10 seconds until the mixture is melted.
6. Remove and add in the extract. Stir
7. Spoon into the prepared 8 x 8 pan and smooth to make the fudge even.
8. Top with the crunch chips or crushed peppermint.
9. Cover and place in the fridge for about 2-3 hours until set up.

**Recipe Notes:**

\*Make sure you have sweetened condensed milk and not evaporated milk. Do not use a lower fat version or it won't set up correctly. Cook time refers to chilling time.

# Our Family's Prayer Requests:

A large white rounded rectangle with horizontal lines for writing prayer requests. The rectangle is centered on the page and has a soft shadow. It contains 15 horizontal lines, providing space for a family to write their prayer requests.





S H E P H E R D S

## WEEK 3

**Character:** Shepherds, honored the gift.

**Virtue:** Honor

**Bottom Line:** Shepherds honored God, we should honor God!

### Key Memory Verse:

"Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**Luke 2:15**

### Who Were The Shepherds?

- Shepherds watched over a small group of sheep alone
- Shepherds would find sheep that were lost and bring them back to pasture
- They took special care of baby lambs
- They named each sheep with a specific characteristic in a small flock
- Shepherds went to Bethlehem to see and honor Jesus

## Read This:

### **Luke 2:8-18**

*There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"*



*The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them."*

## **Ask This:**

### **Questions for Your Family:**

**Preschool & Special Needs** - Where did the shepherds go? Where was the baby lying?

**K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - Why did the shepherds decide to go to Bethlehem? Once they saw the baby, what did they do?

**Preteen** - What can we learn from the shepherds?

## Play This:

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"  
By Upbeat Kids Worship

**CLICK HERE**  
to listen on Youtube!

## Do This:

### *Sheep Hunt Pretend Game*

Have the children pretend to be sheep who are hiding. Parents pretend to be the Shepherd looking for the lost sheep. Take turns reversing these roles. Talk to your children about how we are often like sheep and how Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

## Cook This:

### *Shepherd's Pie*

**Prep Time**  
20 mins

**Cook Time**  
1hr 25mins

**Yields**  
6-8



## Ingredients:

### *For Potatoes*

1 1/2 lb. potatoes, peeled  
Kosher salt  
4 tbsp. melted butter  
1/4 c. milk  
1/4 c. sour cream  
Freshly ground black pepper

### *For Beef Mixture*

1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil  
1 large onion, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled and chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 tsp. fresh thyme  
1 1/2 lb. ground beef  
1 c. frozen peas  
1 c. frozen corn  
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour  
2/3 c. low-sodium chicken broth  
1 tbsp. freshly chopped parsley,  
for garnish

# RECIPE

Shepherd's Pie



## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Make mashed potatoes: In a large pot, cover potatoes with water and add a generous pinch of salt. Bring to a boil and cook until totally soft, 16 to 18 minutes. Drain and return to pot.
2. Use a potato masher to mash potatoes until smooth. Add melted butter, milk, and sour cream. Mash together until fully incorporated, then season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
3. Make beef mixture: In a large, oven proof skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add onion, carrots, garlic, and thyme and cook until fragrant and softened, 5 minutes. Add ground beef and cook until no longer pink, 5 minutes more. Drain fat.
4. Stir in frozen peas and corn and cook until warmed through, 3 minutes.
5. Sprinkle meat with flour and stir to evenly distribute. Cook 1 minute more and add chicken broth. Bring to a simmer and let mixture thicken slightly, 5 minutes.
6. Top beef mixture with an even layer of mashed potatoes and bake until there is very little liquid visible and mashed potatoes are golden, about 20 minutes. Broil if desired.
7. Garnish with parsley before serving.

[illegible]



J E S U S

## WEEK 4

**Character:** Jesus, is the Gift!

**Virtue:** Hope

**Bottom Line:**

Jesus is hope, we should share the hope!

### Key Memory Verse:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11

### Who Was Jesus?

- He had a big family with lots of siblings to name a few James, Joseph, Simon and Jude
- Jesus was a professional carpenter, just like his father Joseph
- He was baptized in the Jordan river by his cousin, John the Baptist
- He knew how to cook
- He was a good storyteller
- He spoke up for kids

## Read This:

### **Luke 2:11-14**

*"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"*

## Ask This:

### **Questions for Your Family:**

**Preschool & Special Needs:** Who is the gift God gave us?

**K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Why did God send Jesus? How can you share the gift of Jesus with others?

**Preteen:** How did God's gift, Jesus, change the world for us?



## Play This:

"Away in a Manger"  
By Pentatonix

**CLICK HERE**  
to listen on Youtube!

## Do This:

### *Sharing God's Gift*

Have kids draw/color a picture of Jesus in the manger, write "God's Gift for You". When you go out to eat together as a family at your favorite restaurant, leave the drawing together with a generous tip for your table server.

## Cook This:

### *The Gift Shaped Cupcakes*

**Prep Time**  
30 mins

**Cook Time**  
20 mins

**Total Time**  
50 mins

Invite your kids to help bake your favorite cupcake recipe. Decorate it as a gift and have the kids share it with neighbors, family and friends that Jesus is God's gift.

## Decorative Materials:

- Red Foil Baking Cups
- Primary Color Confetti Quins
- 2 #45 Flat Decorating Tip
- 2 piping bags
- 3/4 oz Red Red Gel Paste Food Coloring
- 3/4 oz Leaf Green Gel Paste Food Coloring
- Red and Green Christmas Bow Cupcake Topper Rings\*

\***CLICK HERE** to purchase Christmas cupcake toppers on Amazon!

## Instructions:

Bake your cupcakes in the red foil liners and decorate with white icing making the tops smooth with a spatula. Fill piping bags with red and green buttercream to match the novelty bow rings. Place a number #45 flat piping tip on each bag. Pipe a cross on each cupcake to match the bow color. Place confetti sprinkles on each cupcake to make a polka dot print. Place a novelty bow ring on each cupcake to finish.

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There are 20 evenly spaced horizontal lines across the page. The paper is set against a dark green background.



WISEMEN

## WEEK 5

**Character:** Wise Men, worshiped the Gift

**Virtue:** Worship

**Bottom Line:** Wisemen worshiped Jesus, the Gift; we should worship Jesus, the Gift!

### Key Memory Verse:

"We saw his star when it rose. Now we have to come to worship him."

**Matthew 2:2b**

### Who Were the Wisemen?

- Wise men are also known as Magi.
- Their names were: Melchor, Gaspar, and Baltasar
- They followed the star to find Jesus
- They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh
- They came to worship the newborn King
- Wise men were distinguished foreigners

## Read This:

### **Matthew 2:1-12**

*"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."*

*When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied.*

*"This is what the prophet has written. He said, "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.'" Then, Herod secretly called*

*for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."*

*After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road."*

## Ask This:

**Preschool & Special Needs** - Who saw the star and what did they do?

**K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - What did the wise men follow to find Jesus? What did they do when they saw Jesus?

**Preteen** - What did it mean when the star rose? Why did the wise men worship Jesus?

## Play This:

"We Three Kings"  
By Kirk Franklin | The Star

**CLICK HERE**  
to listen on Youtube!

## Do This:

### **Follow The Star**

God put a special star in the sky so that the Wisemen could find Jesus. Cut a star out of paper and work together to decorate it. With your newly decorated star your family can play "follow the star". Take turns holding the star and ask others to follow you. Take turns being the leader, making your routes adventurous and fun!



## Cook This:

### *Three Kings Bread*

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 Lemon, Zest of large
- 1 Lemon
- 1 Lime
- 1 Mandarin orange
- 2 Navel oranges, Zest of large

#### *Refrigerated*

- 1 Egg yolk mixed with, large
- 4 Eggs, large

#### *Baking & Spices*

- 1 packet Active-dry yeast
- 5 cups All-purpose flour
- 1 tsp Anise seed
- 2 3/4 cup Granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- 1 tbsp Vanilla extract

#### *Dairy*

- 1/2 cup Butter
- 1 1/2 cups Heavy whipping cream
- 1/3 cup Nestle la lechera sweetened condensed milk

#### *Liquids*

- 2 2/3 cup Water



## Instructions:

1. **STIR** the water and yeast and let stand for 10 minutes in a warm place.
2. **COMBINE** flour, sugar, orange zest, lemon zest, anise seed and salt in large mixer bowl. Add eggs, butter, yeast mixture and vanilla extract. Mix together with dough hook or by hand until a soft, smooth dough is formed.
3. **PLACE** dough on lightly floured surface; knead gently for about 5 minutes. Shape into a ball. Place in large greased bowl; turn over. Cover with greased plastic wrap. Let rise in warm place for about 2 hours or until doubled in size.  
*(This is when the candied citrus should be made.)*
4. **PUNCH** dough down. Form the wreath by rolling dough into a disk, and then use your hand to make a hole in the center. Place on large, parchment lined baking sheet (may need to use it upside down) and continue to shape the wreath. Lift up one area and insert the figurine, bean or coin that has been wrapped in wax paper by pushing it up through the bottom. Smooth out lumps or tears from surface of dough.

Cover with greased plastic wrap. Allow to rise in warm place for another 45 minutes until almost doubled in size.

5. **PREHEAT** oven to 350° F.

6. **BRUSH** wreath with egg wash. Decorate it with candied citrus.

7. **BAKE** for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown and sounds hollow when tapped. Cool on baking sheet for 10 minutes; remove to wire rack to cool completely.

*(At this point prepare the whipped cream.)*

8. **WHEN** completely cooled, use a bread knife and carefully slice through the wreath horizontally. Spread whipped cream evenly on bottom piece of wreath. Top gently with top half. Best served immediately after adding whipped cream.

### **To make the candied citrus:**

1. **SLICE** mandarin, lime and orange thinly (should have about 18 slices). Carefully remove any seeds.

2. **PREPARE** a large bowl with ice and water.

3. **BRING** a medium saucepan of water to boil.

Add sliced citrus and boil for 90 seconds. Remove slices from saucepan and place in ice water for 3 minutes. Drain.

4. **PLACE** sugar and water in a medium skillet. Bring to a simmer over medium heat until sugar is dissolved. Add citrus slices in a single layer and reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer, turning occasionally, for 1 hour or until skin is translucent. Remove slices and allow to cool on a wire rack.

**To make the sweetened whipped cream:**

1. **BEAT** cream in a chilled bowl until stiff peaks form. Fold in sweetened condensed milk.



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The paper has rounded corners at the top and bottom. There are 20 evenly spaced horizontal lines across the page. The paper is set against a solid blue background.

