



Five-Day Devotional 41: A Five-Week Journey Expressing the Heart of Christmas
Week One — December 1–5, 2025
Introduction and First Five-Day Devotional

From the Pastor's Desk
Devotional Inspiration
A Five-Week Journey Expressing the Heart of Christmas
Week One: God's Unusual Grace

Series Introduction: A Five-Week Journey Expressing the Heart of Christmas

Introduction: Welcome to **A Five-Week Journey Expressing the Heart of Christmas**.

Something happened on that first Christmas that changed the world forever.

A young virgin conceived and gave birth to the Savior — **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**.

Though the times were difficult and uncertain, Mary chose to trust and submit to God's will. In that moment, the promises spoken long ago through the prophets came to life:

- *"The virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*— Isaiah 7:14.
- *"For to us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given..."*— Isaiah 9:6.
- *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you shall come forth Me The One to be Ruler in Israel."*— Micah 5:2
- *"She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*— Matthew 1:21–23.

It was a moment both **supernatural** and **miraculous** — a divine act that could only come from the heart and power of God.

- **Supernatural:** Not of the natural world; relating to or attributed to phenomena that cannot be explained by natural laws (Encarta Dictionary: English).
- **Miraculous:** Regarded as caused by supernatural intervention — apparently contrary to the laws of nature and brought about by divine power (Encarta Dictionary: English).

This devotional series centers on the birth and person of **Jesus Christ**, drawing from the **Gospel of Matthew** to reveal God's extraordinary heart for humanity.

As we begin this journey, remember: our focus is not on debating the exact date of Christ's birth, but on celebrating the message behind it — that **God loved the world so much He came to us in human form** to bring hope, peace, and salvation.

May these five weeks draw us closer to the heart of **Emmanuel — God with us** — and fill our hearts with renewed joy this Christmas season.

Blessings,

Pastor Fryar

***Note to reader:** This five-day devotional is designed to encourage and reaffirm that when you pray, you are deepening your walk with God. This is highlighted through use of scripture references from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.*

Week One: God's Unusual Grace

Matthew's opening chapter sets the tone for the entire Christmas story — God working through the unusual to reveal His divine plan. This week, we will see how God uses unexpected people and moments to prepare our hearts for the miracle of Christ's birth.



Day 1: God uses the unusual to reveal His grace.

Scripture: Matthew 1:3–6.

Insight: Matthew’s genealogy highlights the marvelous act of God’s grace by including four women — something unusual in ancient genealogies, which typically traced lineage through men.

Each woman’s story displays God’s power to redeem and transform:

- **Tamar** – once a prostitute (Genesis 38:13–30).
- **Rahab** – a former prostitute (Joshua 2:1).
- **Ruth** – a Moabite and former pagan (Ruth 1:4).
- **Bathsheba** – once caught in adultery (2 Samuel 11:1–5).

Tamar, the mother of Perez (Genesis 38:29), was a distant grandmother of King David. Rahab was his great-great-grandmother, Ruth was his great-grandmother, and Bathsheba became the wife of David and mother of Solomon (Ruth 4:12–22).

Through these stories, we learn:

- God uses the unusual to intensify our expectation for the extraordinary.
- God’s grace is greater than our past.
- God redeems broken stories for His glory.

Reflection: How has God used unexpected people or situations to show His grace in your life?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for using the unusual to display Your love and mercy. Help me see Your hand in the unexpected and trust that You are always working for good.



Day 2: God is unusual — and perfect in all His ways.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 55:8–9

The God who inspired Matthew’s Gospel reveals Himself as remarkable and out of the ordinary. His ways are higher than ours, and His plans often unfold in ways we do not expect.

Insight: God chooses the marginalized and the outcast, placing them at the very center of His redemptive story. In doing so, He reminds us:

- **God does not overlook you.**
- **God values what the world disregards.**
- **God’s compassion is limitless.**

Reflection: Where have you felt unseen or overlooked? How does knowing that God chooses the “unlikely” bring comfort to your heart?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to rest in Your compassion and wisdom. When I cannot understand Your ways, remind me that Your plans are always good and Your love never fails.



Day 3: The miracle of God's promise

Scripture: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21–23

Insight: Long before Jesus was born, God declared that a virgin would conceive and bring forth a Son — Emmanuel, *God with us*. That promise, spoken centuries earlier, was fulfilled on that first Christmas night.

Reflection: How does the fulfillment of God's promises strengthen your faith today?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You, Lord, that You are faithful to every promise. May I hold tightly to Your Word and trust that what You have spoken, You will bring to pass.



Day 4: Trusting God in uncertain times.

Scripture: Luke 1:26–38

Insight: Mary lived in uncertain times, yet she chose faith over fear. Her obedience opened the door for the greatest miracle the world has ever known.

Reflection: What does Mary’s trust in God teach you about obedience and surrender this Christmas season?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give me a heart like Mary’s — willing to trust, willing to say yes, and willing to believe that nothing is impossible with You.



Day 5: Emmanuel — God with us.

Scripture: Matthew 1:23; John 1:14

Insight: At the heart of Christmas is this truth: God came near. He stepped into our world, not as a distant deity but as a loving Savior who walks with us.

Reflection: What does “God with us” mean to you personally today?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for coming near — for being my Emmanuel. May Your presence fill my heart with peace, hope, and joy this Christmas season.

Looking ahead: The Journey Continues

This first devotional week prepares our hearts to see that God works through the unusual to accomplish His extraordinary plan. In the coming four weeks, we will continue our journey to discover:

- **Week Two: “Submission Over Circumstances”**
- **Week Three: “One Affecting All”**
- **Week Four: Christmas Value Statement: “God’s Self-Declaration in the Incarnation”**
- **Week Five: The Full Picture: “What Christmas Confirms About God and New year 2026”**

May each week draw you deeper into the wonder and worship of Jesus Christ — the true heart of Christmas.