

Dwelling Richly
COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY



Let Every Heart

Prepare Him Room

Advent Devotional
Dwelling Daily
in the Word





"Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16

Dwelling Richly

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Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

When it comes to entering into the holiday season there are different kinds of people.

Those who are giddy and delighted – you’ve been thinking about this since late-summer, already shopping for fall and even Christmas décor. You’ve got pumpkin spice *something* in your fridge, you have a box of seasonal mugs ready to swap out for your tea or coffee time, and you have all your outfits ready with matching accessories to get you from the Harvest party to Thanksgiving all the way through Christmas and maybe even on to New Years.

Then there’s those who just let the season happen as it comes feeling either a little blasé about it all, content to let it happen with or without any change of décor. You may still have a carved pumpkin on your porch that now looks more like a moldy science project than a Jack-o-lantern. You’ll decorate... or maybe you won’t.

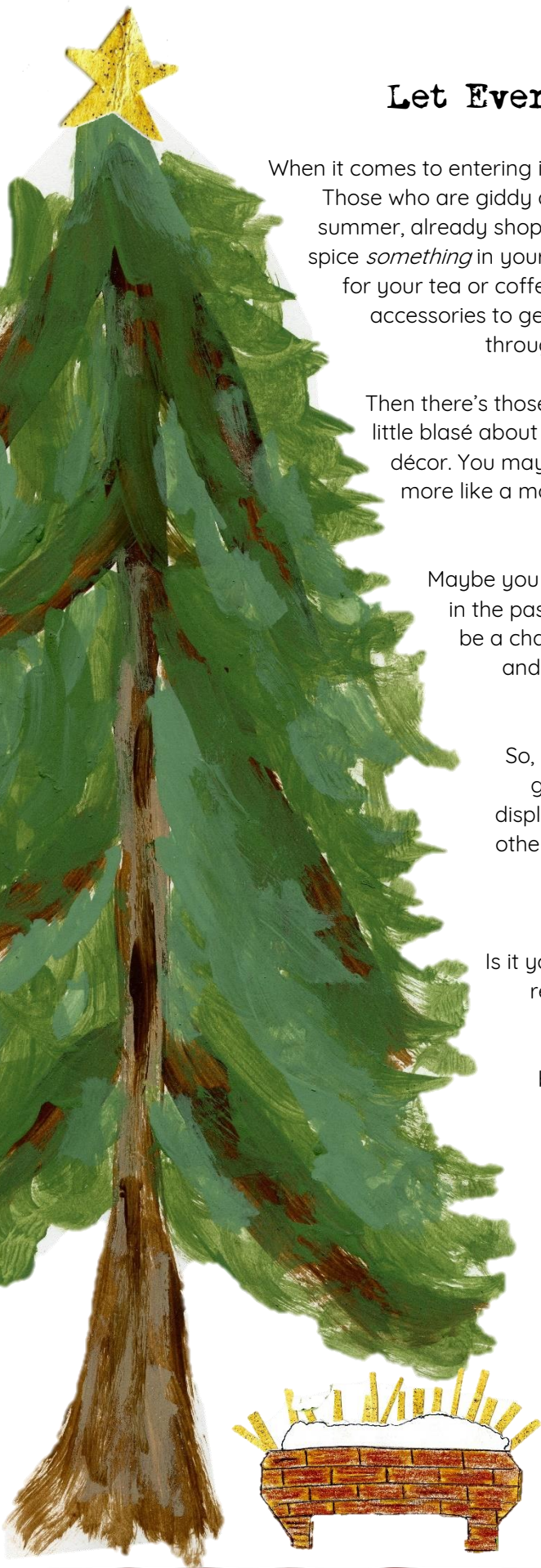
Maybe you are among those who feel dread anticipating what has been in the past a difficult season or thinking ahead to what you feel might be a challenging time this year. You know the days will come and go, and you’ll get through it with or without stringing any lights or changing any pillow covers.

So, here we are, a few days away from the swing of things. The giddy have their porches festooned with colorfully themed displays drumming their happy fingers together in approval while others are blithely sipping their coffee as the calendar pages turn no matter their state of readiness... and what does *readiness* look like?

Is it your lovely home? Your perfect porch? Is it awful if neither are ready? Whether your home is ready for a spread in a home décor magazine or not, the only readiness that ultimately matters is the same that mattered yesterday before the season began and the only place that will matter when the last light gets put back in the holiday storage box ...your heart.

I invite you to bring your heart into this season to set aside a few moments a day...breathe, pray, open your heart to what God has for you as you see anew and let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Let this be a season when you bring your hopes and your fears and let them be found in Him in your quiet time.

Enjoy this devotional study as a guide to help center and ready your heart on the most important light, the Light of the world – Jesus Christ.



How to Approach this Devotional Study

For the next few weeks we'll be dwelling in God's Word making room in our heart for our Savior and allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us.

It's a devotional - but it's different.

Instead of a daily "devotional thought" to read, this devotional will give you a daily passage from God's living Word to read.

Let the Word be your guide.

Instead of connecting the dots for you in summary devotional paragraph, this devotional gives you space to write out the prompting God brings to your own heart from His Word.

Let the Spirit be your Teacher.

Here's how to approach this devotional study:

- 1) **Pray.** Take the time to speak to the Father and let Him speak to you. Be thoughtful and intentional in this opening time and let it set the tone for your time in the Word.
- 2) **Memorize.** Each week you'll have a verse to memorize. Read, write, meditate on that verse throughout the week. Highlight the verse in your Bible. Write it on a sticky note. Keep those words before you all week and let those words dwell in you.
- 3) **Dwell.** Read the passage for that day with a heart first to see God. As you read ask, "How can I know God better?"

A new week of readings will be available on Sundays through the first week of the new year. Here's how you can get the next week's devotional study:

- ...pick up at La Mirada Church
- ...print from either LaMiradaChurch.com or JenniferGRichmond.com
- ...in your email inbox (Email Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com to register. Subject: "Advent Devotional")

Contact me with any questions or comments:

Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

562.755.4964

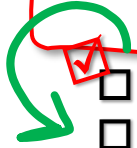
Blessings in Christ,

Jennifer

Advent Readings Week One

Memorize & Meditate

John 8:12



- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and see God. Grow in your willingness to let His Word be a light to you. Avoid the tendency to look for a “feel good” idea in the passage. Instead, get to know God and let Him teach you.

----- **This Week's Focus: The Light** -----

Day One

Read Genesis 1:1-5

Reading this I am reminded that...

*Reminder: this devotional is about seeing God, knowing God, understanding God.
Any truths you apply to your own life should first come from a better understanding of who God is*

Day Two

Read Psalm 27:1

Reading this I am reminded that...



Advent Readings Week One

Day Three

Read Ephesians 5:6-17
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

Read Psalm 139:11-12
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

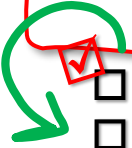
Review any of the passages from this week and write an encouraging letter to yourself about what it means that Jesus is the light of the world and your own life.



Advent Readings Week Two

Memorize & Meditate

3 John 1:11



- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and *see God*. Grow in your willingness to let His Word be a light to you. Avoid the tendency to look for a “feel good” idea in the passage. Instead, get to know God and let Him teach you.

This Week's Focus: God is Good

Day One

Read Genesis 1:31

Reading this I am reminded that...

Reminder, this devotional is about seeing God, knowing God, understanding God. Any truths you apply to your own life should first come from a better understanding of who God is



Day Two

Read Psalm 34:8

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Three

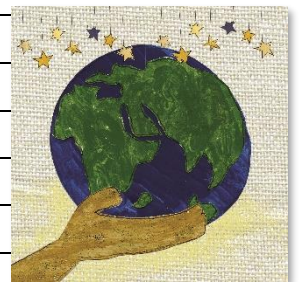
Read Lamentations 3:22-25
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

Read Luke 2:9-11
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

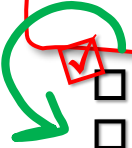
Review any of the passages from this week and consider how truly knowing God as “good” should impact your life today.



Advent Readings Week Three

Memorize & Meditate

Matthew 1:22-23



- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and see God. Grow in your willingness to let His Word be a light to you. Avoid the tendency to look for a “feel good” idea in the passage. Instead, get to know God and let Him teach you.

— . . . — **This Week's Focus:** Promise Made-Promise Kept . . . — . . .

Day One

Read Genesis 9:1-17

Reading this I am reminded that..

*Reminder, this devotional is about seeing God, knowing God, understanding God.
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Day Two

Read Micah 5:1-4

Reading this I am reminded that..

Day Three

Read Romans 1:2-4
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

Read Matthew 1:18-25
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

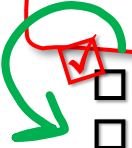
This week's focus has been on the faithfulness of God in keeping His promises.
How does knowing this truth about God impact your life today?



Advent Readings Week Four

Memorize & Meditate

Psalm 25:5



- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and *see God*. When you read to know God you'll grow and mature in your faith. As you read this week, ask God to help you see areas you need to repent and grow. Trust God to teach you through His word.

----- **This Week's Focus: Waiting Well** -----

Day One

Read Genesis 15:1-6

Reading this I am reminded that..

*Reminder, this devotional is about seeing God, knowing God, understanding God.
Any truths you apply to your own life should first come from a better understanding of who God is*



Day Two

Read Psalm 25:1-5

Reading this I am reminded that..

Day Three

Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12, 39-40
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

Read Luke 1:26-55
Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

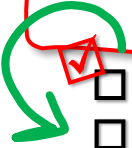
This week's focus has been on waiting well. Consider the promises of God as well as the time those who trust Him must wait.
How does knowing this truth about God impact your life today?



Advent Readings Week Five

Memorize & Meditate

Psalm 25:5



- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and *see God*. When you read to know God you'll grow and mature in your faith. Readings this week focus on the truth and power in the names God gives. Consider this as you read each day.

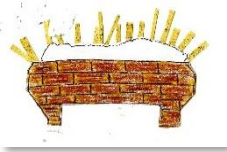
This Week's Focus: Names and Covenants

Day One

Read Genesis 17:1-21

Reading this I am reminded that..

*Reminder, this devotional is about seeing God, knowing God, understanding God.
Any truths you apply to your own life should first come from a better understanding of who God is*



Day Two

Read Isaiah 9:6

Reading this I am reminded that..

Day Three

Read Philippians 2:6-11

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

Read Luke 1:31-35

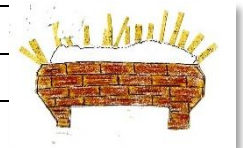
(A closer reading from last week - consider especially the names in this account.)

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

This week's focus has been on the significance of names in the Bible and their connections with God's covenant..

How does knowing this truth about God impact your life today?



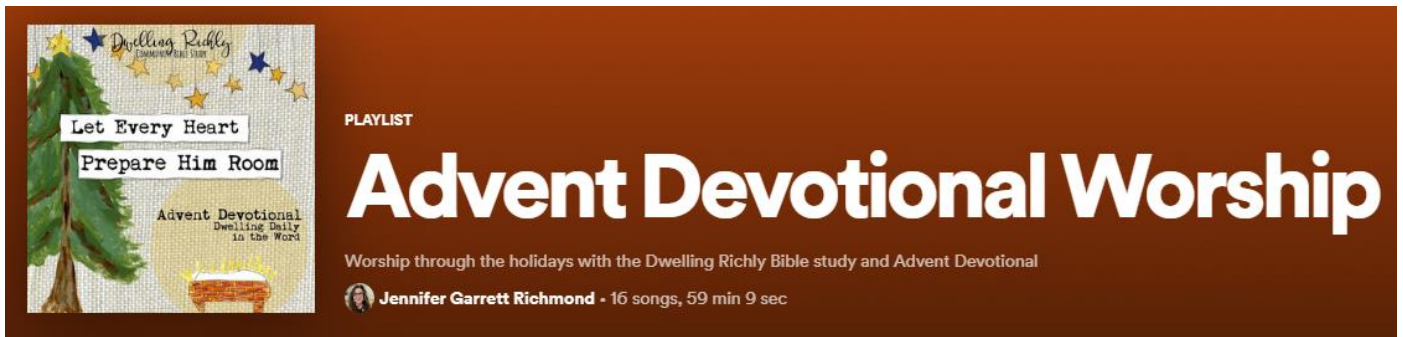
This is the final week of our advent devotional.

Thank you for joining me through God's Word.

Please enjoy this special playlist on Spotify created with this devotional in mind to bless you through the remainder of the year and into 2022.

Spotify search "Advent Devotional Worship"
(or click here through the online PDF version)

<https://lamiradachurch.online/AdventDevotionalWorship>



PLAYLIST

Advent Devotional Worship

Worship through the holidays with the Dwelling Richly Bible study and Advent Devotional

Jennifer Garrett Richmond - 16 songs, 59 min 9 sec

Advent Readings Week Six

Memorize & Meditate

Revelation 5:13b



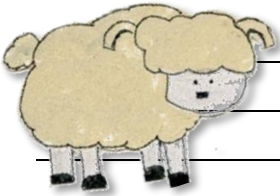
- Pray.** Open with prayer each day before you begin.
- Memorize.** Write the verse and review it each day.
- Dwell.** Read and *see God*. When you read to know God you'll grow and mature in your faith. Readings this week focus on the truth and power in the names God gives. Consider this as you read each day.

... **This Week's Focus:** This Changes Everything ...

Day One

Read Genesis 22:7-9

From the beginning, right here in Genesis, we see God teaching and pointing and reminding us that He will provide. He provided for Abraham in a dramatic way- He provided for you as well and that provision came in the flesh on the day His only Son was born. Read this week with this in mind and how that moment changed everything - for everyone.



Day Two

Read Isaiah 53:6-8

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Three

Read John 1:14-29

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Four

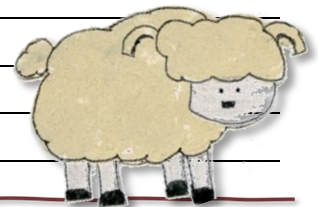
Read Revelation 5:1-14

Listen to "Is He Worthy?" by Andrew Peterson on the Advent Playlist

Reading this I am reminded that...

Day Five

This week's focus has been seeing how God provided a way for everything to change through Jesus Christ the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." How does knowing this truth about God impact your life today?



God bless you! Continue your habit of being in the Word and join the Women's Bible Study in the New Year!

Women's Bible Study at La Mirada Church

The Dwelling Richly Community Bible study is open to all.

- Tuesday, January 4, 9am
- Tuesday, January 4, 6pm
- Wednesday, January 5, 6pm

When we resume, we'll be reviewing Genesis chapters 1-10 (Lessons 1-4) and beginning Lesson 5 of the "Genesis: Lost & Found" study.

Register for the study at
www.LaMiradaChurch.com
and join us in January!

Meet Jennifer



Hi! I'm a full-time pastor and teacher serving at La Mirada Church. I'm a published author and illustrator and have produced two albums of original Scripture-based worship music. Since 1988, I've been an educator in the community teaching elementary-high school and directing summer day camps for kids. I speak at women's events, churches, and retreats bringing a message of hope and healing and pointing women to Jesus as their Savior. My heart is for women to be firm in their Christian faith by having a passion to be with the Lord through prayer and Bible study. My husband Glen and I have been married since 1988 and are the proud parents of our grown son, Jonathan. We're enjoying this empty nest season and love our ministry in La Mirada. I blog at www.jennifergrichmond.com and podcast at DwellingRichly.podbean.com



"Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16