



Opening Prayer

Lord, guide me as I reflect on the joy you bring to my heart and soul. You are my joy, my life. Help me recognize the many ways you bless each moment. As I await the unimaginable joy of seeing you in Heaven, rest my eyes on that which you would have me see in this life. Help me to know your joy, trust your joy, hope in your joy, and live in your joy! Amen.

Unimaginable Joy Awaits

Traditionally, one of the candles of Advent represents joy. The joy of the Lord is spirit-filled, satisfying, lasting, and ever-present. We feel the joy of the Lord when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Our hearts fill with hope as we prepare for the unimaginable joy that awaits us when Jesus comes again.

Week One: Know the Joy

“Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!” Psalm 32:11 NIV

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” John 15:11 NIV

This is what joy feels like to me:

What brings me joy? When do I feel the most joyful?

Lord, in this world I experience rejection, loss, hurt. I know that my happiness may ebb and flow. Please help me remember that the joy of your unconditional love never wavers.

Sometimes I tend to dwell on the cares of this life, which can make it difficult to feel joyful. Jesus, I lay down at your feet these worries, fears, or challenges:

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12 NIV

“You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.” Acts 2:28 NIV

Jesus, when I read your Word and listen to the messages you whisper to my heart, I am reassured of your love. This is how I choose to spend time with you this week to remind myself of the joy you bring to my life:

“There, in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the Lord your God has blessed you.” Deuteronomy 12:7 NIV

*When I witness
the sun rising or
setting, the snow
falling, a spider web
glistening, a child
giggling... I know I
am witnessing the
love and joy of the
Lord.*

Lord, you are faithful in providing everything I need. I am so grateful for your abundant blessings. I am especially thankful for:
