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The Women of Advent

Five free mornings for the woman who carries everything

THE PROMISE · ELIZABETH · MARY · ANNA

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The Women of Advent: 5 Free Mornings

A free 5-day Advent mini devotional for women. No email needed. Just you, the text, and about five minutes.

Before you start

December asks a lot of you. This little study asks for five minutes, five mornings, in any order your week allows. Each morning has a short passage, a short devotion, one question, and a prayer starter. (Advent simply means "arrival." It is the season before Christmas when Christians remember the waiting for Jesus, and wait for Him again.)

One note you can trust: every Bible verse here is quoted word for word from the Berean Standard Bible. Nothing is paraphrased or AI-written. The Bible does the heavy lifting; these pages just help you stay in it.

Morning 1: Light for People in the Dark

Read Isaiah 9:2 and 9:6.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2 (BSB)

Some seasons feel dark, and you cannot always say exactly why. The tiredness, the list, the news. Isaiah wrote to people whose dark was worse: an invading empire

was at the door. And God aimed His promise exactly there. Notice who the light dawns on. Not the people doing well. The people walking in darkness.

And notice what the light is. Not a rescue plan or an army. Verse 6 says *For unto us a child is born*, and then gives the child four names: *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. Read them slowly as a description of this King. Wisdom beyond ours. A child who is God Himself. A King who cares for His people like a father, forever. A ruler who owns peace.

This promise waited about seven hundred years for its fulfillment in Jesus, and it held, because verse 7 says what carries it: *The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this*. Because of this Child, darkness will not have the last word over God's people. That does not tell you how your own waiting will end. It tells you who wins. That is the first promise of Advent.

Notice: Read verse 2 again. What exact words describe the people the light comes to?

Pray: Father, here is the dark spot in my December. Dawn on it. Today I most need You to be my...

Morning 2: Elizabeth, the Woman Who Waited

Read Luke 1:5-13 and 1:45.

Elizabeth was righteous, faithful, and childless into old age. Then, in the temple, an angel spoke to her husband: *Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard*.

Heard. Not lost, not filed away, not declined. Zechariah's prayer had been heard, and it was answered at a moment God chose, because their son John would be the one to announce the promised Savior. God wove this couple's story into the biggest story there is.

Months later, when Mary arrived carrying her own impossible news, Elizabeth spoke a blessing over her:

Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord's word to her will be fulfilled."

Luke 1:45 (BSB)

Blessed is she who has believed. Not she who understood, or she whose wait was short. If you have prayed the same prayer for years, this couple's story may encourage you: however long Zechariah's prayer waited, it never went unheard.

Notice: Copy the two facts Luke puts side by side in verses 6 and 7. What does verse 6 say about how God saw this couple?

Pray: Father, You know my oldest prayer. I am placing it back in Your hands, because with You, unanswered is not unheard...

Morning 3: Mary, the Woman Who Carried Everything

Read Luke 1:26-38.

Luke tells us Mary was a virgin from Nazareth, pledged in marriage to Joseph. Then, with no warning, the angel Gabriel announced that she would conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the Son of the Most High, whose kingdom would never end.

Her answer has steadied believers for two thousand years:

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it happen to me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:38 (BSB)

Look at what her answer points to. Not to understanding the plan. To who she is before God, His servant, and to what God's word is. The angel had just told her, *For no word from God will ever fail.*

And notice the last five words of the verse: then the angel left her. Here is a reflection worth sitting with: after this one recorded visit, Mary's trust had to live through ordinary, unrecorded days, and most of ours does too. If your life does not look the way you planned it, Mary's prayer still works with your circumstances in the blanks: I am Yours. May it happen according to Your word.

Notice: Copy Mary's question in verse 34 and Zechariah's question in Luke 1:18. What is different about the wording of the two?

Pray: Lord, I am Your servant, and Your word does not fail. May it happen to me according to Your word, even in the hardest part, which is...

Morning 4: Anna, the Woman Who Kept Showing Up

Read Luke 2:36-38.

Luke gives us Anna's story in outline: married seven years, then widowed, and now eighty-four. He does not describe her grief. He describes what filled the years: she never left the temple, but *worshiped night and day, fasting and praying*. Ordinary mornings by the thousand. No angel visit is recorded for her. She showed up anyway.

Then, one day:

Coming forward at that moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the Child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (BSB)

At that moment. Luke shows us a woman continually present in the temple, and present in the very moment the promised Savior was carried in. Her faithfulness did not cause the arrival, but it placed her where she could see it.

Then she did two things, in order: gave thanks to God, and spoke about the Child to all who were waiting. An old widow began telling others about Jesus. Nobody sees your faithfulness? Luke's three verses about Anna still speak for quiet faithfulness, and they have now reached you. Keep showing up.

Notice: What does Anna do regularly, according to verse 37? What does she do at that moment, according to verse 38? Copy the verbs.

Pray: Father, You see my hidden mornings like You saw Anna's. Keep me showing up. The quiet, repeated thing I will keep doing this week is...

Morning 5: The Arrival

Read John 1:1-14.

The promises came true. The child was born, and John's Gospel tells us what it all meant:

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (BSB)

John says the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; the word he uses can carry the picture of pitching a tent among people. God did not send a message from a safe distance. He came Himself, in person, into human life. And here is the application for your December: among us includes your actual days. The diapers, the deadlines,

the grief, the night feedings. He came into a world exactly this ordinary and this hard.

John is honest about the dark, too: *The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* Not "the dark is not real." You know it is real. John's claim is different: the Light shines, and the darkness has not overcome it. As a devotional thread, look back over these mornings: a long wait, a hard road, hidden years, and through all of it, God's promise moving toward this arrival. The Light was on its way the whole time, and it has come.

He came, and He dwelt among us. Merry Christmas.

Notice: Read verse 5 slowly. What does it say the Light does, and what does it say the darkness has not done? Copy both verbs.

Pray: Word made flesh, You pitched Your tent among us. Shine in the dark corner of my December, especially...

If these five mornings met you

There is a full version of this study: The Women of Advent, a 4-week Advent Bible study for women. Four weeks, ten minutes a day, walking slowly through the promises, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna, with study questions, memory verses, and space to write. Every verse word for word from the Berean Standard Bible.

You can find it at lilydevotional.com/studies/women-of-advent. No account needed, instant download, yours forever.

And if what you need most is a daily companion, Lily is a daily devotional app for women, written for your exact season of life: lilydevotional.com.

Verse card

(Cut out and keep. Design note: this page renders as a printable card.)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (BSB)