



## Bible Reading Plan - Week 1

### Day 1

#### *Isaiah 26*

Isaiah 26 promises a peace that isn't fragile or fleeting but *perfect*—a peace that comes to those whose minds are steadfast because they trust in the Lord. During Advent, we remember that this promise finds its fulfillment in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The world offers temporary calm, but Jesus offers a peace that can anchor us even in chaos. As we wait—just as God's people waited for the Messiah—we are invited to place our trust not in circumstances, resolutions, or our own strength, but in the One who stepped into our world to quiet our fears. Advent reminds us that peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ. When our minds are fixed on Him, we experience the steady, unshakeable peace Isaiah wrote about—a peace the world cannot give and cannot take away.

- What circumstances in my life currently make it difficult to keep my mind steadfast and at peace?
- How can I intentionally fix my thoughts on Jesus during Advent, instead of being consumed by hurry or worry?
- Where do I need to trust Jesus more deeply in order to experience the “perfect peace” He offers?
- Ask Jesus to center your mind and heart on Him during this Advent season so you can experience His perfect peace, no matter what surrounds you.

## Day 2

### *John 16:16-33*

In John 16, Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure, promising both sorrow and joy, trouble and triumph. He tells them that their grief will turn to rejoicing—just as a mother's pain gives way to joy when her child is born. During Advent, we remember that we live in this same tension: the world is still broken, yet Jesus has already come, and He is coming again. In the middle of this in-between, Jesus offers a peace unlike anything the world can manufacture. *"In this world you will have trouble,"* He says, *"but take heart! I have overcome the world."* Advent peace is not naïve optimism but confident assurance that Jesus is with us, working in us, and victorious over everything that overwhelms us. He doesn't promise an easy life—but He promises His presence, and that changes everything.

- Where am I feeling the tension of sorrow and joy, trouble and hope, in this season of life?
- What does it look like for me to "take heart" because Jesus has overcome the world?
- How can I practice receiving Jesus' peace during Advent rather than striving to create my own?
- Ask Jesus to help you take heart in His victory and to fill you with His unshakeable peace as you walk through both the joy and the tension of this Advent season.

## Day 3

### *Philippians 4*

In Philippians 4, Paul invites us into a peace that "transcends understanding"—a peace that guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. During Advent, we're reminded that this peace is not something we manufacture through control, perfection, or performing well enough; it comes from the presence of Jesus Himself. Paul writes from prison, yet his words overflow with rejoicing and calm because his peace isn't rooted in circumstances—it's rooted in Christ. He calls us to bring everything to God in prayer, to set our minds on what is true and good, and to live in the confidence that the Lord is near. Advent tells the same story: the nearness of God brings peace. Jesus came close in a manger, walked among us, and still draws near to those who seek Him. When we fix our thoughts on Him, His peace steadies us in a world that feels anything but peaceful.

- What anxieties or worries do I need to bring honestly to God as I pursue His peace this Advent?
- Which thoughts—true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable—do I need to dwell on more intentionally?
- How does remembering "the Lord is near" shift the way I approach stress or uncertainty?
- Ask Jesus to pull your heart away from anxiety and draw you into His presence, filling you with the deep, guarding peace that only He can give.

## Day 4

### *John 14:15-31*

In John 14, Jesus promises His disciples a gift they couldn't produce on their own: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."* This is not the fragile, temporary peace the world offers, but the steady presence of God Himself through the Holy Spirit. As Advent reminds us, Jesus came to bring a peace that settles anxious hearts, anchors troubled minds, and assures us we are never alone. He tells His followers not to let their hearts be troubled or afraid—not because life will be easy, but

because He is giving them the Helper, the Spirit of truth. Advent peace is rooted in the reality that God has come near, God is with us, and God stays with us. When we keep His commands and abide in His love, we experience the peace of Christ dwelling within us—a peace strong enough to carry us through every season.

- What fears or uncertainties are making it hard for me to receive Jesus' peace right now?
- How does knowing the Holy Spirit lives within me change the way I face stress or disappointment?
- What is one way I can practice abiding in Jesus' love as I await the fullness of His peace this Advent?
- Ask Jesus to help you welcome the peace He gives—shaping your heart through the Holy Spirit and quieting every fear as you abide in His love.

## Day 5

### *Luke 2:1-21*

In the quiet of a Bethlehem night, Jesus entered a world filled with chaos, oppression, fear, and longing. Yet heaven declared His birth with a single, overwhelming message: *"Peace on earth."* This peace didn't come through power or comfort, but through a vulnerable child laid in a manger. The shepherds—ordinary, overlooked people—were the first to hear the announcement, reminding us that God's peace often comes where we least expect it. As the angels filled the sky with praise, they revealed the heart of Advent: peace is not an idea; it is a Person. Jesus is the peace who draws near, the peace who breaks into darkness, the peace who invites us into joy and hope. Like the shepherds, we are called not just to witness this peace, but to run toward Him, receive Him, and share the good news with others.

- Where do I most need the peace of Jesus to break into my life this Advent season?
- What might I need to let go of—fear, hurry, distraction—to experience His peace more deeply?
- How can I, like the shepherds, share the good news of Jesus' peace with someone this week?
- Ask Jesus to enter your life in a fresh way this Advent—bringing His peace into your fear, your worries, and your everyday moments, and shaping you into a bearer of His good news.