

# Gratitude Calendar: 30 Days of Jesus

By Karen Wade Hayes | [karenwadehayes.com](http://karenwadehayes.com)

The Bible paints an overwhelming picture of hope in what it tells us about Christ; this calendar is just a sampling. In it, I share twice-daily sets of truths about Jesus. The contents are the product of my Bible readings over the course of a year. Each day, as I read a short passage (some from the Old Testament, but most from the New Testament), I would record anything I noticed written explicitly about Jesus. Since the whole Bible is about Him, there is plenty of material. I have included historical facts, things Jesus said and did, what He taught and promised to do, qualities and character traits, miracles, powerful acts over the natural world, healings, and even what others said about Him.

Each morning and evening for a month, be encouraged by these truths, then spend some time praying and reflecting on what they mean to you. What jumped out at you? How do the words give cause for gratitude? How do they inspire hope in you? Reflect on them throughout the day and evening, maybe even recording your thoughts in a journal.

In the swirling, overly full days of December, I hope this calendar helps you pause to consider why we have every reason to celebrate with hope and joy.

**“The true light, which gives light to everyone,  
was coming into the world.”**

John 1:9

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## WEEK 1

**Morning:** *Begin by praying John 1:14*

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ”

**Evening:** *Begin by praying Colossians 1:15*

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7
His name is Immanuel, “God with us.” He is the fulfillment of what the prophets spoke. For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulders & His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.	He had brothers and sisters. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, a virgin, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons & daughters. His earthly father was a carpenter. His mother was Mary.	He is Savior, Christ the Lord. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.	He is a great light, a light that dawns on those who see Him. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.	He is the servant whom God chose. He is God’s beloved. Christ emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.	He has authority to forgive sins. For our sake God made Jesus to be sin, He who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to God except through Him.	He is gentle and lowly in heart, and in Him we find rest for our souls. His peace He gives to us. In Him we have peace. Take heart! He has overcome the world. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He will give rest to all who come to Him, laboring and heavy-laden.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His mother, Mary, was told by angels that the child to be born would be called holy, the Son of God. God has highly exalted Him & bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.	Jesus is God’s salvation that He prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to His people Israel. For there is no distinction between Jew & Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.	In Christ, the kingdom of God came near. At one time we were separated from Christ, having no hope and without God in the world. But now In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.	When Jesus was baptized, immediately, He went up from the water, and the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove & coming to rest on Him, and a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”	The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, because God anointed Him to proclaim good news to the poor. He said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger & thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled.	Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven & on earth, visible & invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through Him and for Him.	The power of the Lord was with Him to heal. He gave the blind sight, made the lame able to walk, cleansed lepers, gave the deaf hearing, raised the dead, and preached good news to the poor. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds we have been healed.

## WEEK 2

**Morning:** *Begin by praying John 8:58*

"Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.'"

**Evening:** *Begin by praying John 4:14b*

"The water that I give people will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

DAY 8	DAY 9	DAY 10	DAY 11	DAY 12	DAY 13	DAY 14
<p>Angels brought news of His birth to shepherds, "I proclaim good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: you will find a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothing and lying in a feeding trough in Bethlehem."</p>	<p>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. God made His revelation of Jesus Christ known to John, who bore witness to the word of God &amp; to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all he saw.</p>	<p>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. God blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.</p>	<p>All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. He came as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Him will not remain in darkness.</p>	<p>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.</p>	<p>He was sent for the purpose of preaching the good news of the kingdom of God to the towns. This is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He doesn't need to offer daily sacrifices to atone for sins as priests of old: He did this once for all when he offered Himself.</p>	<p>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. The Word of life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life...which was with the Father and was made manifest to us...</p>
<p>King Herod tried to kill Jesus after He was born. His family took Him to Egypt, fulfilling the prophecy: "Out of Egypt I called my Son." God established a new covenant with the house of Israel &amp; with the house of Judah, not like the covenant He made with their fathers on the day He took them out of Egypt.</p>	<p>John came before Christ to turn hearts of fathers to children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared. In Christ, the new covenant, God puts laws into our minds and writes them on our hearts. He is our God and we are His people.</p>	<p>For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.</p>	<p>But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. The Father sent His Son to be Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.</p>	<p>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. If God is for us, who shall be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will he not also graciously give us all things? God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life.</p>	<p>God sent Him to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit to the yoke of slavery.</p>	<p>All authority in heaven and earth was given to Him. Faith in Him made people well. Even the winds and seas obey Him. He is the true God and eternal life. The Father loves the Son and gives all things into His hands.</p>

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## WEEK 3

**Morning:** *Begin by praying Luke 19:10*

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

**Evening:** *Begin by praying Colossians 1:17*

“Jesus is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

DAY 15	DAY 16	DAY 17	DAY 18	DAY 19	DAY 20	DAY 21
<p>He did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. He said, “I am among you as the One who serves.” He became a servant to the Jews to confirm the promises He made to their ancestors and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy.</p>	<p>He went throughout all the cities and villages teaching and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and affliction. He preached good news to the people. He is the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God.</p>	<p>He came not to abolish the law or the prophets but to fulfill them. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. You have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Christ - raised from the dead - in order that we may bear fruit for God.</p>	<p>He came to call the sinners. He forgives sins. He baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. He preached repentance. You love Him though you have not seen Him. And though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith: the salvation of your souls.</p>	<p>He said that He bears witness to what He has seen and heard, yet no one receives His testimony. Whoever receives His testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. Through Christ, God will be merciful toward our iniquities and will remember our sins no more.</p>	<p>He searches for lost sheep. He rejoices over finding one lost sheep. He is the great shepherd of the sheep. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.</p>	<p>He had mercy on those who were hurting. His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us draw near to the throne of grace &amp; receive mercy.</p>
<p>He uttered what had been hidden since the foundation of the world. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in God's grace, lavished on us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him in heaven &amp; on earth.</p>	<p>He wept over Jerusalem, that they did not know that He was their peace. He lamented that He would have gathered Jerusalem's children as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but they were not willing. God said of Him, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen &amp; precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.</p>	<p>Jesus grieved over hardness of heart. He marveled at faith. He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate. He said “Let the little children come to Me.”</p>	<p>He cries to the children of man. He speaks noble things. From His lips come what is right. His mouth utters truth. He committed no sin; neither was deceit found in His mouth. He did not speak on His own, but the Father who sent Him gave Him a commandment: of what to say and what to speak.</p>	<p>Jesus knew people would be divided over whether to believe in Him. He perceived the craftiness of those who sought to ensnare Him. He offended hypocrites. Blessed is the one who is not offended by Him.</p>	<p>He wielded tremendous power over the natural and physical world during His time on Earth. Never was anything seen like His works in Israel. People marveled &amp; were afraid after seeing His power even over the wind &amp; water. He calmed seas, turned water to wine, fed thousands with very little &amp; brought fish to nets.</p>	<p>He told those who were poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled, spurned because of Him that they can rejoice, because great is their reward in Heaven. Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you, by His poverty, might become rich.</p>

## WEEK 4

**Morning:** *Begin by praying Luke 2:40*

“And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.”

**Evening:** *Begin by praying John 6:35*

“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”

DAY 22	DAY 23	DAY 24	DAY 25	DAY 26	DAY 27	DAY 28
His teachings were astonishing. His works were mighty. He taught as one who had authority to great crowds, small groups, religious leaders, political leaders, and individuals, even children. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.	He admonished not to set our minds on the things of man but on the things of God. He taught many parables to help people understand the Kingdom of God & the importance of obeying God. So, as you received Christ, walk in Him, rooted & built up in Him & established in faith, just as you were taught, abounding in Thanksgiving.	He taught His disciples how to pray. He taught to always pray and never give up. He often went alone to pray. The night before His arrest, He prayed all night. During His earthly life, He offered prayers & pleas with loud cries to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.	He said, “Destroy this temple & in 3 days, I will raise it up.” He was speaking about the temple of His body. He showed His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things & be killed, and on the 3rd day be raised. He died - more than that - He was raised - who is at the right hand of God, and indeed is interceding for us.	He will return. He is coming at an hour we don't expect. His coming will be like the flood in the days of Noah. The day & hour, no one knows. As lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. You are not in darkness for His coming to surprise you but are children of the light.	Before Him will be gathered all the nations. In Christ shall all be made alive: Christ, the first fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. Then the end will come, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and every power. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.	His adversaries were put to shame when He spoke & the people rejoiced at the glorious things that were done by Him. Many followed Him and He healed them all. The power of the Lord was with Him to heal.
He taught, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” When we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, and believed in Him, we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we possess it, to the praise of His glory.	He taught humility, & to do unto others as you would have them do to you. He preached to love enemies, bless those who persecute you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who hurt you.	He will give rest to all who come to Him, laboring & heavy-laden. If people see with their eyes & hear with their ears & understand with their hearts & turn, He will heal them. You who were once alienated from Him, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death in order to present you holy & blameless & above reproach before God.	On the road to Emmaus, Jesus drew near & went with them. Beginning with Moses & all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell & through Him to reconcile to Himself all things in Earth & heaven, making peace by His blood on the cross.	We will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power & great glory. He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, & they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to another. Christ will appear a second time to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.	A Roman centurion declared, “Truly this is the Son of God.” Wise men from other countries came to worship Him. Disciples worshiped Him. Great crowds followed Him and believed. Many women followed Jesus. In Samaria, many said, “We have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” People left everything to follow Him.	Jesus astonished His parents. Herod the Tetrach heard about Jesus and sought to see Him. Leaders of the Jewish synagogue marveled at His gracious words and wisdom. Tax collectors and sinners were drawn to Him. Even demons knew He was the Holy One of God.

## WEEK 5

**Morning:** *Begin by praying Philippians 4:7*

"The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

**Evening:** *Begin by praying Colossians 3:16*

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

## DAY 29

Everyone who hears His words and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And whatever storms come, it will not fall because it was founded on the rock.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

## DAY 30

Everyone who acknowledges Him before men, Jesus will acknowledge before His Father who is in Heaven. When He comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the God of glory.

**"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."**

John 16:33