

# Glory in the Highest

*This week's devotion can be done individually, with a group of friends, or family.*

**Day One – WORSHIP FULLY** - Which was your best Christmas ever? What made it so special? What do you love most about Christmas? What's your least favorite thing about Christmas? If you could pick one word to describe what you're looking forward to this Christmas, what would it be? What's the true story and meaning of Christmas? How do we make sure we remember it this year?

**PICTURE** the shepherds who visited Jesus in Luke 2:8-20. What do they look like to you? The real shepherds (the ones in the Bible) were very poor and outcast from everyone else. Can you think of people like that today? The shepherds were the first ones the angel visited to tell about the birth of Christ. What does that tell you about how God feels about the poor and outcast? How does this relate to Christmas? How do you think the shepherds felt when they heard the news from the angel that Jesus was born? How is that different from what we feel when we celebrate Christmas? How do you think we can feel like the shepherds did?

The shepherds told everyone they knew about the good news that Jesus was born! Who can you tell about Jesus? How will you tell them about Jesus? Christmas is when we celebrate how Jesus came to earth to rescue us – we celebrate his birthday! He loves us so much. What kind of birthday gift do you think He'd want from us? **TAKE** time to pray about that with your family or a friend.

**Day Two – SPEND LESS - THINK/TALK** about a time when you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas. How did you feel? Now, think/talk about a time you got exactly what you wanted. How did you feel then? How long did it take to grow tired of that gift? Do you think people worship things? How? Why? When you see a commercial about something that you don't have, how does it make you feel? Do you think that your feelings are true? How can you protect yourself from feeling that way?

**READ** 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What are the specific sins in this passage? What happens when someone puts their trust in money and things? Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever gotten something new, but then got tired of it and wanted something else? **THINK/TALK** about that. Check out Matthew 6:19-21. What's the difference between an earthly treasure and a heavenly treasure? Do you think the way you spend money says something about your heart and what you value? Why? How can you stay focused on God during Christmas? How do people go overboard (*do something too much or go to the extreme*) with different things during Christmas? If someone always gets everything he/she wants at Christmas, what would that teach him/her about being content with what he/she has? What do you think he/she would think about Christmas?

**Day Three – GIVE MORE (Differently)** - Have you ever received a gift which the person who gave it to you obviously didn't know what you like? ...like everyone knowing you love the color red, but he/she gave you a blue hat. What does that tell you about the person who gave you the blue hat? Have you ever made that mistake with someone else?

**LIST** some of your family Christmas traditions. What problems can occur when we celebrate Christmas only by giving presents?

**READ** Matthew 1:21-23. What stands out to you in these verses? How does it relate to Christmas? One of God's names ~ Immanuel ~ means God is with us. That's God's biggest gift to us – He's always with us! A really great gift idea is to simply hang out with someone. It's usually pretty easy to walk into a store and buy something for someone. It's difficult to think of something truly special – maybe something not bought and perhaps handcrafted! What's the hardest thing about giving a special present like this?

**CHECK OUT** [www.rethinkingchristmas.com](http://www.rethinkingchristmas.com) for plenty of fun gift ideas. Which is your favorite?

**Day Four – LOVE ALL** - When you hear someone talking about making a difference in the world, what comes to mind? Do you think you can make a difference? Even right now? What did you think when you saw the story of the village chief react to hearing the good news? Have you ever met someone who felt the same way? How do you think people view Christians? Upon reading the Christmas story, you see that Jesus was born really poor. He had nothing!

**IMAGINE** for a minute you're as poor as Jesus was. Now read the Christmas story for the first time (*Luke 2:1-7*). How does it make you feel? Do you think being poor is just about what stuff you have or how much money you have?

**THINK** about this: What if the richest person in the world had NO friends! Would he/she be poor? In a way, yes! It's that way with all of us. In some areas, we're all poor. If you never knew about Jesus, how would you be poor? Do you think your actions and choices can be a gift to Jesus? If you stand up for someone getting bullied, or are kind to someone who's sad, are those gifts to Jesus? How so? If your actions are gifts to Jesus, does that make you want to help others more or less?

What would it look like for your family to **LOVE ALL** this Christmas? What can your family do together to love those who might be considered "*the least of these?*" In what ways can JW and your family partner with other churches and families to **LOVE ALL**?

**Day Five – NEXT STEPS**

**PRAY** for these **Points of Impact**: *worship fully, spend less, give more, love all*. **ASK** God whom He would have you love this Christmas Season.

*Check out this week's outline for Places to LOVE ALL.*