

A Christmas Devotion

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This all too familiar story from Luke and Matthew have come to us again this year. As 2021 comes to an end we are blessed again by this magical story. Each year I try to read this story from a new point of view. I try to imagine how each character might feel as this miracle unfolds before them.

I think about Joseph, he must have been one of the kindest and understanding people – no wonder God chose him. His heart was in the right place at the right time. His parents raised him well. He must have been so open and honest, willing to go with the flow. Willing to experience the miracle no matter how crazy it may have sounded.

I think about the shepherds, the ordinary people. Minding their own business. But God needed them. Just like God needs us to share the good news, God needed the ordinary people to hear the good news first and then go and share.

I think about Mary, we hold her in such high regard, we lift her up and see her as saintly. But before she was saintly, she was a young woman going about her life, making plans for her future and doing her very best to be faithful.

Who do you think about when you read this story?

If you need inspiration, click on the star. You will be assigned a character to think about as you read this story. It might be someone you would consider an enemy – like Herod. It might be someone you've never considered – like the Angel. Read the scriptures and think about the story from the point of view of your character.

Maybe this story is good news for them, maybe it is bad news. Maybe your character is full of wonder and excitement. Maybe your character is afraid.

For more information on your character, you can click on their name when it is first mentioned and a window will pop up. You can read more about who they were and a little about their background.

Take some time, then, to walk a mile in your character's shoes. Wonder and ponder who they are and where they are going. What would they be like today? How would they feel about how they are portrayed in this story? It's important

that we don't know the answers to many of these questions – this leaves the door wide open for us to dream and wonder.

At the end of the story, you will see a present. A gift. Throughout 2021 we learned a lot about who we are as people. We learned what it means to give ourselves differently than we've ever given before. We've learned what it means to stretch and grow and get creative.

When you click on this gift a word will appear – this word is a synonym for “give.” Reflect on what your life might look like if you put this word into practice every single day. What does it mean to give all of who you are, in a new way, to the people around you, to those in need, to God.

Be inspired to go into 2022 with a new way to give. Use the image below as a guide. Fill in each section of the box with a way in which you are going to try to give of yourself in 2022.

