



**BRING
IT HOME**
Life of Christ

**FAMILY
DEVOTIONS**



BRING IT HOME

Life of Christ

How To Use This Daily Devotional

Thanks for showing interest in this devotional series. I think you're going to like it! Here are a few tips:

- It is intended for adults and children.
- Use your Bible for the daily readings. They are all derived from the New Testament—the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
- If you have small children, you can use the Arch Book set. They will love it! (You will, too.)
- This is meant to be flexible. It's better to do some of it than not at all.
- Take the time to share your highs and lows and perhaps include them in your prayer at the end. Use the discussion questions as you see fit. Remember, it is good to get used to talking about God openly and in public. Now more than ever, it's important to get comfortable talking about our faith in God with others.
- Use it when everyone is home together. We find dinner time is great.

Studies have shown that 6 weeks leads to good habit formation. This devotional is meant to last 6 weeks if you do five devotions per week. Once you finish, go back to the Minnesota North District Website (mnnlcms.org) and look for more Bring it Home devotionals, which are free for you to download.

We hope you enjoy “Bring it Home - Life of Christ”.

Rev. Monte Meyer

Parish Life Facilitator for the Minnesota North District

DAY 1

DID YOU KNOW?

The shepherds were the very first to hear about the birth of our Savior. They were average Judeans who held a very common and important job. Besides keeping very long hours, they also had to protect their sheep from animals and robbers. They did this with a sling and a shepherd's staff. They also sheared the wool, helped during lambing season and made sure their flocks had enough to eat and drink. The first thing the shepherds did when they saw the baby Jesus, was to go out and tell everyone the good news. It's interesting that the modern term of "Pastor" comes from the ancient word for "shepherd". When you think about it, the jobs are pretty similar.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

How do you think the shepherds felt when the angels came and told them Jesus had been born?

When the angels told the shepherds about Jesus, they sang "Glory to God on high!". Try to remember that line and say it to your family throughout the day. Maybe make up a little song with those words. It would be fun to sing it!

The shepherds went out and told everybody they saw about the birth of Jesus. Whom do you know that might be happy to know that Jesus was born for them?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Jesus

Arch Book - "Baby Jesus is Born"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What is your favorite Christmas carol? Try to sing the first verse of as many carols as you can remember. If you are with your family, take turns to see how many you remember together.

List all the things the angel proclaimed about the birth of the Savior. How did the shepherds respond to the angels?

Look at verse 17 again. What did the shepherds do after they saw the Christ-child? Whom do you know who needs to hear this good news? Pray for an opportunity to let them know about Jesus.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Your birth changed our lives forever. Thank you for forgiveness. Thank you for peace. Give us opportunities to let Your forgiveness and peace shine to someone we know who needs You. Amen.

DAY 2

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Luke 2:21-40 - Jesus Presented at the Temple
Arch Book - "Baby Jesus Visits the Temple"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Have you ever wanted something so much that you thought about it a lot? Simeon felt like that. Why do you think seeing Jesus was so important to him?

Make a list of reasons why you think Jesus is important in your life.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Your birth changed our world. You give us hope. You bring us peace. Lord, remind us every single day of Your great love for us. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

The rite of purification Luke talks about for Mary is described in the Old Testament book of Leviticus 12:1-8. After giving birth, time had to pass for the mother's body to return to normal. Once the baby boy was 40 days old (80 days for a baby girl) the whole family would take a lamb, pigeon or dove to the priest to offer a sacrifice. When Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus arrived at the temple, everything seemed normal until they met Simeon and Anna. Look at what both of them said about Jesus. Even as a baby, there were people who were moved by God to recognize Jesus as the Savior of the world!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Why do you think Simeon and Anna were so happy to meet Jesus?

What would you do or say if you met Jesus when he was a baby?

Life of Christ

DAY 3

DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas carol states “We three kings of Orient are...”. More than likely, the Magi were Persian (Iranian) astrologers and not of the Jewish faith. They were given a sign from God that the King of the Jews had been born. For awhile, the birth of Jesus was just a local Jewish story known by only a few people. Now the world beyond Bethlehem was starting to find out that a Savior was born. What a great God we have!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

The Wise Men found Jesus because God put a star in the sky to guide them to him. How did you find out about Jesus?

What do you put on top of your Christmas tree? Many people have a star. It reminds us of the Wise Men who followed the star to find Jesus. It also reminds us that Jesus is our “Bright and Morning Star.”

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Matthew 2:1-12 - The Visit of the Wise Men
Arch Book - “Once Upon a Clear, Dark Night”

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

750 years before Jesus was born, the Old Testament prophet Micah foretold that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). In fact there are around 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament, all of which came true. Why do you think there were so many prophecies about Jesus? How might it help someone looking for answers about Jesus?

If you could bring a gift to Jesus, what would it be?

LET US PRAY

Dear Jesus, the Magi found You by following the star You put in the sky. Lord, we pray that You would continue to lead and guide us. Keep our eyes fixed on Your promises of love and forgiveness. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Luke 2:41-52 - Young Jesus in the Temple
Arch Book - "Where is Jesus?"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Jesus was in the temple answering questions from the teachers. They were amazed at what He knew. If there was anything you could ask Jesus, what would it be? It actually might be a good question to pose to your pastor and see if he could help you look through the Bible to find an answer.

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord, even as a young boy, Jesus was always doing His Father's business. His heart, soul and mind were always thinking about saving us. Thank you Father, for sending Jesus to be our Savior. In His name we pray, Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever considered how it might have been for Mary and Joseph to raise Jesus as a child? They knew Jesus was the Son of God, but some things in His life had to be surprising. The Bible tells us Jesus was perfect. He didn't get sick nor did He get into trouble. Jesus did his homework and chores with no trouble at all. And He was always going about His heavenly Father's business. That's why Jesus said to Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" Jesus always stayed focused on what mattered most: being about His Father's business, the salvation of the entire world. What a great God we have!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Have you ever lost track of your mom and dad at a store? How did it make you feel? How did you feel once you were together again?

When His parents found Jesus in the temple, He was answering lot of questions about God. If you could ask God anything, what would it be? (Parents, it's OK to not know the answer. Call your pastor and see if he can help if you get stuck).

Life of Christ

DAY 5

DID YOU KNOW?

Why was Jesus baptized? He wasn't a sinner so there was no need for repentance. But Jesus said He needed to be baptized so He could "fulfill all righteousness". Jesus was doing this for US. We need this righteousness - we need to be RIGHT before our Father in heaven. We can't earn it by our own abilities. We need Jesus to be connected to us in every way. Jesus took our place, lived the life we should have lived and died the death for sin that we deserved. Then Jesus rose again from the dead, triumphant over sin, death and the power of the devil. He did it for YOU!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Ask your parents if you were baptized. If you were, ask them to tell you all about that day.

Find out the date of your baptism. Ask your parents to find a candle you can light on your "baptismal birthday" to celebrate when you were made a part of God's family.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Matthew 3:13-4:11 - Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

Arch Book - "The Story of Jesus' Baptism and Temptation"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Did you notice how Jesus defended himself against temptation? What did Jesus use each time in response to the devil's temptation? Look at vs 4, 7 & 10.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse—one that helps you through tough times? If you don't have one, open up your Bible to the middle, the book of Psalms. There are a lot of inspiring verses all over the Psalms. Pick one (or several!) to remember when life gets difficult.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You are my Savior. Thank You for living the life we should have lived and dying the death that we deserve. We are so grateful for Your love and forgiveness. It gives us a lot of peace and joy. Remind us always of Your love for us. Amen.

DAY 6

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16 - The Calling of the Disciples

Arch Book - "The Twelve Ordinary Men"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What do you think made these men qualified to be disciples?

Whom do you think the disciples first told about Jesus? Whom might be the first person in your life who needs to hear God's message of the forgiveness of sins?

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord, You chose twelve ordinary men to bring Your message of forgiveness to the world. Use us as You see fit, to bring Your message of forgiveness to those we know and love. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus chose 12 men to be his first followers, whom the Bible calls "disciples". They were ordinary men, taught by Jesus to be His witnesses. When they were ready, Jesus sent them out, two by two, to preach the Gospel and heal the sick. Jesus told them not to carry a bag, food nor money - just the clothes on their backs. Jesus wanted them to be totally dependent on Him and the hospitality of others. He wanted them totally focused on their mission to bring the Gospel to the area.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Which disciple did you like best? Why?

Which disciple's name is the hardest to pronounce?

Life of Christ

DAY 7

DID YOU KNOW?

In Jesus' day, weddings lasted about seven days. People would take time off of whatever they were doing and spend seven days celebrating with the family. Most weddings in that area were said to be pure and simple. They had a procession to the house of the groom the evening before the wedding, a ritual washing of hands, and a wedding ceremony that ended with a simple benediction. After that, the wedding feast lasted for days. Running out of wine would have been embarrassing. Jesus not only saved them from embarrassment, but supplied them with the finest wine available.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

The people at the wedding reception were very thankful that Jesus provided them with more wine, because they had run out. What are you most thankful for?

Have you ever been to a wedding? What was your favorite part?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

John 2:1-11 - Jesus Changing Water into Wine
Arch Book - "Jesus' First Miracle"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What is the best thing about weddings? What can make weddings difficult?

How do you think Jesus can make a wedding and a marriage better?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, bring strength and peace to our homes and families. Strengthen us in our love for You and each other. Increase our love for one another. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

John 3:1-21, 7:40-52, 19:38-42 - Nicodemus
Arch Book - "Nicodemus and Jesus"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Nicodemus sought out Jesus quietly because he didn't want people to know that he was interested in Jesus' teachings. What are some things you face in life which might make you hesitant about following Jesus?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, the power of Your Word changes hearts. Like You did with Nicodemus, work in our hearts, we pray, that we may follow You constantly. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, which was also known as the "Council". They consisted of 70 lay elders, the Chief Priest, and scribes (the legal experts of Judaism). They took care of religious matters in Judea, as well as some civil issues. For Nicodemus to seek out Jesus took a lot of courage, because Jesus was NOT popular among the Council. It reminds us that God's promises are powerful and can touch anyone's life. Don't be afraid to let people know about Jesus!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

One of the best Bible verses to memorize is the words Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:16—
"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." Say this together as a family until you can do it by memory.

Life of Christ

DAY 3

DID YOU KNOW?

Storms on the Sea of Galilee were common. It sits 700 feet below sea level, and Mount Hermon is only 30 miles Northeast which peaks at 9200 feet. When a wind from the west came off of the mountain and hit the warm waters over the lake, it could produce huge, violent storms. Yet Jesus was able to immediately quiet the storm with just His Word.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

What are some things which scare you? What makes you feel better when you are scared?

Teach your children Psalm 56:3. Say it together, "When I am afraid I will trust in You." Remind your children they can trust in God when they are afraid.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Matthew 8:23-27 - Jesus Calms the Storm
Arch Book - "Jesus Calms the Storm"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What was the scariest event you've ever experienced? Did you pray? What was your prayer?

Do you have a "go to" Bible verse which brings you comfort when you are afraid? If not, try googling "Bible verses to help me when I'm afraid". Memorize one and make it your own. (Add it to the list you might have started on Day 5 of this devotional.)

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, there are times we face storms and trouble in our lives. When we are afraid, remind us that You are always there for us. Keep us safe in Your love and care. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 - Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter
Arch Book - "Jesus Wakes the Little Girl"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Whom was the last person you know who died? Did they talk about their faith in God? If so, what did they say?

If you knew someone was going to die, what would you want them to know about God? Maybe it's time to ask God to give you an opportunity.

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that You sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too will live forever - and we are thankful for this gift. Keep us strong in the faith! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible tells us about eight people who were raised from the dead, including Jesus. Actually, there are even more if you read Matthew 27:50-53, when Jesus died on the cross. But we don't have an actual number from that event. Jesus did miracles, including raising this little girl from the dead, in order to authenticate His message and show that He was God. He also did them to show His intent for us—that he wants us to live and not die! Jesus raised the dead and raised Himself to show that His Word has power and that everlasting life is a real thing. What a great God we have!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Do you know someone who has died? Because Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, everyone who believes in Him has life forever in heaven. We don't need to fear death, because we know one day we will be with Jesus in heaven forever.

Life of Christ

DAY 11

DID YOU KNOW?

The title of this devotion has the number 5,000 in it. But how many people did Jesus really feed? Look at verse 10 again. He used the word “men”. There are accounts of this miracle in each of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Matthew 14:21 is more clear about the number, writing “five thousand men, besides women and children”. Some people estimate that Jesus fed between twenty and thirty thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Now THAT’S a miracle!!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray “give us this day our daily bread”, What do you think is included in “our daily bread”?

How can we show God our thanks?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 6:1-14 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Arch Book - “What’s for Lunch?”

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

We worry about money and jobs. We’re not always sure if we will have enough to make ends meet. Now think about the Lord’s Prayer. What physical “stuff” are we praying for in the Lord’s Prayer? Make a mental list of all the “stuff” God is supplying you in this life? How can we show our appreciation?

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things. Thank you for our daily bread and for Jesus our Savior and Lord. In His name we pray, Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

Arch Book - "Down Through the Roof"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Remember the sequence of events. Jesus told the paralyzed man that he was forgiven, then healed him. Why do you think Jesus did it in that order?

What do you think the crowd's reaction was when the paralyzed man was healed by Jesus and walked out?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You can do all things. You alone are the Lord and we trust in you. Give us such a bold faith in You that others may see Your love and power. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Here is another miracle in which Jesus does two things: 1) people can see He is the Messiah and 2) He brings relief of soul and body to a man who was suffering from paralysis. Jesus deals with the whole person, both body and soul. He doesn't just fix a problem; Jesus deals with the underlying nature of all our problems, namely sin.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

What do you like best about this story about Jesus?

Did you know the miracles of Jesus aren't just a magic trick? Miracles are something only God can do. Miracles remind us that Jesus is God's Son, who took away the sins of the world. He loves us, body and soul.

Life of Christ

DAY 13

DID YOU KNOW?

It's interesting that the Jewish leaders who saw the healed man carrying his bed, accused him of breaking the Sabbath law. God commands us to "Remember the Sabbath day, by keeping it holy". In Jesus' day, many Jewish leaders went to great lengths to interpret this commandment down to the little details. They said if you wore too heavy of shoes, carried too heavy of a load or walked too far, you were breaking God's law. When the healed man told people Jesus had commanded him to carry his bed, it made them angry. They accused Jesus of breaking God's Law. This is when the Jewish leaders started to really hate Jesus.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 5:1-18 - Jesus Healing at the Pool on the Sabbath

Arch Book - "Jesus Heals the Man at the Pool"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

You can do a google search and find pictures of the Pool of Bethesda. The Bible isn't just made up of fairy tales. He actually lived, preached and did miracles there. How might this bolster your faith in Jesus?

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord, You show mercy to everyone in need. Help us when we feel judgmental. Use us to make a difference in people's lives by showing mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

The Pool of Bethesda is a real place. You can find pictures of it on the internet. Look it up. Jesus was there. He healed a man who was paralyzed there. Jesus is a real person, not just something made up. And Jesus loves you.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Mark 10:46-52 - Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Arch Book - "Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Bartimaeus could do nothing except ask Jesus for mercy. Where in your life do you need God's help, God's mercy?

It's okay to ask God for help. How might you remember to ask God every day?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, never let us go. Fill us with Your loving presence and remind us of Your constant care and protection. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered why people told Bartimaeus to be quiet when he was shouting to Jesus for mercy? Probably the same reason some told Jairus' family (devotion #10) to not bother Jesus because the little girl was already dead, or that the man healed at the pool sinned because he was carrying his bed and breaking their laws (devotion #13). People are sinful. We don't always appreciate the mercy that God has for all people, especially people who need Him the most. The truth is, Jesus came for everyone. He wants all people to know Him as Savior and Lord of their life.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Do you remember what Bartimaeus said to God? ("Have Mercy".) Mercy is undeserved kindness. It's OK to ask God for help. What are some things in your life you could ask for God to help you with?

Life of Christ

DAY 15

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you ever wonder what happened to the young man's soul when he died? Did he have to come back from heaven when God raised him from the dead? How about Jairus' daughter? Read the account of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-26) along with Jesus' words to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:42-43). From these accounts we learn their souls were in heaven until Jesus raised them from the dead.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Jesus always looks out for us, even when we don't know we need Him. How did Jesus look out for the son? His mother?

Describe a time when Jesus took care of you.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Luke 7:11-17, 31 - Jesus Raises the Widow's Son

Arch Book - "Jesus Raises the Widow's Son"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

In verse 13 of our reading it says that Jesus "had compassion on her". The Greek word for "compassion" literally means "his gut moved". What does this tell us about God's feelings toward us?

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Our body, soul and all that is ours is in Your hands. We thank You for Your mercy. We praise You for Your love and compassion for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Matthew 6:5-14 - The Lord’s Prayer
Arch Book - “The Lord’s Prayer”

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Why do you think Jesus encourages us to pray privately and to get to the point instead of going on and on? What did Jesus say about it? See verse 8.

LET US PRAY

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Lord’s prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”. Why is it so hard to forgive others who sin against us? Probably because of pride and selfishness. Pride makes us think we deserve to be forgiven by God and that no one deserves to be forgiven by us. Selfishness makes us happy to know God forgives us, but in contrast, we love to hold on to our anger when people sin against us. Let’s ask God to keep us from such foolishness, and help us to forgive others as He forgives us.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Can you pray the Lord’s Prayer from memory? That’s OK if you don’t know how—have someone in your family teach it to you. The best way to do it is by praying it every night, before you go to sleep. Let’s see how fast you can learn it.

Life of Christ

DAY 17

DID YOU KNOW?

Have you ever wondered why Jesus healed people if they were going to eventually die? Let's think about the purpose for Jesus' miracles: they authenticate His message. Mark 16:20 says, "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs". Miracles authenticated the disciples' message. These days, we have God's inspired Word in the Bible. We see God working miracles in people's lives today, especially as He leads people to trust in Him as Savior.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Faith is trusting in God, which is a miracle in itself given to us by the Holy Spirit. You can have faith that God will always love you and never leave you. How do you know that God loves you today?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Matthew 8:5-13 - Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant

Arch Book - "Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Can you remember a time where you had no choice but to trust in God? Tell the story. How did God work?

Look up Proverbs 3:5-6. (It's near the very middle of your Bible, or just Google it.) When you pray for a miracle and you don't get what you want, what does God tell you to do? Have you ever had that experience? What did you learn from it?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, be with us through the good times and the bad times. Fill us with faith to trust in Your never-ending mercy. Teach us to lean on Your love. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Luke 15:8-10 - The Parable of the Lost Coin

Arch Book - "The Lost Coin"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What do you think is the main point of the Parable of the Lost Coin?

In this parable, Jesus talks about the joy angels have over one sinner who repents (confesses their sins and turns to Jesus as Savior). Can you name one person who needs Jesus to be their Savior? How might you go about telling that person about Jesus?

LET US PRAY

Dear Father, thank You for loving us. Use us to help the lost find You as their Savior, and let the angels rejoice. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly or spiritual meaning. Usually there is only one main point or comparison in a parable. Not every point in the parable has a spiritual meaning. Jesus often spoke in parables in order to teach others about Himself or the kingdom of heaven.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Have ever found something you had lost? Tell us how you felt when you lost it. How did you feel when you eventually found it?

There are a lot of people who are lost, they don't believe in Jesus as their Savior. The Bible tells us that the angels in heaven rejoice when someone who is lost is found. Whom do you know who is lost without Jesus? What can you do to help them know Jesus?

Life of Christ

DAY 19

DID YOU KNOW?

Leprosy (now called Hansen's Disease) is a terrible skin disease that created all sorts of problems in Jesus' day. In Bible times there was no cure, and they had to keep themselves separate from others because it was a highly communicable disease. Lepers got scabs that scarred the skin and turned the hair around it white. They could even lose toes and fingers due to the infection. In Jesus' day, the only one who could confirm they were free from the disease were the priests.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Name some things for which you are thankful. When you pray, be sure to include these in your prayer.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Luke 17:11-19 - Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers.

Arch Book - "The Thankful Leper"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What is an unexpected blessing you have received from God?

How might you offer God your thanks and praise?

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord, You are so good to us. Your love never fails. Teach us to be always thankful for Your goodness and mercy towards us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading -Matthew 17:1-13 - The Transfiguration
Arch Book - "Jesus Shows His Glory"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. God gave the 10 commandments through Moses, while Elijah was foremost among all Old Testament Prophets. What do you think they talked about with Jesus?

LET US PRAY

Dear Jesus, You appeared with Moses and Elijah, reminding all of us that You are God's Son, the Savior of the world. When we face tough times in our lives, remind us again of Your care and love for us. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of His public ministry. At that event, God the Father spoke out loud saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". The Transfiguration of Jesus marks the end of His public ministry, and once again it includes the voice of His Father in heaven. In the coming days of Jesus' life, He would go through a very difficult period of suffering and death. The Transfiguration reconfirms Jesus' divinity to His disciples. Without this reaffirmation, they would be tempted to give up during the upcoming events.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Jesus met with Moses and Elijah on that mountain. Do you remember what the story said they talked about? Do you think they were excited or sad? Why?

If you could talk to Jesus face to face, what would you say? That's how we can pray to Jesus every single day. Talk to Him!

Life of Christ

DAY 21

DID YOU KNOW?

Shepherds make their living by taking care of sheep. They were important people in Bible times. They made sure the sheep were fed, watered and protected from danger. They also carried oil to treat any scratches and cuts on the sheep. At the end of the day, they would bring the sheep home and make sure all were present. It could be dangerous work. They had weapons like a shepherd's staff and a slingshot to chase off wild animals who might harm the sheep. The Bible refers to Jesus as a Shepherd, and we can see why.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Shepherds protect their sheep. Who protects you? How?

Jesus promises to protect and care for you always.

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Mark 6:34 & John 10:11-18 - Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Arch Book - "Jesus, My Good Shepherd"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

What are some dangers we face today from which only the "Good Shepherd" can protect us?

What is the largest struggle you face right now? How might Jesus help and protect you through it?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus, You are our Good Shepherd. You have laid Your life down for us, the sheep. Continue to protect and defend us in a rough and sinful world. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 11:1-44 - Jesus raises Lazarus
Arch Book - "Get Up, Lazarus!"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

This account has a Bible verse you need to underline and memorize. John 11:25 *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

Do you know someone who is feeling down, who could use a little hope? Think of ways you could bring a little joy and happiness to their life. Make a short list of ways you could help them and be sure to include them in your prayers today.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the One who gives us everlasting life. We trust You. Keep our eyes always fixed on Your promises of forgiveness, life and salvation. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35. Why did Jesus weep? Perhaps Jesus was sad for Mary and her family and friends over the death of Lazarus. Maybe He was crying for the unbelief of the people. Look at verse 21, 32-33 and 37-38. They never fully understood who Jesus was. That could have made Jesus sad. This miracle would leave no doubt in their minds: Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Do you know someone who isn't happy? Someone who might be sick or sad? How could you reach out, build them up and bring them a little happiness?

Try to memorize these words, "Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life".

Life of Christ

DAY 23

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus raised Lazarus (Day 22 devotion) in Bethany, which was only 2 miles from Jerusalem. At this time, people were gathering in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Normally a city of about 50,000 people, it usually tripled in population with everyone gathering for Passover. Many heard about the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. They were excited to get a glimpse of the rabbi Jesus as well as Lazarus. No wonder they flocked around and treated him like a King.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

The word “Hosanna” means “Lord save us”. The people shouting “Hosanna!” waved palm branches, which is like cheering for someone famous. If you cheered for Jesus, what would you say?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Matthew 21:1-11 - Jesus Triumphant Entry (You can also read the accounts in Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-38 or John 12:12-19 if you want to compare them.)

Arch Book - “Jesus Enters Jerusalem”

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

The word “Hosanna” means “Lord save us”. Why do you think the people believed that Jesus could save them? Why do you believe Jesus saves you?

LET US PRAY

Gracious Lord, You rode into Jerusalem to finish Your plan of salvation for the world. We are grateful for Your love. We welcome You as Savior and Lord! Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 13:1-12 - Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet

Arch Book - "Jesus Washes Peter's Feet"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

So often we think greatness means having others serve us. How did Jesus show His greatness?

How might you let God's love shine through your life by serving them in love? Make a list of people who might need your acts of kindness towards them, and pray for God to give you an opportunity to serve them.

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Your love has lifted us out of our sin and shame. Teach us to be humble and give us many opportunities to serve others, that they might see Your love through us. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you walked in sandals along dusty, dirty roads, you may want to wash them before you go out to dinner, right? The tables in Jesus day were low and you could see everyone's feet. When Jesus got up to wash the disciples' feet, He was doing the lowliest work of a servant. This action had to shock the disciples, who had been arguing among themselves who was going to be the greatest of the disciples. Jesus came not as a conquering king, but as a suffering servant. Just like He said, "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many". Matthew 20:28

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Why do you think Jesus washed the feet of His disciples?

What can you do to show the love of Jesus to someone today?

Life of Christ

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus was brought to the Sanhedrin, a group of 70 men plus the High Priest who was in charge. These men were priests, nobles and elders who had authority over religious, civil and criminal matters. They had their own police and powers to arrest people, but they could not execute anyone. Jesus had told them He was the Son of God, yet He wasn't what they wanted in a Messiah. They wanted the Messiah to kick out the Romans and restore their power. They wanted a king like David, who would give them wealth and power. No wonder they didn't like Jesus. They didn't understand that His mission was even greater.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

This story tells us about the Lord's Supper. When you go to church, there are times when they offer the Lord's Supper. How is it like the story you just read?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Mark 14:12-72 - The Lord's Supper and following events.

Arch Book - "The Very First Lord's Supper"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Jesus gave us the Lord's Supper. It is His body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. This is a tangible way God shows us how much He loves and forgives us. In your opinion, what is the best part about the Lord's Supper?

The account of Peter's denial of Jesus is a sad one. Christians today face similar challenges to our faith. What are some challenges you face to stand up for what you believe? How will you prepare for them?

LET US PRAY

Lord Jesus Christ, Your love is so great for us. Thank you for taking our place and paying for our sins. Your mercy is new every day. We love You and are grateful. Amen.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Matthew 27 (the entire chapter) -
Jesus' Crucifixion
Arch Book - "Good Friday"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

All of us have things in our lives which we've thought, said or done which make us feel ashamed. Do you have one in particular that is tough to let go of? Name it, give it to God, and know you are forgiven. Jesus paid for it completely. How does that make you feel?

LET US PRAY

Dear Jesus, we call it Good Friday because what You did for us is SO good! Thank You for being our Savior. Thank You for taking our place and paying for our sins. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

When Jesus died, Matthew 27:51 tells us that the temple curtain was torn in two. Now this curtain was very thick and separated the Holy and Most Holy Place in the tabernacle. In Exodus 30, it says only the High Priest could pass through that curtain once a year and only with the blood of a sacrifice. Jesus became our sacrifice by dying on the cross. He removed all that separated us from our Father in heaven. We have total access to our Heavenly Father because Jesus paid our way. The curtain ripped in two in order to show us that God has given us access to Him through His Son.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

What does it feel like when someone forgives you?

We call this day "Good Friday" because it's GOOD that God rescued us from our sin. He sent Jesus to be our Savior by dying on the cross.

Life of Christ

DAY 27

DID YOU KNOW?

Outside of the testimony of the Bible, how do we really know Jesus rose from the dead? It's interesting that some Jewish historians, who were hostile toward Christianity, don't dispute that Jesus' tomb was empty. One of the earliest Jewish historians, Flavius Josephus wrote, "His disciples...reported that He had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that He was alive; accordingly, He was perhaps the Messiah...". Also, Roman officials actually made it a crime punishable by death, to steal a body from the tomb during this time. (The Jews had accused the disciples of stealing the body from the tomb.) These are just a few of the outside accounts of Jesus' resurrection. It really did happen!!

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 20:1-20 - The Resurrection

Arch Book - "The Easter Surprise"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Jesus had told his disciples he would die and rise again. Why do you think they had a difficult time believing this?

When suffering and death comes into our life, how might Jesus' resurrection give us hope?

LET US PRAY

Jesus, You are our Savior and Lord. You rose again from the dead. You defeated sin, death and the power of the devil for us. Thank you for being our Savior. Amen.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Look at some of the pictures in your Arch book and see the people looking for and finding Jesus. Who was happy? Who was sad? Who was frightened?

How did those who were sad or frightened change their minds when they saw Jesus? We can be happy because Jesus is alive.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Luke 24:13-35 "Jesus on the Road to Emmaus"

Arch Book - "The Easter Stranger"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Go to the very first book in the Bible and look up Genesis 3:15. In fact, read the whole chapter if you have time. Genesis 3:15 is the very first promise of a Savior. How do you think Jesus fulfilled this verse?

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, You have always cared for us. You always have loved us. Help us to realize and hang on to Your love, especially when our lives get rough. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus met two men on the road who were talking about the events which just took place in Jerusalem. They didn't recognize it was Jesus with them. Jesus took the time to show them in the Bible what this all meant. In verse 27 it tells us what Jesus did: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself". The Old and New Testaments are not two different books. God didn't just do something new. The Old Testament points to Jesus as our Savior and Lord. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus' life, ministry and the expansion of Christianity. From the very beginning of time, God had a plan - and that plan was Jesus!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

The men walking along the road were sad because they heard Jesus had died. But, some people said that Jesus was still alive. When Jesus started walking with them on the road, He explained everything that happened. He showed them He was alive. How do you think that made them feel?

Life of Christ

DID YOU KNOW?

The English translations don't really do justice to the conversation Jesus had with Peter. The word "love" is used in two different ways. First, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him enough to lay down His life. Peter responded that he loved Jesus like a friend. Remember, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times right before He was crucified. Finally, Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him as a friend. This had to be hard on Peter. He was feeling a lot of guilt for not standing up for Jesus when it counted. But Jesus restored and forgave Peter. God is like that, He is our Savior. He forgives all sins. Everyday is a new day with God!

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Jesus told Peter to "Feed My lambs" and "Feed My sheep". When Jesus spoke about sheep, He was really talking about us. How does Jesus take care of us, His sheep? How can we take care of others?

BRING IT HOME

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - John 21:1-19 - The Story of the Great catch of Fish

Arch Book - "Jesus' Beach Breakfast"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Guilt hurts, doesn't it? It's like a movie clip that constantly runs through our minds. Peter experienced a lot of guilt after he denied Jesus three times. What did Jesus do to assure Peter he could let go of the guilt?

With Jesus Christ, every day is a new day for us because He forgives and restores us. What does this mean to you?

LET US PRAY

Gracious Heavenly Father, You always look out for us. You give us what we need and always are there for us. Thank you for taking care of us and sending Jesus to be our Savior. In His name we pray, Amen

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

Say together, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

SHARE YOUR HIGHS AND LOWS

READING ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Reading - Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

Arch Book - "Jesus Said, "Go and Tell"

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Make a list of three people you know who either don't go to church, or don't believe in Jesus as their Savior. Pray for them every day. Ask God to give you an opportunity to tell them about the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. Rehearse out loud what you might say.

LET US PRAY

Dear Lord, You came to take away the sins of the world. Today, there are so many people who are living without Your forgiveness in their lives. Use us to point them to You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus calls us to "make disciples". We make disciples by bringing God's love and forgiveness to people wherever we are. We don't need to go on expensive trips overseas to do this work. There are people all around you, today, who need the hope you have in Jesus Christ. Discipling—leading people to know Jesus as their Savior—is a calling for all of us. Best of all, God promises to work through us as we bring the message of the Gospel to our friends and neighbors.

ARCH BOOK EXTRAS

Remember God promises to always be with you, love you and forgive you. Make a list of your friends with whom you can share this promise. Pray for them every day that God would open their hearts to Jesus.

Go back and look at all your Arch books. Which are your favorites? Why did you like them?

Life of Christ

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Resources used for the content:

Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook for Students - Concordia Publishing House

Concordia Commentary Series (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) - CPH

In the Fullness of Time - Dr. Paul Maier - Harper Collins

Know the Bible Now - CPH

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The Life of Christ - Adam Fahling - CPH

The Growing In Faith Bible - CPH

The Lutheran Study Bible - CPH

The Story Bible - CPH



BRING IT HOME
Life of Christ

