



LIGHTHOUSE

Issue 17 | December 2024



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2	1st John 1:11-17	2	1st John 1:18-22		
3	1st John 2:1-11	3	1st John 2:12-17		
4	1st John 2:18-27	4	1st John 2:28-35		
5	1st John 3:1-10	5	1st John 3:11-17		
6	1st John 3:18-24	6	1st John 3:25-28		
7	1st John 4:1-10	7	1st John 4:11-19		
8	1st John 4:13-21	8	1st John 4:22-26		
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Youth Talk



*Merry
Christmas!*

Hindustan Bible Institute & College

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WELCOME TO OUR

Bi-Monthly e-Magazine

As we come near to the last few days of the year and the celebration of the birth of the Saviour of the world. I reflect on the awesome faithfulness of our God. The theme for the year “His Strength in Our Weakness” has a proven ring of truth in our hearts that convicts us that we stand in the threshold of another year and it is all God’s doing and His grace. HBI has its humble beginning in the year 1952 and its no mean achievement to have journeyed for 72 years, training leaders and proclaiming the gospel. It marks a legacy of lives poured out for the gospel with countless memories of joy and camaraderie of a unique missionary fraternity travelling together for the cause of God’s Glory and the extension of His Kingdom. These 7 decades tell the story of toil and tears – in finding, chiseling and shaping living stones from different states and people groups making them fit for God’s grand mansion. For these years, God has empowered us to proclaim the message of Jesus, the Prince of Peace offering reconciliation with both God and His people.

As we approach the end of the year, we do remember and thank all those who have contributed to the e-Magazine and all our readers and above all, to our loving Heavenly Father who enables us, equips us and makes the impossible, possible. May each of you be blessed this festive season and may you realize His peace and victory in your lives.

Merry Christmas



MR. DEV DANIEL
Editor-in-Chief

The Lighthouse e-Magazine is a bi-monthly e-magazine. You'll discover something unique and fascinating in every issue of our magazine.

We provide inspirational messages from experienced people, testimonials, and personal stories, as well as fun activities like Bible puzzles, quizzes, and historical facts. You are always welcome to share your stories and experiences with us.

Our e-magazine extends an open invitation to individuals with a profound passion for sharing the transformative power of God's Word and personal experiences in uplifting others. Join us in this noble mission, becoming a beacon of hope for those in despair, and fortifying their faith through your inspiring articles, write-ups, poems, and more. Together, let us illuminate the path towards faith and encouragement.

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*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government
shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called*

*Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

e-Magazine Quiz Challenge

- 1) What collection of ancient manuscripts, discovered near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956, offers valuable insights into the Hebrew Scriptures? _____.
- 2) What did the narrator design to successfully induct 900 fresh graduates? _____.
- 3) According to Matthew 7:21, who will enter the kingdom of heaven? _____.
- 4) Where are many of the original Dead Sea Scrolls preserved today? _____.
- 5) In the Bible, what does the number 40 often symbolize? _____.
- 6) The Warli tribe, known for their famous Warli art, is primarily located in which Indian state? _____.
- 7) How can Christian youth stay faithful in the digital age? _____.
- 8) What does Romans 12:2 encourage believers to do instead of conforming to the pattern of this world? _____.
- 9) According to the story of God's love, which nation came out of Abraham as part of God's promise of blessing? _____.
- 10) Which of the following types of texts is found in the Dead Sea Scrolls? _____.

Answers in Pg. 22

Bible Fill In

Fill in the answers based on the clues provided.

- A city destroyed by fire and brimstone
- The mountain where Elijah heard God's whisper
- First woman mentioned in the Bible
- Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to crucifixion
- The disciple known for doubting Jesus' resurrection

Send your answers to
lighthousebi@gmail.com (or)
hbiemagazine@gmail.com

Remember These When You Feel Down.....

I AM
Valuable

I AM
Not Alone

I AM
Strong

I AM
Blessed

I AM
Loved by God

I AM
Happy

The Musahars

People's Group

Location

Predominantly in rural Bihar (Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Muzaffarpur)

Traditional Occupation

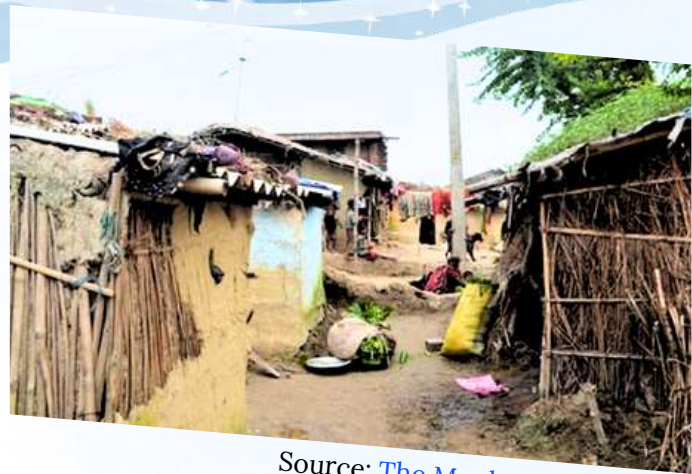
- Historically rat catchers
- Landless agricultural laborers

Challenges

- Severe poverty and illiteracy
- Social exclusion and marginalization
- Limited access to resources



Source: [ActionaidIndia](https://www.actionaidindia.org/)



Source: [The Mooknayak.com](https://www.themooknayak.com/)

Cultural Identity

- Rich oral tradition and folklore
- Speak Maithili or Magahi

Recent Developments

- Initiatives to improve education, healthcare, and employment
- Progress is slow, but there are efforts to uplift the community

Resilience

- Strong determination to overcome hardships
- Continuing to preserve cultural identity amidst adversity



Overwhelmed with
Thanksgiving but
excited for the blessings ahead
**“WITH GOD,
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!”**

@awesomeartisticdesigns

Princy Kirubakaran

Bible Quiz

Participants can register by
clicking: joinmyquiz.com
Enter this code: 3857 7312



Deadline
Dec 17, 2024

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

(Golden Memories of my childhood days)

- Mrs. Sneha Jeyachandran



Wow, it's a Christmas season! It's such a great joy to meet you all this Christmas season... I hope the festive celebration has started. Shopping always plays the main role on Christmas Eve. I hope all of us are active in hunting for trendy wear and fashionable costumes with the best accessories. Some may go around getting nice gifts, cards, and decorative items for kith and kin. The moms are too busy in preparing special signature dishes, sweets, and savouries, in the meantime, dads are involved with decoration work at home and churches. I think even the churches, organizations, TV channels, and fellowships will be very busy with their Christmas carol programs, organizing Christmas get-togethers, and decorating Christmas trees and cribs.

Seeing the beautiful twinkling star hanging with colourful serial lights and decorated Christmas trees at every house, church, shop, street, park, and mall is amazing to our eyes inspires a beautiful feeling. The presence of bright and colourful lights throughout the month of December is a sight to behold. Buying dresses, seeing the decorations, doing shopping, being busy cooking, and visiting friends and family is such an excitement. But at the same time, let's not forget and ignore the hero of Christmas and the purpose of Christmas.



God wants us to remind us of the true essence of Christmas. God is not against festivals and celebrations. In the Old Testament Era, He only organized the festival and asked Israel to follow and celebrate. However, what God wanted us to do during the festival means a lot. Christmas means giving. God created everything and gave it to mankind; Jesus Christ gave his life for mankind, and the Holy Spirit guided and comforted mankind to enter into eternal glory. I know most of us are involved in giving during Christmas, and some may be giving throughout the year. My wish for this 2024 Christmas is to increase and improve in giving and sharing.



“Christianity is above all Charitable, whether accept it or not, that is the truth.”

Let's pause for a minute and learn what our loving God wants to convey during His Son's birthday celebration. Before going a little deeper, I would like to share with you all my childhood experiences and what I learned from my father. The memories have left a deep impression in my heart.

The story begins now... Before that, I would like to pen my parents name as a tribute to them, Mr. S. Jayachandran (Retd Deputy Collector) and Mrs. Jeeva Rekha Jayachandran. Every year as a family, we welcome the month of December with an early morning prayer at 5 a.m. The weather will be cold, we all will have schools and half-yearly exams, but still, my father will be faithful in conducting the morning prayer every day till the month end. He'll ensure everybody in the family attends the morning prayer. He leads the prayer with beautiful keerthanaigal, then a portion from the Bible, and ends with the prayer.



Most of us will be still waking up in the early hour of the morning. The Christmas festive season will always have a lot of activities in the house like cleaning, painting, varnishing, and decoration; shopping; and cooking the special dishes (Christmas goodies) etc. My house really looks like heaven with stars, serial lights, decoration, a Christmas tree, a crib, a new painting, and more eatables. The joy we've had during the Christmas season is boundless. Carols from local churches visit our home and greet us with songs and instruments with Santa Claus. These are such sweet memories that I have cherished over the years.

The whole month of December, my house will be filled with guests, relatives, and friends. God's servant who works in villages will come and bless and receive the gifts and offerings from my dad. My dad used to give cheerfully, I never saw his face change when people came for help. Nobody went with an empty hand. He never disclosed, even to my mom, how much he's giving and what he's doing to those who reach him for help. He always has a smile on his face. He never tired of giving, and he always gave and lifted and enlightened many people's lives. He continued doing this till he passed away. He was practicing the charity in his own ways without any advertising or propaganda. We are witnesses of his practices from our young age. He taught us to do likewise and asked us to love one another and be kind to all.

There is a verse from the Bible in **Proverbs 19:17**,

“He who gives to the poor lends to the Lord, and He'll definitely pay it back.”

My father honoured the Word of God and obeyed it completely. He was an angel of God to many people. I had heard people say he is like God to us. At his funeral, we witnessed people crying and giving testimony about how my father helped them in their needs. Yes, of course, his giving was sacrificial to honor God's word and win many hearts for God's glory.





A big hats off to my father, who taught us the art of giving. Giving is a wonderful emotion and reflects the love of God. The act blesses both the giver and the receiver. I thank God for giving us such a wonderful father who inspired us in many ways, especially in the art of giving. He's our greatest role model, and he spreads love through his giving.

Dear friends!

I like to encourage you on our Savior's birthday about the art of giving; it really gives us more joy, more peace, and more satisfaction too. You know one thing: when we cherish one another in times of need, it will be a great blessing to our family, children, and through generation to generation. Most of us will be doing this silently, but as Christmas neared, my father's work and his thoughts were continuously coming to my mind, and I just wanted to share them with you all. The act of giving and helping the poor with their needs during our celebration will really bring meaning to our Christian living. Mother Teresa once said,



“Poverty is not made by God; it is created by you and me when we don't share what we have; if you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one person at a time and start with the person nearest you.”

Something is better than nothing; sharing food, giving new dresses and gifts to the needy, inviting the orphan, helping the widows with provisions, supporting students financially, visiting the poor and destitute, sending offerings to missionaries, spending time and talking with the elderly, etc. is appreciated; this is also the best way of celebrating Christmas. Anything that brings a smile and happiness to the face of the needy is great in the sight of God. Our Heavenly Father very much expects this kind of behavior from His children. As Christians, we need to show that we are the children of God not just in praying, preaching, teaching, and speaking, but in action by giving and sharing. In **Matthew 25:40**, Jesus says,

“Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these brethren, you did it to me.”

I hope you will make this Christmas memorable to you and to everyone with your generous giving. Give sacrificially as our Lord Jesus guides you. God bless you all.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
.....
and a
.....
HAPPY NEW YEAR





THE CHRISTMAS WISH THAT CAME TRUE

Young Emily's only Christmas wish was to bring joy to those in need. When her small savings weren't enough, a miraculous answer revealed the true spirit of Christmas.



Eight-year-old Emily dreamed of helping children who had so little this Christmas.



Emily expressed her desire to help the poor children and give them presents this Christmas to her mom.



It's not much... but maybe it will be enough.

Emily began saving every coin, skipping her favorite candies and treats to help the children.



How can I help anyone with this?

Mrs. Green, a kind community member, visited Emily's family and offered to sponsor a few children on Emily's behalf, helping make her Christmas wish come true,



Dear Jesus, I really want to help the children. Please show me what to do.

Emily prayed to God, asking for help to fulfill her Christmas wish.



Lets pack food and gifts for families in need Emily. Would you like to help?

Yes Mrs. Green I would love too. God has heard my prayers. Hurray!



This is the true meaning of Christmas—sharing God's love.

On Christmas Eve, Emily brought joy and warmth to children in need, fulfilling her Christmas wish.

THIS WAS THE MOST SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OF ALL FOR EMILY, FILLED WITH JOY, LOVE, AND THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

“THIS IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT.”

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM! ARCHAEOLOGICAL WONDERS OF JESUS' BIRTH

The historical and cultural background of Jesus' birth has been revealed by archeological findings pertaining to the Nativity story. Numerous teams and archaeologists have found archaeological sites in Bethlehem over the years.

Father Michele Piccirillo (1934-2006)

An Italian Franciscan archaeologist conducted extensive excavations in the Bethlehem area, including the Church of the Nativity. His work revealed significant findings related to early Christian artifacts and the history of the site.



Source: [Wikipedia](#)

Bethlehem: Historical and Archaeological Significance

Archaeological excavations in Bethlehem reveal ancient settlement patterns, supporting Bethlehem's historical status as a major first-century town. The biblical story of Jesus being laid in a manger supports the existence of a stable or comparable building.



Source: [VicBethlehem](#)

Eleazar Lipa Sukenik (1889-1953)

An Israeli archaeologist, Sukenik conducted excavations in the area around Bethlehem and known for his work at sites like the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran. His findings helped in understanding the region's history.



Source: [Wikipedia](#)

SOME KEY FINDINGS THAT UNRAVEL ASPECTS OF THE NATIVITY NARRATIVE:



Part of the ancient cave complex, now used as a series chapels, under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.
Source: [The Church News](#)

The Church of the Nativity

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, built in the fourth century A.D. by Emperor Constantine, is one of the oldest churches in use today, supported by mosaics, coins, and inscriptions found during archaeological excavations.



It has been determined that this tomb belongs to the Herod family. It is likely that Herod was not buried in his family's tomb when he passed away in 4 B.C. | Source: <https://dqhall59.com/tomb.htm>



It has been determined that this tomb belongs to the Herod family. It is likely that Herod was not buried in his family's tomb when he passed away in 4 B.C. Source: [MadainProject](https://www.madainproject.com/)

First-Century Judean Tombs

Burial customs and the socioeconomic circumstances of the time period are revealed by the discovery of tombs from the time of Jesus in and around Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Along with shedding light on the cultural background of Jesus' life and the setting in which He was born, these discoveries advance our knowledge of Jewish traditions.

The Herodian Palace

Excavating the remnants of Herod the Great's palace near Bethlehem has shown evidence of Herod's rule as well as opulent buildings. Understanding the structure and scope of Herod's authority enhances the story of Jesus' early life because, in order to destroy the newborn King, King Herod ordered the slaughter of infants in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).



Source: [Bible Places](https://www.bibleplaces.com/)

The Manger Context

Excavations reveal ancient mangers and feeding troughs, providing context for the nativity scene in the Gospels, indicating a suitable birthplace for Jesus, especially for low-income families.

Roman Census Evidence

The Nativity story, based on historical documents, is supported by Caesar Augustus's taxation procedures, indicating that the census of Mary and Joseph at Bethlehem was a significant event in Roman history.

The Magi and Eastern Influence

The discovery of trade routes connecting East and Mediterranean, including frankincense and myrrh, is linked to the Magi's gifts, highlighting cultural exchanges and the Magi's visit to Jesus, emphasizing His universal significance across different regions.





Baptism as the BEGINNING OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Mr. Isaac Newton

In this lesson we just try to discover the biblical meaning of baptism, which applies to both the baptism of children and the baptism of people who can believe for themselves.

1) Report on Short Action Plans:

Did you succeed in explaining to someone the true story of the whole world? What was difficult?

2) Starting a New Life

a) Sometimes, changes in life are so important that people say that they have 'started a new life.' For example, when you get married or when you move from one country to another.

b) Think of an important change that you have experienced. Did it give you the feeling of starting a new life?

c) Can you give examples of people in the Bible who started a new life?

d) Saul was persecuting Christians. However, he started a new life.

Read **Acts 9:17-20**. What things happened to Paul when he started a new life?

e) Also a jailor in Philippi started a new life. His prison was shaken by an earthquake so that all the prison doors flew open. Since he was responsible for the prisoners he wanted to kill himself.

Read **Acts 16:27-34**. What things happened to the jailor when he started a new life?

f) Saul and the jailor started a new life. They believed in Jesus Christ and were baptized. Baptism is a sign of the new life Christians receive in Christ.

Read **Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:24, 44-47; and Acts 16:14-15**. Who started a new life in Christian these verses?

3) Dying: The End of the Old Life

a) Read **Romans 6:3-6**.

b) Into what were we baptised according to verse 3?

c) What happened when we were baptised according to verse 4?

d) What does it mean to be crucified with Christ according to verse 6.





In Romans 6, Paul compares baptism with dying and being buried. You can imagine what he means when you think of baptism as immersion. If someone dips you under the water and holds you there, you will have the feeling of dying and being buried. That is what baptism means according to Romans 6. You die to your old self, and receive new life in Christ. Today many churches baptise through sprinkling. This is not wrong in itself, but might make it more difficult to understand what Romans 6 means.

e) Baptism is a sign that our old self has to die. What things may belong to this old self? Think of your own life and the life of others.

5) Conclusion

Share with the person next to you: What did you learn about baptism in this lesson?

6) Short Action Plan

Baptism is a sign of our new life. Sometimes, we may forget this and still do things that are related to the old life without Christ. Think of one thing from your old life that you do not want to do anymore. What will you do in the next week to break away from it? Who may help you fulfil your plan?



RECEIVING AND STARTING A NEW LIFE



Read **Romans 6:3-4**. Baptism means to be buried with Christ in his death. What will be the result of that?



Read **Romans 6:5-8**. Through baptism we are united with Christ not only in his death, but also in his resurrection. What will happen to us if we die with Christ, according to Romans 6:8?



Read **Romans 6:11-14**. What has lost power over you if you have died in Christ?



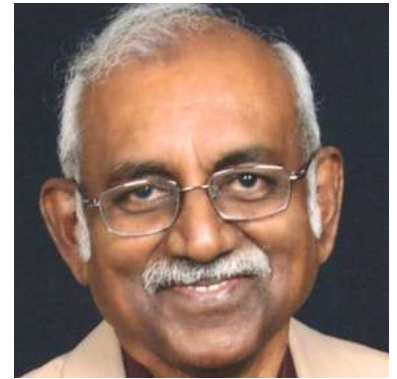
Think of Christians in your neighbourhood. What are the things they do not do anymore, because they are 'alive in Christ'?



According to Romans 6:13, what should you not do and what should you do if you are baptised? Can you give examples from your own life or other Christians' lives?

GOD'S LONG-RANGE PLAN

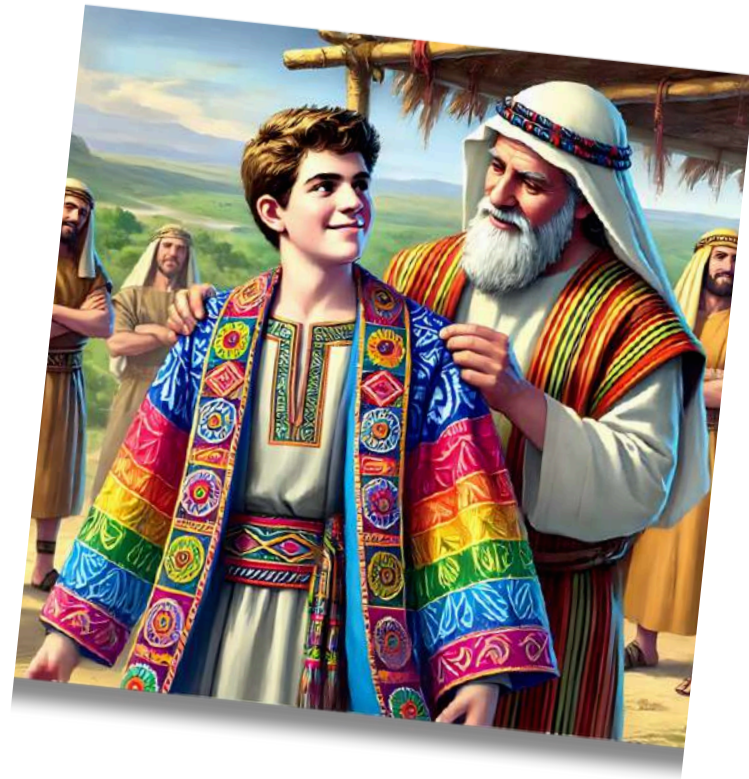
-Mr. Federick Mony



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jer, 29:11, ESV

Joseph, the favourite son of Jacob, dreamed that his parents and 11 brothers would bow down before him. Instead, at 17, he found himself far away, a slave to Potiphar. He worked diligently, and Potiphar made him his overseer. But Potiphar's wife falsely accused him of molestation, and he was thrown into prison. Again, he worked his way to a position of trust, and God gave him the skill to interpret dreams. Years later, Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's troubling dreams and suggested a plan to prepare for the famine. This impressed Pharaoh, who made him the Prime Minister of Egypt.



In 2012, a **teenager**, Christa Rose Barber of Florida, felt God telling her to go to India to share the gospel. But she fell seriously ill with cancer, and, despite her strong faith in a 'Big God', she died in 2013 at the age of 20. Meanwhile, after three decades in the IT industry, I settled down in Chennai with my wife. We joined the Gideons and became involved in distributing scriptures.

In 2014, Christa's parents decided to distribute Bibles in India. Through our Gideon connections, my wife and I got introduced to them **and started the "Christa's Dream—Bibles for India" project. By God's grace, this project has distributed over 40,000 Bibles across India.**



Joseph's story shows God's meticulous plan over many years and His choice of people to move him along—the slave-traders, Potiphar, Potiphar's wife, the jail officer, the ungrateful butler, Pharaoh, etc. Joseph had every reason to feel bitter and vengeful. But then, would anyone have seen that “the Lord was with him”? (Gen 39:2).

Did Christa's dream of going to India perish when she died? As her faith was growing, an IT executive 10,000 miles away was being moved around and groomed so that he and his wife would leverage their experiences to carry God's Word to thousands.

Joseph had no inkling that great things were in store for him, but he worked enthusiastically wherever he was placed. Do you feel stuck in a dead-end job or situation? Do like Joseph, and, years later, when you look back, you will see God had a long-term plan for you and others through you.

Lord, help me accomplish your customized plan for me. Amen



Did You Know?

Did you know that some astronomers believe the Star of Bethlehem could have been a **rare conjunction of planets like Jupiter and Saturn, or even a supernova?**

The Star of Bethlehem might have been a rare celestial event, such as a bright planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C. Some suggest it could have been a supernova, a comet, or even a divine miracle guiding the Wise Men. Whatever the cause, its mystery continues to fascinate both astronomers and believers.



DECEMBER				DAILY BIBLE READING PLANNER				JANUARY			
DAY	DATE	CHAPTER	THEME	DAY	DATE	CHAPTER	THEME				
246	1	LUKE 1:46-56	CELEBRATING GOOD NEWS	277	1	EXODUS 1:1-21 ROMANS 1:1-15	FAMILY HEALING PLACE				
247	2	MICAH 1:1-16 REVELATION 14:14-15:4		278	2	EXODUS 1:22-46 ROMANS 1:16-23					
248	3	MICAH 2:1-13 REVELATION 14:5-16:7		279	3	EXODUS 2:1-25 ROMANS 1:24-2:5					
249	4	MICAH 3:1-4:8 REVELATION 16:8-16		280	4	EXODUS 2:26-3:7 ROMANS 2:6-24					
250	5	MICAH 4:9-5:4 REVELATION 16:17-17:5		281	5	PROVERBS 20:1-11 MAT 7:16-23					
251	6	MICAH 5:5-6:8 REVELATION 17:6-14		282	6	EXODUS 3:8-19 ROMANS 2:25-3:8					
252	7	MICAH 6:9 -7:6 REVELATION 17:15-18:3		GOD'S WORD	283	7	EXODUS 4:1-14 ROMANS 3:9-26	LIVE WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING			
253	8	LUKE 1:39-45	284		8	EXODUS 4:15-40 ROMANS 3:27-4:6					
254	9	MICAH 7:7-20 REVELATION 18:4-13	285		9	EXODUS 4:41-5:5 ROMANS 4:7-16					
255	10	HABAKKUK 1:1-11 REV 18:14-24	286		10	EXODUS 5:6-33 ROMANS 4:17-5:5					
256	11	HABAKKUK 1:12-2:5 REV 19:1-10	287		11	EXODUS 6:1-25 ROMANS 5:6-14					
257	12	HABAKKUK 2:6-20 REV 19:11-21	288		12	NUMBERS 11:23-30 JOHN 10:7-18					
258	13	HABAKKUK 3:1-19 REV 20:1-10	REDEMPTION FROM SIN'S BONDAGE		289	13	EXODUS 7:1-26 ROMANS 5:15-21	ONE GOD AND ONE BAPTISM			
259	14	ZEPHANIAH 1:1-3 REV 20:11-21:5		290	14	EXODUS 8:1-20 ROMANS 6:1-14					
260	15	JOHN 8:31-38		291	15	EXODUS 9:1-17 ROMANS 6:15-23					
261	16	ZEPHANIAH 1:4-13 REV 21:6-15		292	16	EXODUS 9:18-10:11 ROMANS 7:1-12					
262	17	ZEPHANIAH 1:14-2:7 REV 21:16-27		293	17	EXODUS 10:12-11:17 ROMANS 7:13-25					
263	18	ZEPHANIAH 2:8-15 REV 22:1-9		294	18	EXODUS 11:18-12:12 ROMANS 8:1-11					
264	19	ZEPHANIAH 3:1-13 REV 22:10-21		MARANATHA	295	19	ESEK 37:15-28 MAT 5:21-26	UNITY FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE			
265	20	ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20 LUKE 1:1-17	296		20	EXODUS 12:13-32 ROMANS 8:12-21					
266	21	ZECHARIAH 1:1-21 LUKE 1:18-38	297		21	EXODUS 13:1-18 ROMANS 8:22-33					
267	22	I COR 16:13-24 JOHN 1:1-14	298		22	EXODUS 14:1-29 ROMANS 8:34-9:5					
268	23	ZECHARIAH 2:1-13 LUKE 1:39-56	299		23	EXODUS 15:1-23 ROMANS 9:6-18					
269	24	ZECHARIAH 3:1-4:14 LUKE 1:57-80	300		24	EXODUS 16:1-22 ROMANS 9:19-29					
270	25	IS 9:1-7 LUKE 2:1-14			301	25	EXODUS 17:1-20 ROMANS 9:30-10:5	THE GOODNESS OF CREATION			
271	26	ZECHARIAH 5:1-6:8 LUKE 2:1-14		302	26	EPHE 1:3-14 MAT 6:9-13					
272	27	ZECHARIAH 6:9-7:7 LUKE 2:15-24		303	27	EXODUS 18:1-22 ROMANS 10:6-17					
273	28	ZECHARIAH 7:8-8:8 LUKE 2:25-52		304	28	EXODUS 19:1-21 ROMANS 10:18-11:4					
274	29	EPHE 6:1-9 LUKE 2:1-14		305	29	EXODUS 20:1-20 ROMANS 11:5-15					
275	30	ZECHARIAH 8:9-23 MATTHEW 1:1-6		306	30	EXODUS 21:1-23 ROMANS 11:16-27					
276	31	ZECHARIAH 9:1-10 MATTHEW 1:7-25			307	31	EXODUS 22:1-20 ROMANS 11:28-12:8				

FINDING JESUS IN TODAY'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

For unto you
is born this
day in the city
of David a
Savior, who is
Christ the
Lord.

—*Luke 2:11, ESV*

In all things I
have shown
you that by
working hard
in this way
we must help
the weak and
remember
the words of
the Lord
Jesus, how
he himself
said, 'It is
more blessed
to give than
to receive.'

—Acts 20:35, ESV

In this current generation, Christmas seems to be all about brilliant lights, gift-giving, and holiday parties. It is full of customs and diversions, and evolved from songs and decorations to Santa Claus and endless shopping. Where is Jesus in all this? Are we celebrating Jesus' birth and remember His sacrifice for saving us or Christmas is just yet another festival in this world?

HOW CAN WE ACTIVELY EXPERIENCE AND REFLECT JESUS BY OUR ACTIONS THIS CHRISTMAS?

A Giving Heart

The gift of giving is a big part as it reminds of God's love for us to give His ultimate gift – His Son, Jesus, for us to have eternal life (John 3:16). It was not a gift we could earn but something given out of God's pure love for us. So, instead of focusing on physical presents, look for ways to give meaningful gifts that reflect Christ's love.

THIS CHRISTMAS LETS CHEERFULLY GIVE SELFLESSLY JUST AS JESUS GAVE HIMSELF FOR US.

A Giving Heart

The gift of giving is a big part as it reminds of God's love for us to give His ultimate gift – His Son, Jesus, for us to have eternal life (John 3:16). It was not a gift we could earn but something given out of God's pure love for us. So, instead of focusing on physical presents, look for ways to give meaningful gifts that reflect Christ's love.

**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among
those with whom he is pleased!”**

—Luke 2:14, ESV



Seeing the Lord Jesus in Others

The best way to celebrate Jesus is to see Him in others.

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me’

-Matthew 25:40, ESV

Look for opportunities to serve others. Small gestures of kindness can bring Jesus’s love to others during this season. Small gestures can be volunteering at a local shelter, charity donation or helping a friend in need. Show others, Jesus in your actions.

Reflecting on the Christmas Story

We have read the nativity story a hundred times but do we know its deep significance? If we read Luke 2, we will be able to reflect on the humility and love of Jesus’ birth. Maintain a Christmas journal and note down any new insights you receive while meditating on the nativity story. Check out how it means to you and how it shapes your faith today.



WOW



The season of Christmas can make us stressful because of all the worldly things we plan to celebrate Christmas at church and at home. Remember to choose **“Worship Over Worry (WOW).”**

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

-Matthew 2:10, ESV

So, let's focus on worshipping for all He has done instead of things we “have to do.” Listen to worship and praise songs and thank God for the joy and hope He brings. Attend a Christmas service, sing carols that celebrate Jesus. Let worship be the center of your celebration.


It's worth it to find Jesus in today's Christmas celebrations. The greatest gift is Jesus – God's love in human form that was given to us to rescue and restore us.

REMEMBER.... JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS CELEBRATE JESUS, OUR SAVIOUR AND FRIEND!

Answers to the e-Magazine Quiz Challenge in Pg. 7

- 1) The Dead Sea Scrolls
- 2) An integrated supply chain
- 3) Those who do the will of the Father
- 4) The Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book

- 5) Testing and trial
- 6) Maharashtra
- 7) Set boundaries and use it for spiritual growth
- 8) Be transformed by the renewing of the mind

- 9) Israel
 - 10) Biblical texts, Apocryphal writings, and Sectarian writings
- 



Vision

To be a guiding light to direct people to run their race with perseverance without being wavered by the storms or broken by dangerous perilous rocks.

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