

Daily Reflection on Scripture
Week of December 16
Advent Series - Silent Night:
A Season of Peace, Wonder, Love and Grace
Week 3: Love



This Week's Affirmation:

Before you begin your day take a slow breath in and then release it as you speak this affirmation:
God's love is revealed with skin on through trusted friends.

Sunday December 16

Scripture: Luke 1:39-41 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Morning Prayer: God, today's story makes me think of the old adage, a friend in need is a friend indeed. That leads me to take pause and think of how valuable friends are in my life. I take another pause and think about how I have been a friend to others. That causes me to stop and realize how sometimes I schedule too much and then I find that I don't have enough time for my friends. It also makes me think of the people I know that I can turn to in a time of need. So with all of these thoughts, my prayer is that I become more like Elizabeth who was available to Mary in a time of need, and to be more grateful for such friends who stand with and by me through whatever happens in life. May it be so.

Noon Text: One way that God's love comes to you is in a friend who loves you unconditionally. Who are the friends that you can turn to at any moment and for any reason?

Evening Text: God, as I prepare to rest I feel the love of my dearest friends. They come to me as the presence of Christ to comfort me. I am especially grateful for _____.

Monday December 17

Scripture: Proverbs 27:9 The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

Morning Prayer: God, one of the greatest gifts given to us is the gift of sweet friendship. I am grateful for the dear and trusted friends who are part of my life. They make my heart happy, and I value the gifts of their friendship and love. Today I resolve to find ways to let my friends know how much I love and value them through my words, my time and other small acts of appreciation. May it be so.

Noon Text: I am grateful for the wisdom of my trusted friends. They bring counsel to my life from a fresh perspective. Who speaks wisdom into your life?

Evening Text: Tonight I pray for peace of mind and heart for my trusted friends. May we grow closer in loving trust and compassion in 2019. I hold them close in my heart.

Tuesday December 18

Scripture: Proverbs 17:17a A friend is always loyal.

Morning Prayer: God, as I prepare to rise this morning I reflect on the blessing of trusted friends in my life. I am so very grateful for friends who have my back. I count on their loving support as well as their ability to be fully honest with me and help me make the tough decisions in my life, who aren't afraid to tell me when I am wrong. Now I give pause to consider if I am that same kind of friend. Do I offer unconditional love to my trusted friends? Am I willing to tell it like it is if I sense them making questionable decisions? That's the kind of friend I want to be. Help me to be that friend. May it be so.

Noon Text: Is there a friend that might need a call or text from you today? Take a moment to reach out with a gentle touch. Be God with skin on to a friend today.

Evening Text: God I am grateful for Your unconditional love. It is the model that guides my relationships with friends. I rest secure in the loving acceptance of my friends.

Wednesday December 19

Scripture: Proverbs 18:24 Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.

Morning Prayer: God, I have had many acquaintances in my life. Some of them were in my life for a short time. We walked together through many seasons, and then circumstances separated us, and we drifted apart. But, there are others with whom I have walked for many years, our friendships and trust growing sweeter with every passing year. I am thankful for all of these relationships, but especially for those faithful friends with whom I have shared years, or decades of my life. These friendships grow stronger and deeper with time. Teach me what it means to be a better friend, a friend that is even closer than family. A friend loves at all times. I aspire to be such a friend. May it be so.

Noon text: The faithfulness of a trusted friend is a gift of grace beyond measure. Who is your most faithful friend? Who might count you as their most faithful friend?

Evening Text: I am thankful for my interactions with trusted friends today. My prayer tonight is for them. May they rest well and be renewed for what tomorrow brings.

Thursday December 20

Scripture: Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Morning Prayer: God, open my eyes to those who suffer. Teach me that those who do not look like me, or speak like me, or pray like me also suffer. Give me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone to bear the burden of a stranger who has nowhere else to turn. For this is where the light of Christ shines within us. This is where the law of Christ is fulfilled. May it be so.

Noon Text: God, show me the way to step out of my comfort zone. Help me to have self-control and not judge those who do not look like me, speak like me or pray like me

Evening Text: God, as the day ends, let me reflect back on my acts of service today, no matter how small, for it is in these acts where Christ's light shines.

Friday December 21

Scripture: John 15:13 This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.

Morning Prayer: God, this is a challenging scripture. What does it really mean? What am I willing to sacrifice for others? Am I willing to put it all on the line for friendship? What does that look like? You provide the greatest example of love. Help me to reflect that love in the most meaningful ways to my friends. Yes, there are those who are my closest and most trusted friends, but help me to look at everyone as a friend, with Your love reflecting through me. I want to love like You love. May it be so.

Noon Text: How are you reaching out to your friends giving them hope? What are you willing to sacrifice today to support a friend in need? Take time to be a true friend.

Evening Text: God, as my week draws to a close may I be intentional in spending time with friends, catching up, letting them know how grateful I am for them in my life.

Saturday December 22

Scripture: Job 2:11 Three of Job's friends heard of all the trouble that had fallen on him. Each traveled from his own country... and went together to Job to keep him company and comfort him.

Morning Prayer: God, today I begin my day by praying for friends in need. May they feel the presence of my prayers. May they find comfort in knowing that I am walking with them. Help me to take this prayer to another level. Help me to find a way to be physically present to them through a visit, a FaceTime connection, or a phone call. I know how important such friends are in my life, now help me to be such a compassionate friend to others. May it be so.

Noon Text: Who are the friends in your life that are examples of generosity? How are you a generous friend to others? How might you show generosity to someone today?

Evening Text: God, this last evening of the week is a good time for me to pause to reflect and be grateful. Thank you for friends and family that comfort me with their love.