

## **December 1**

A - All

Revelation 4:8 “Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is, and is to come...’”

We are starting off this advent with a bang. Revelation chapter 4 is one of my favorites to read to my kids, even though it’s not typically a Christmas passage. In verse 8 we see a picture of the living creatures covered in eyes. It says there are eyes ALL around, even under their wings. I chose this for one of God’s character qualities because He sees everything. There’s nothing hidden from Him. That’s a quality I pray my kids understand about Him.

**Extra reading:** Read all of chapter 4, giving context to verse 8.

**Optional activity:** Give your kids a blank piece of paper and pencil/markers and have them draw what they hear you read. Be sure and keep it!

**Optional song:** You are my All in All

## **December 2**

B - Bread of life

John 6:35 “Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’”

After the feeding of the 5 thousand, Jesus sends out the disciples in a boat saying He’ll catch up with them in a few minutes. He finally comes to meet them, walking on the water and they are terrified. After that, Jesus declares Himself the bread of life. Bread is the basic necessity of life. Consider sharing a personal story with your kids of how God met your needs in a special way.

**Extra reading:** All of chapter 6, allowing the events to fall in order.

**Optional activity:** Have your kids act out the feeding of the 5 thousand. Use play food, picnic baskets, assign roles –let them have fun with it. It doesn’t have to follow the script exactly, but it will help put this story in their mind.

## **December 3**

C - Chosen One

1 Peter 1:20 “He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

**Extra reading:** This passage is speaking to our Redemption through Christ alone and nothing that we bring to the table. We are not redeemed with money or jewelry, but with Jesus Christ's *life*. Read verses 13-25 with that emphasis.

**Optional activity:** Talk about choices we have. Red cup or blue cup? Red shirt with green pants or blue jeans? Which friend to invite to your birthday party? We have lots of choices. Think about God the Father choosing Jesus to be our sacrifice before He even created you!

## **December 4**

D - Dad

Romans 8:15-17 "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry Abba Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."

The focus on this passage is that we are His children. Our earthly parents love us, but our Heavenly Father loves us even more. Our earthly parents will fail us in some way because they are human, but our Heavenly Father never will.

**NO Extra reading** on this one.

**Optional song:** *Third Day Children of God*

## **December 5**

E - Eternal

Deut 33:27 "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you saying, 'Destroy him!'"

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

We serve an eternal God and He grants us eternal life through His Son.

**Extra reading & activity:** There are lots of verses on eternal. Look up a few in a Bible concordance. Or better yet, let your kids look them up and write them down in a journal or paper that they can illustrate too.

## **December 6**

F - Firm Foundation

1 Cor 3:11 “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

2 Tim 2:19 “Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this transcription: ‘The Lord knows those who are his’ and ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.’”

In this passage Paul is addressing divisions in the church, saying no one is better than his brother. He uses the analogy of one person plants and another waters, but it’s God who makes the seed grow. “The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.” So, because of that, we must build on the foundation of Christ. He is our foundation. A structure built on any other foundation will crumble.

**Extra reading:** 1 Cor 3:10-23, Matthew 7:24-27

**Optional activity:** Play Jenga. See what happens when you don’t have a solid foundation. Or build a sand castle in the sand, another on concrete. Spray both down with a water hose and see which foundation is still intact. The “sand house” may fall, but the foundation remains in tact.

## **December 7**

G - Gentle

Matthew 11:29 “Take my yoke upon you and lean from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.”

Jesus is gentle with us like we are handling a new born baby. He wants us to come to Him when we are scared, worried, mad or upset at someone. When we do, He teaches us how to love like He does and He gives us rest.

**Extra reading:** The Triumphal Entry Matthew 21:1-11. Jesus riding on a donkey rather than a horse was a sign of peace and gentleness

**Optional activity:** Mark out a short race course. Time your children running it. Now, load them down with a jacket and a heavy backpack and have them run it again. Compare times. Which one did they run faster? Slower? Why? Have them take off their coats and “baggage” and lay it down. Jesus wants us to run free of worry and fear – baggage - and lay them down at His feet.

## **December 8**

H - High

Psalm 7:17 “I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.”

Luke 1:32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

**Extra reading:** Luke 1:1-38 Finally, the Christmas story! Dive into the story of Jesus’ birth. Remember, God chose (Chosen One) Jesus to come to the world as a baby, before we were even born! Take time and connect those dots.

**Optional activity:** The Psalms said to give thanks and praise His name. Write down what you are thankful for and pray as a family thanking God for his goodness. Also, pick 2 favorite songs and praise the Lord together!

## **December 9**

I – Immanuel (God with us)

Immanuel is one of God’s names. It is a promise that He is always with us. Sometimes life is dark and scary. God is with us even when we can’t see Him. That’s why His name is Immanuel!

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

**Extra reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Optional activity:** Sing the song “Immanuel” (Amy Grant sings a beautiful version)

## **December 10**

J - Jehovah Jireh (God our Provider)

Genesis 22:1-19 – story of Abraham’s testing. “So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.’” God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of his beloved son. God provides for us too. He is our bread of life and He provided His only Son so that we could have a relationship with God and live with Him in Heaven after we die.

**No Extra reading**

**Optional activity:** As a family share a time when God miraculously provided. Write them down, like Abraham did as a memorial of what God has done.

## **December 11**

K - King

Revelation 17:14 “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

**Extra reading & activity:** Share or read with your children about worldly Kings & Lords and what they do/did. They have powers, they make laws, they tell the people what they can and cannot do. Jesus is King of kings. Capital K verses lower case k. One day there will be a great war on earth, but the Lamb (that ties in with tomorrow’s verse) will overcome and rule over all. With Him will be those who profess His name.

## **December 12**

L - Lamb of God

John 1:29 “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

**Extra Reading:** John 1:19-34

**Optional activity:** You can tie this in with yesterday’s verse that the Lamb will overcome and it also ties in with Jesus being the Chosen One. If your kids want to know the significance of the lamb, look that up in the Old Testament. Sacrifices were a perfect lamb, one year old, without blemish or defect. Jesus fully fulfilled that too.

## **December 13**

M - Messiah

John 1:41 “The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah.’”

John 4:25-26 “The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I who speak to you am he.’”

**Extra reading** – Read the whole passage of these two verses. Both encounters show how people responded when they first met Jesus. They wanted others to meet him too! We see Jesus revealing himself as the Christ to the woman at the well. That was a special moment to her! Notice what she does with that – John 4:28-30.

**Optional activity:** Pray and ask God who you can share His message of salvation with. Have you received it yourself?

### **December 14**

N - Never-failing

1 Cor 13:8 “Love never fails.”

We often think this list is how we are to love other people, but don't forget God is also love. His love for us is patient and kind. He does not envy and He does not boast. He keeps no record of our wrongs and never fails. Before we can *give* a love like that, we have to *receive* that He loves us like that.

**Extra reading:** 1 Cor 13:1-13

**Optional activity:** Pray, write or draw a prayer of thanksgiving to God for His love. Pray for His help to love those around us as He does.

### **December 15**

O - Overcomer

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1 John 5:4-5 ”...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

Believing in Jesus doesn't take away trouble, it gives us someone to walk through our troubles with. Jesus has overcome sin and death and holds the power to overcome it all. He gives us *His* victory!

**Extra reading:** John 16:17-33

**Optional activity:** Listen to Madissa's song *Overcomer* and pray for His strength to endure whatever troubles you are facing.

### **December 16**

P - Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...”

Jesus came as a child – a baby – just like our kids did! Isaiah prophesied of His birth years before He came. That shows us God has a plan and will accomplish that plan.

**Extra Reading:** Isaiah 9:1-6 Talk about the other names given in that verse. What do they mean? Everlasting Father ties in with Dad on Dec 4th.

**Optional activity:** Make a poster! Write the names of God in pretty letters or cut them out of magazines. Display out for others to see and ask what those names mean.

## **December 17**

Q - Quiet

1 Kings 19:11-13 “The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.”

I love how the stories tie together! I chose “quiet” because of the gentle whisper. We talked about *gentle* on Dec 7. There are many loud things around us, but it’s important to listen to that still, quiet voice.

**Extra reading:** The story of Elijah, 1 Kings 17, 18:16-46

**Optional activity:** Turn on some music really loud and try to have a conversation with each other while whispering. It’s hard to hear, right? Now, turn the music down and do the same thing. Sometimes we have to turn off the noise around us so we can hear the Holy Spirit whispering to our hearts.

## **December 18**

R - Redeemer

Job 19:25 “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.”

Here’s another great tie in. On Dec 15, we talked about Jesus being the *overcomer* and on Dec 11 in Revelation we saw Him as King of kings. This verse echoes both of those by saying He will stand upon the earth. Our Redeemer lives– no matter how hard things are right now, our hope is that He lives.

**Extra reading:** Job 1-2

**Optional activity:** Sing *I Know My Redeemer Lives* by Nicole C Mullen.

### **December 19**

S - Savior

Luke 2:11-12 “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Extra reading:** Luke 2:1-40

**Optional activity:** Make a manger scene. Find a bed. Wrap a baby in a sheet, bring in some stuffed animals. Imagine the smells and the itchy hay. You might even find a star to direct the way. Let your kids imagine themselves being there. They’ll forever remember it!

### **December 20**

T - Truth

John 14:6 “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

In our world where truth is relative, these are key verses. Jesus and His word are the truth. Jesus is the only way to the Father. Our children are never too young to hear this!  
Optional activity: Pray for family member to believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

**Extra reading:** John 17:17-19

**Optional activity:** Pray for family members to believe Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

### **December 21**

U - Unsearchable

Ephesians 3:8 “Although I am less than the least of all God’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

**Extra reading:** Ephesians 1:1-14, 3:8-13

The more we try to understand God and His ways, the more we see we can never fully understand them. Paul calls it a mystery.

**Optional activity:** Curl up and read a good mystery story and think of how God’s plan for you is like a mystery. We can still enjoy it even when we don’t know what’s going to happen next.

## **December 22**

V - Victory

1 Cor 15:54-55 “...Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where o death, is your victory? Where o death is your sting?”

Death happened as a result of the fall. But as a result of Jesus rising from the dead on the third day, death is swallowed up in victory! It still hurts when we lose a family member to death, but for those of us who know Jesus, the story doesn’t end there.

**Extra reading:** 1 Cor 15:56-57, Genesis 3

**Optional activity:** Demonstrate the “swallowing up”. Watch a video of a shark swallowing up a smaller fish. Or grab a stuffed animal and swallow up another smaller animal. Death has been swallowed up in victory!! Then listen to Newsboys, *God’s not Dead* song.

## **December 23**

W - Word

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Jesus is the Word made flesh.

**Extra reading:** On the concept of the Trinity – Genesis 1:1-2  
This passage in Genesis also starts with “In the beginning.” Here we also see the Trinity at work – the Spirit hovering over the waters and God creating. In John we see this Word was also with God in the beginning and also IS God. This links back with the mysteries of God.

**Optional activity:** Listen to the song *Word of God Speak* by Mercy Me.

## **December 24**

X - eXalted

Exodus 15:1 “Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: ‘I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea.’”

**Extra reading:** Exodus 13:7-14:31 The story of walking across the Red Sea. Exalted is connected to another word we've look at – High. Here the Israelites are worshipping God and recounting what He has done. They are exalting him.

**Optional activity:** Do you have a musician in your family? Could they lead a worship song? If not, spend some time as a family recounting what the Lord has done in your life.

## **December 25**

Y - Yahweh

Exodus 3:14 “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.’”

In this passage, the Lord reveals his name as the Great I am. Yahweh. We could go through every word on this list and put I AM before it. I AM All. I AM the Bread of Life. I AM the Chosen One. I AM Dad. I AM Eternal...and so on.

**Extra reading:** All of Exodus 3: Moses and the burning bush

**Optional activity:** Listen to the song *Great I AM* by Philips, Craig and Dean.

## **December 26**

Z - Zeal

Isaiah 9:7 “The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

We've already read the first part of this verse and now we see how and why it will be accomplished. The zeal of the Lord. Zeal is one of my favorite words. It's one of passion and focus, and we see the Lord also has zeal. Thankfully He has zeal with knowledge!

**Extra reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7, Ezekiel 39:25, Proverbs 19:2

**Optional activity:** Think about what you are zealous for. Pray that God would give you zeal for His Kingdom and the knowledge to do it in wisdom.