

You are invited to join us for an advent journey as we look forward towards Christmas and celebrating it's true meaning.

Read the word of the day and the scripture passage. Then go through the short devotional.

Take pictures and share your thoughts with us on Instagram and tag @cccmiddleschool.



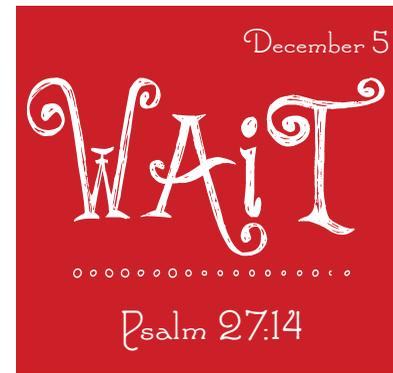
Isaiah 9:6-7 / HOPE

God gave us hope by sending his Son to redeem the broken world we live in. He sent his son to take away the consequences we deserve for our sin in eternity. How does Jesus give you hope in the midst of times when you are struggling?



Isaiah 40:1-5 / PREPARE

God was preparing people to be ready for Jesus to come. How are you preparing your hearts for this Christmas season? Get in a mindset that is ready to celebrate the wonderful day of Jesus's birth!



Psalm 27:14 / WAIT

Advent is about waiting and faith. What are you waiting on God for this season? God's people waited through many years of silence for the Messiah. Reflect on God's timing today and realize that it's quite different than ours. Just as God's people were waiting a very long time, God broke through at just the right time. He'll do the same for you.



Matthew 1:18-25 / EXPECTING

Joseph was not expecting that Mary, his soon to be wife, to become pregnant before they were married, and of all things pregnant with God's son. After a dream that helped him understand, he decided to do the right thing and stay with Mary. Think of a time when God did something for you or through you that went against your expectations in a good way. How did that make you feel?



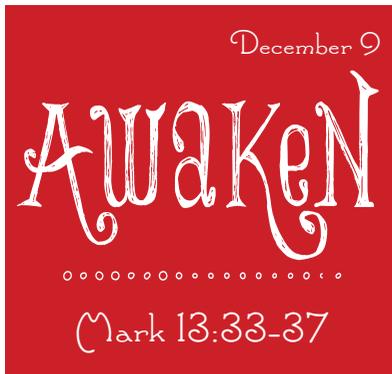
Luke 1:26-33 / JOY

Happiness comes and goes through life, but being joyful is a choice. We can choose to be angry, resentful, unhappy in the circumstances God gives us, or we can choose to live in the joy of Christ. Share some things that make you joyful.



Luke 1:38 / TRUST

Imagine what it was like to be Mary. You are unmarried, and find out you are pregnant with God's child. How scary would that be? She had to trust that God had a plan, and she surrendered to what he had for her. Because Mary trusted God, it ended up being the biggest blessing ever to have happened in history. How are you trusting God and his plan?



Mark 13:33-37 / AWAKEN

Waiting on the Lord means making things right and being active in the Lord's work. He doesn't want you to passively sit back, but to stay awake, because just like they didn't know when Jesus would come, you never know when he will speak to you. You must be alert and awake to his voice. How are you keeping your self active and alert to God's voice?



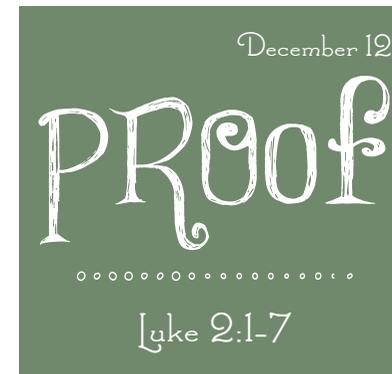
Isaiah 40:30-31 / RENEW

Sometimes we lose strength and focus in life. You would think that this is a bad thing, but the Lord tells us he will renew our strength when we become weary.



Luke 1:46-56 / BLESSED

Mary felt blessed that the Lord chose a humble servant to carry his son. Sometimes we don't see the blessings God is giving us, but you have to change your perspective to see them. Mary was a great example of trusting God, and in turn it blessed all the generations to come after her. Think of the blessings God has provided that didn't seem like a blessing in the beginning.



Luke 2:1-7 / PROOF

All of the foreshadowing through the Old Testament, and build up to the Savior being born and now He is here! What an exciting thing to happen! Think about how in awe you would be if you were there. Pray for God to give you a fresh sense of awe in Him and His power today.



Luke 2:8-14 / REJOICE

What a joy to find out the Savior of the world was born. The shepherds rejoiced! How can we rejoice knowing that our Savior will someday come again?



**Micah 5:2-5 / PLAN**

God had a plan that he was going to redeem the world with the birth of his Son. He showed it multiple times throughout the Old Testament. How does knowing that God has everything planned out give you a sense of peace during this time?



**Luke 2:15-20 / FULFILLED**

The shepherds were so grateful that God had fulfilled His promise to his people. They were so excited about what they had heard and seen, that they returned and rejoiced and told about what they had seen. What is holding you back from sharing the wonderful news of Jesus?



**Psalm 95:6-7 / WORSHIP**

Worshipping the God who created us is so important, because HE created us. He cares for us so much, and he loves to know that we love him back. What are some ways you like to worship God? Is it through music, writing, going to church, praying? What way do you connect with him best?



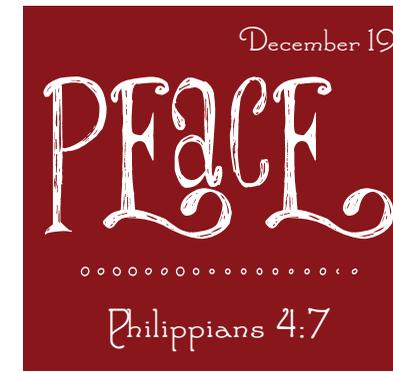
**Philippians 1:4-6 / KINDNESS**

What small act of kindness can you commit to doing each day from now until Christmas (the day of Jesus Christ)?



**Philippians 1:27 / FAITHFUL**

Paul shows us the perfect Advent example in this verse: be faithful. How will you stand firm around Christmas to keep Jesus at the center of it?



**Philippians 4:6-9 / PEACE**

God sent Jesus to bring hope and peace to the world. Through Christ's birth we see a glimmer of that peace that transcends all understanding. What situation brought you anxiety this week? How can you turn that fear over to the God of Peace?



**Psalm 80:3-7 / RESTORE**

The world has been a broken place since the fall of creation. Ever since then, the people have been longing for Jesus to come. There is hope when we have God, that He will restore the Earth once again just as he did with Jesus. What is one way God has helped you turn a fear into peace and hope?



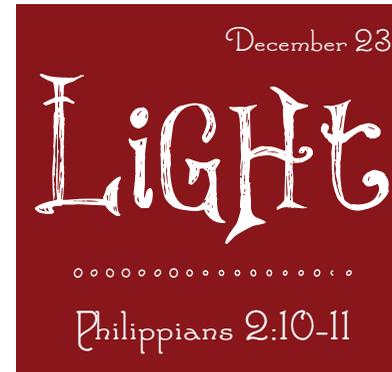
**Psalm 130:1-8 / FORGIVENESS**

God forgives our sins and sent Jesus as a living sacrifice to cover all the wrong we have done. If God has forgiven us, how can we forgive someone who has done us wrong?



**Philippians 2:3-4 / HUMBLER**

We have been set out in the world to faithfully, worshipfully and humbly give all ourselves to the lowest around us, because that is what Christ did for us! Read Matthew 25:31-46. How does this humble you?



**Philippians 2:10-11 LIGHT**

Worship Jesus today as we are approaching the day of his birth. How can you be a light to the world today?



**Matthew 2:19-23 / OBEDIENCE**

Joseph had obedience and listened to the angel when he told them to go to Israel. Are you being obedient to what God is calling you to do? How are you doing that today?



**Matthew 2:9-12 / GIFTS**

When we think of Christmas we typically think about gifts and everything we will get. Today as you go throughout your day think of the ultimate gift, Jesus. We can rejoice because today is the day that he was born, and everything changed! Reflect on the eternal gift that Christ has given those who believe in Him!