

Faith



LOVE



Flying Water



The Feet of the Cross



Good Shepherd - Lost & Found

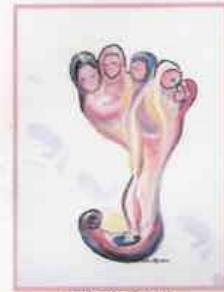
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TO.....S
A CLOSER WALK



The Sower



Joyful



Wise & Foolish

WRITTEN BY CATHERINE PRICE
ILLUSTRATED BY CONNIE RHODES



Widow's Offering



Fishers of Men



Come Follow Me



Prayer & Care

INTRODUCTIONS



Hi! I am Catherine Price and I live in the small town of Aliceville, Kansas. I am a member of the Mont Ida Church of the Brethren. I have been married to my husband, James, for 28 years. I have just recently retired from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation in Burlington, Kansas where I worked in the Accounting Dept. for 17 years. For the last 10 years, I have taught the Young Adult Sunday School Class and I also help to lead the singing. I began writing a newsletter for our church in September of 2007, shortly after my "inspiration" came at the Western Plains District Conference. Connie Rhodes' Footprint Art was displayed in the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren and our theme was "Come...Follow Jesus." Connie has graciously allowed me to use her art in the Newsletter and I have done so through 2007 and 2008. In 2009, I published several newsletters that were consolidations of several months. My last newsletter was in August 2009. After this I felt God's calling to begin a Daily Devotional Book based on these Footprints. I talked to Connie about my idea and she was very excited about it and has been a constant inspiration in her willingness to share all of her art so freely. Since that time I have been working on each month's devotionals which, looking at the cover of the book, you can see on your top left, the theme of "Faith" and going across the top, you see the themes of "Love", and "The Foot of the Cross" "The Living Water -The Holy Spirit". Next, is "The Sower" and on down the right side; "The Wise and Foolish Virgins". This is the first Volume.

Second Volume: May 1, 2013 Update: I am now finished with the Second Volume. These are the Footprint Titles: Prayer & Care; Come, Follow Me & I Will Make You Fishers of Men; The Widow's Mite (Giving); Joy; The Good Shepherd. I am very grateful to God for allowing me to learn these truths as I write down what He has given me to say. I pray that many of you will open up your hearts and allow ALL of His Love to Come In! In Loving Service, Cathy
If you have comments or questions, please feel free to call or text me at: 1-785-204-2938.

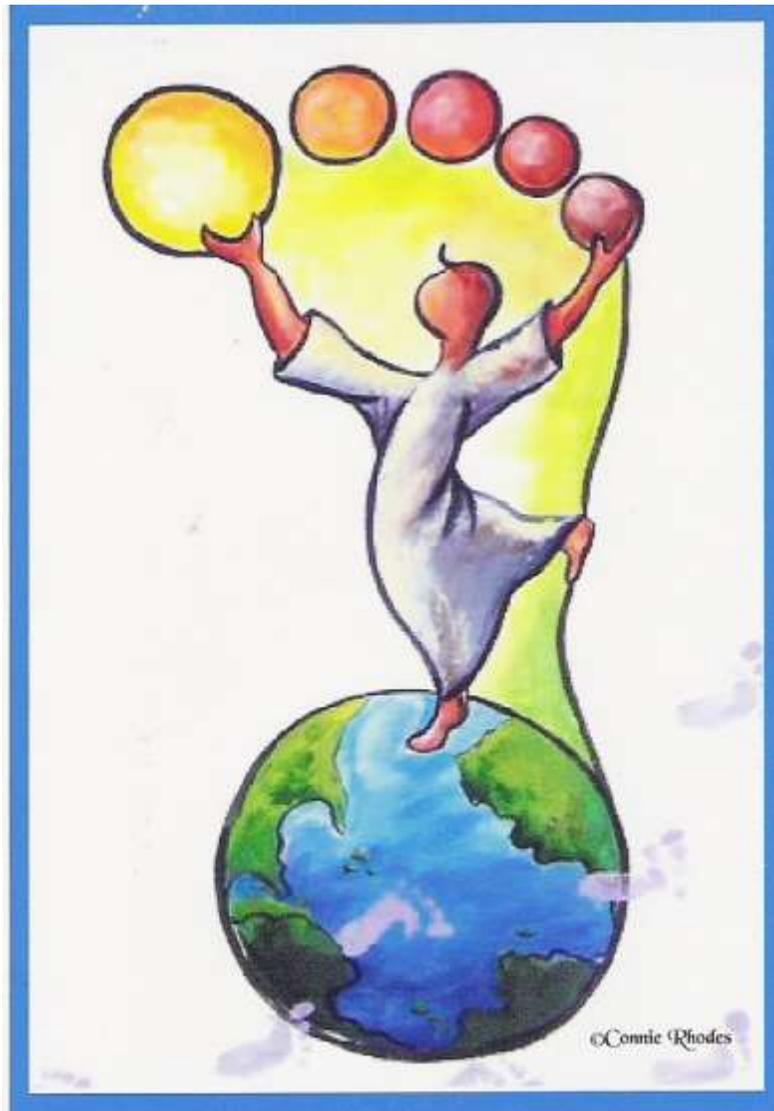


Connie Rhodes would like to extend her greetings to you all. In the above photo, she is doing her art presentation before an audience at Salina, Kansas in April of 2008, at the Western Plains District Ladies Retreat. Her talents became apparent to many of the “Brethren” when we came to the District Conference in July, 2007. She had been given the task of creating art work that depicted the Conference theme: “Come, Follow Jesus” Each of her original designs were in the form of a footprint and artistically portrayed a Bible story or theme. The original paintings were displayed around the sanctuary of the McPherson Church of the Brethren where the Conference was held. As we saw at the Ladies’ Retreat the next year, she is so much more talented. Her presentation includes; painting a beautiful scene while talking to the audience. This usually takes about 30 to 45 minutes. She is a very funny lady. You can see all of her art work on her website: www.artbyrhodes.com. Connie has been a member of the Newton Church of the Brethren for 22 years (as of this writing) and is also the Church Clerk, as well as serving on the Church Board and teaching Sunday School where needed.

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

NOVEMBER DEVOTIONAL

CHAPTER ELEVEN "JOY"



John 15:11: "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

ELEVENTH MONTH

FIRST WEEK

"HARVESTING AND GLEANING OF THE ABUNDANCE"

DAY ONE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

INTRODUCING THE FOOTPRINT OF JOY

By Connie Rhodes

"As I looked deep into my soul, I saw the footprints of my life; sometimes there were two sets of footprints and sometimes only one, yet at other times the footprints were smeared and going every which direction as if I were drunk! I asked the Lord, "Why?" He said, "The two sets are when we talked and walked side by side; the one set is when you were having hard times and I carried you; and the smeared and smudged footprints are when we danced!" (as taken from "Footprints in the Sand") How do you keep the joy in your life? Remember this little acronym: J=Jesus First; O=Others second; Y=You last"

This month will be a very happy journey for us. We all need more happiness in our lives, right? However, there are some distinct differences between happiness and joy. It is interesting that the clue is right there in the word itself. Happen. What happens is what makes us happy. So happiness is based upon what happens to us in our lives according to what we want to happen as opposed to what we do not want to happen. Joy is quite different. Joy is something that we possess, regardless of what is "happening" all around us; and sustains and steadies us through these difficulties. It is the joy that Jesus has given us inside. He said in John 15:11 that He came that His Joy might be in us! Awesome! Not our joy but His! Then our joy will be complete! In Romans 15:13 he says: "Now may the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit!" This is a wonderful blessing to bestow upon someone. It speaks of our being filled with Joy and Peace "in believing." Also, that we may abound in hope.

This is done by the power of the Holy Spirit! When we talk out these wonderful scripture verses it gives them more life and meaning. What do you need in your life today? More hope, or joy, or peace? We will be talking about these three things as we go along this month. Why the focus on Joy in November? Because it follows right along with what we have been learning about giving our tithes and offerings. This is the receiving part of: giving and receiving. Reaping and sowing.

This is Harvest time, The Fall Harvest season, and Thanksgiving time. We will be basking in the sunshine of His wonderful blessings in wild abandonment, as the Joy Footprint portrays. Prayer: Lord make me keenly aware of Your blessings today. Amen

DAY TWO.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JOY EVERLASTING

Joy is knowing the abundance in Christ Jesus our Lord. It is the revelation that what gives us joy has already been obtained and is everlasting, never to be lost again! But, we know that we can "misplace" our joy. In Psalms 51:12 say "Restore unto me the Joy of Thy salvation and uphold me with Thy free spirit." David had sinned against God at this point and was repenting.. Yes that is the only way we lose our joy, when we sin. That is why it is so important to come to our senses quickly and ask God's forgiveness and be restored to our joy! I would like to review the whole years' devotions to cultivate and glean from them a harvest of Joy! Each day we will meditate upon that particular subject and why it gives us joy. But, first, let us look at the Joy Footprint once again. The old expression certainly does come to mind - he's on top of the world! That statement usually means that he is happy! It can also mean that he has a good grasp on things - he is juggling the "toes" or his issues - the things that are his top priorities - able to cope with all this. The phrase "Kick Back" is also here - as his foot is kicking back ; sort of a ballerina stance. So we could assume he is dancing? Dance for Joy! His arms are raised in worship. There is a song of worship that actually says - "The reason we live is to worship Him." Wow! If that is all that is required of me, what a joy! I will just worship 24/7 like I will be doing in Heaven! Its' oh so much harder here on earth to worship continually isn't it? Let's be honest. Life keeps interrupting our worship. Let's examine worship next week, after we have gone through all of the different scenarios of joy.

Prayer: Lord my joy is so much more than just a happy feeling, and I never really thought about it too much, but now I know that You are showing me some new things about Joy. Thank You, Amen

DAY THREE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE GIFT OF FAITH

From January we are given Faith as a Gift to bring us into Victory!

How? Measuring our faith according to our value was the first part of this. We learned a great deal about all of the components that make up faith. We found that we must be willing participants and there was much action on our parts, to exercise our faith muscle to get strong in the Lord. Then we studied the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews 11. This gave us awesome examples of real-life people to show us how they demonstrated their faith in God. Then we spelled Faith, using each letter to start the phrase about one aspect of faith. Then we used dynamic scriptures that led us on to Victory in Jesus! There is great joy in victory of saving faith.

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9; 17-25

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls."

Hallelujah! Then we topped it all off at the end by discovering that in this life also, we have new life, are born again and become new creatures by faith.

Scripture Prayer from Romans

That is why in our joyful gratitude for all Your wonderful kindness to us, we present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God, and count it as the very least we can do in our service to You, Precious Lord. We pray that we will not be conformed to this world, but You are transforming us by renewing our minds to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. We rejoice in this hope! Our hearts overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving to You, Precious Savior, Amen

DAY FOUR.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE JOY IN LOVE

Scripture Reading: 1John 4:16-17

"We know how much God loves us because we have felt His love, and because we believe Him when He tells us He loves us dearly. God is Love and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. And as we live with Christ our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed and embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence and JOY; because He loves us and we love Him too!"

In February we studied all about Love. We learned from the Heroes of the Bible that Love has its' roots in JOY. God loved us first, it is in that principle that we build a life of love for others. We cannot love others until we have built a relationship with them, as we discovered this to be a truth that when expanded, we see the true BIG picture—we must first have a relationship with Jesus Christ and learn love from Him, and then we are ready to love others.

Fellowship with other believers is one of the keys to Joy! I made up a little

jingle years ago that goes like this:

Happiness is knowing God loves you;

Joy is loving Him back!

This is so true in my life as I look back and see where God has taken me on my journey of Joy. When I let go of everything, and just loved, my joy grew by leaps and bounds. Knowing His love for me is key as well. He has led me to where I am today through His perfect love for me. I wouldn't have known any of His marvelous truths that are in His word if He hadn't brought me there. I wouldn't have understood any of it anyway, if He hadn't prepared me through all of the events in my life, leading me to seek after Him, and find Him.

Praise His wonderful Love. I am so full of Joy in that praise of Him. I love

You Lord and I lift my voice, to worship You, oh my King my Lord! Amen

DAY FIVE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

COUNT IT ALL JOY

Scripture Reading: Heb. 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the Joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross; despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God!"

From the March Footprint we followed our Lord and Savior to the Cross and were crucified with Him, to be buried and arise to New Life! That reminds me of another scripture over in Psalms 126:5: "They that sow in tears shall reap in Joy." Jesus went to the Cross to be tortured and killed but He counted it as Joy, because He knew what it meant for the whole world, because of His suffering and dying for our sins, we would be given a chance for a new start, a second chance, and everlasting life besides. And for Himself, He would be exalted to the throne of God. I doubt if He was thinking about that part though, He was concerned with saving the world, not Himself. He wasn't thinking about His glory and all of the wonderful things that would be said about Him from now on, He was busy forgiving the ones who put Him on that Cross. On His Resurrection Day, He could now prove to His Disciples that all that He had said was true. Now they would believe! Now they too could be resurrected! What Joy, What Victory! Because of Jesus' obedience to His Father's will, the whole world could find a way of forgiveness and redemption. Not only that, but now, with our repentance and full belief, we can enter into a "New Way of Living" by having the full access into the Kingdom where God is! We can now live by the Spirit in this Kingdom of God, and be able to fellowship with our Lord and our God in a closer way than ever before. We enter into that Holy of Holies by the Blood of Jesus, where we can have complete JOY in communion with our Father through Jesus Christ.

Prayer from Hebrews

Thank You Lord for giving us the boldness to enter the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which You have consecrated for us, thru the veil, that is, Your Flesh, and having You as High Priest over the House of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water, let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering - for You who promised is faithful! Praise You. Amen

DAY SIX.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FILLED WITH JOY BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-18: " When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Upon studying about the Holy Spirit we discovered some awesome things. Throughout our journey, from the anointing oil in the Tabernacle, to Baptism in the New Temple we learned that the Holy Spirit was at work, bringing men into the realm of Worship which we learned was the expression of our Joy in every area of our lives. We will expound upon this in the next week or so, because it is the Key expression of Joy. We find that without the Holy Spirit, we cannot know how to worship God, or even have any "place" to worship Him. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the training of men for worship and gave the inspiration and desire for men to build Worship Centers throughout history. We saw how people like David were mentored by the Holy Spirit to learn to play instruments of praise and compose worship songs (or psalms). The Holy Spirit filled Mary and Jesus was born in a miraculous way. Jesus' time here on this earth was the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit on the earth; He was God Incarnate. But He was not through revealing Himself to man.

After Jesus ascended, then the Holy Spirit was manifest in every believer by the infilling at Pentecost recorded in Acts. Now every believer can be a Worship Leader through the Holy Spirit within them. He gives Joy, and the boldness and passion to go out and make new worshippers. We see from studying what goes on in Heaven, that there is continual worship there. We are practicing for a time when we will be made perfect in worship and will sing along with the Angels: "Holy Holy Holy is our Lord God Almighty Who is Worthy of Our Worship and Praise in the Highest Heaven!" BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!

HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH, AMEN

DAY SEVEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIRST WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

LETTING OUR ROOTS GROW DOWN INTO HIM

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6-7: "And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust Him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught.

Let your lives overflow with Joy and Thanksgiving for all He has done. "

Additional Scripture: John 15:5: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He that abides in Me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

In May we studied all about the Parable of the Sower and applied that to so many truths in scripture. We learned how vital it was for us to "Abide In Christ" and how the soil of God's Love was the same dirt that God used to form Adam out of clay. We went clear back to the Beginning of Time and forward to learn awesome things about our Creator. Our meditations were captivating as we used as an illustration a pot with soil in it. We prepared for ourselves a flower pot, and learned what it might be like to be the seed planted beneath the earth and likened that to our own spiritual burial with Christ as we were baptized. In other analogies, we learned about how Christ was the Seed that was planted within our own soil, as we were cultivated, purified, and fertilized with God's Word giving us the faith that we needed to receive that Seed into our hearts. The analogies were endless as we explored truths such as: being a soul-gardener, spreading the word-seed onto prepared soil; sowing and reaping; watering and harvesting; etc. The most important thing in all of this was the three examples found in the parable of the Sower and how important it is to learn from this whole parable that there are three steps in receiving the Seed: 1. To Know a truth with our Mind 2. To Believe a truth with our Hearts 3. To Live out a truth in and through our Spirits.

This is how we must truly learn. If we do not go through all three stages, we have not truly learned a truth. Let us pray.

Scripture Prayer from John

Help us to continue abiding in the Vine, our precious Lord, by doing Your will, so that we as branches will bear much fruit. Only by bearing fruit, will we ever glorify You, Father, and be Jesus' disciples. Oh Lord, how full of Joy we are when we remember Your word and promise, that anyone who believes in You shall do the same miracles You have done and even greater ones, because You have gone to be with the Father. We praise and thank You, for giving us Your word that Your Joy will remain within us and that our Joy will be full and complete. Hallelujah, Amen

**FOOTPRINTS
TO A CLOSER WALK**

SECOND WEEK

ELEVENTH MONTH

"EXPRESSIONS OF JOY"

DAY EIGHT.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

EXPRESSING THE INEXPRESSIBLE

Scripture Reading: 1Pet. 8-9: " You love Him, even though you have never seen Him; though not seeing Him, you trust Him; and even now you are happy with the inexpressible joy that comes from heaven itself. And your further reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls!"

Our Joy is so full sometimes that like the Bible says, "It is inexpressible." We found so much to be joyful about in the devotions for June. We learned about the Bride of Christ and how we are all one Body that He is going to bring to Heaven as His Bride, spotless and without wrinkle (or any defilement). So many scripture verses came to life when we explored them in the context of them as Jewish Wedding Customs and as the Jewish ways of worship. Many things that Jesus participated in while He was here with us in the flesh, were suddenly made more clear to us when we examined some of the Jewish customs more closely. We connected those "dots" as we were shown His purposes as our Bridegroom, in His Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids. This parable was given as an example of the Kingdom of God, and given right after Jesus gave us His itinerary of His Second Coming and the scenario of the End Times. So it was a serious study of that future time in History and also of our own relationship with Christ as His Bride as well. I am so glad that God directed me to study this thoroughly so that I could discover truths that I would not have known about otherwise. The most awesome part of this study was that of the absolute necessity of our being ready for that time when our Bridegroom will come for us. The Lamp in the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids was the key to whether they would be successful in greeting Him and they being taken to the marriage supper or not. It was all important that their lamps had enough "OIL"! So we had to make sure that we understood what this parable was referring to so that we could find the answer to the riddle. In our thorough study, it was revealed to us that we must have a relationship with Him in order to go with Him, because His reply to the foolish bridesmaids was that He never KNEW them. Even so, it was very clear that the OIL was representative of the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives. Whether we have enough of Him is the all important question. It is linked directly to our relationship with our Bridegroom by the fact that if we are "ABIDING" in Him we will be "FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT" and there will be no problem with Him recognizing us as His Bride.

The BIG SURPRISE discovered was the awesome VISION of the NEW JERUSALEM/"THE WIFE OF THE LAMB"! Let us pray:
Father, praise You for the Joy that You have given us by studying Your Word.
Amen

DAY NINE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FREE ACCESS TO GOD

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10: 18-20: "Now, when sins have once been forever forgiven and forgotten, there is no need to offer more sacrifices to get rid of them. And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way which Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—His human body—to let us into the holy presence of God." These familiar verses in Hebrews take on new meaning in the study in July on Prayer. How can we actually walk right into the Holy of Holies where God is? He is in the Kingdom of God in the Holy of Holies, and the Word tells us that we can have that access because of the Blood of Jesus. If one does not study how God set up the first place of Worship, the Tabernacle, and all of the types and shadows found in that study, one will never understand what the book of Hebrews is referring to. We must first educate ourselves on biblical history so that we can fully appreciate all that Jesus Christ's dying on the Cross did for us. Listen! We can walk right into the Holy of Holies only as the priests in the Old Testament did, by the acceptable blood. Theirs was animal blood. But it was only an example of what the true meaning was: Our Savior's Blood is the only Acceptable Sacrifice to make an Atonement for our Sins. It is God's Law, NOT MAN'S! I emphasize this because there is a lot of false doctrine out there that wants to do away with the blood atonement for sin. Just like there are those heretics who want to take down the Ten Commandments in the public square and public buildings. This country was founded on bended knee! Prayer! Yes, we enter into the presence of God only through prayer, BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB. He only hears our prayers when they are covered by His blood. Only if we have accepted His salvation, and that is our receiving of His blood atonement within our hearts, to sprinkle us and make us white as snow. Do not be deceived! God is not mocked! God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

John 16:23-27: "At that time you won't need to ask me for anything, for you can go directly to the Father and ask Him, and He will give you what you ask for because you use My name. You haven't tried this before (but begin now). Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and your cup of joy will overflow. I have spoken of these matters very guardedly, but the time is coming when this will not be necessary and I will tell you plainly all about the Father. Then you will present your petition over My signature and I won't need to ask the Father to grant you these requests, for the Father Himself loves you dearly because you love Me and believe that I came from the Father."

DAY TEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

COME FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN

Chronological scripture; Lk. 5:1-10: "One day while Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around Him and listening to the Word of God, He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' 'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets.

Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him." We learned many things about becoming Jesus' Disciples that were difficult and took a lot of "disciple -line" discipline is working on the "fruits of the Spirit" basically. In John 15:4-8 He gives us the ANSWER to HOW TO BE HIS DISCIPLES: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you except you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

He that abides in me and I in him; the same brings forth much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire; and they are burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My Disciples."

And His Motivator: Matt.28:16-20: "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth! Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen

DAY ELEVEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
CONTINUING TO BE HIS DISCIPLES

Our study for August and September were combined because there were many things to learn about being Jesus' Disciples and we took a Journey through the New Testament, learning all about Jesus' disciples and how they became Apostles and how we may grow on our journey of discipleship from their examples. Also, we learned what Jesus had to say to them and all of us on "attitudes." This current month of study is on "Joy". I have given us many scriptures on joy in the last few days. In light of this study on our discipleship, there is much to consider about being "joyful disciples." We are going to attract more flies with honey than we are with vinegar." What Jesus is calling "Fish" are lost souls. But there are many things to consider when witnessing to lost souls. But this old adage was the first one I thought of, and it is so true. No one wants what you have, if you are always sour and walk around with a scowl on your face. Smile and let people wonder what you are up to. Ha! There is so much to smile about! But only if you are into "good news" and not into the "daily news". I know that one of the keys to Joy is doing the Father's Will. And His will is that we follow His commandments and "go fish!" What we sometimes do not realize is that we are an example whether we are actively witnessing to someone or not. Our lives are an open book. We are either being a good influence or a bad one. We must learn to be on our guard at all times, keeping our eyes on Jesus, so that we won't be distracted and be a bad example. Don't let that statement cause you anxiety, though, because then we would lose our joy in the whole scheme of things. But we all need a gentle reminder that someone is always watching us.

Scripture Prayer from Romans

Father, we praise You, even in the midst of this tribulation we are going through in our lives, because we know that suffering gives us patience and through patience we gain experience, and through experiencing Your faithfulness we have greater hope. It is hope that makes us not ashamed of sharing with others the good news of the gospel. Father, help us to be patient in this tribulation by continuing to pray to You about it. Help us to remember those who are in need and minister to them. Help us to show love to those who would be our enemies, by treating them as we would want them to treat us, so that some may be saved. Help us Lord to overcome evil with good! For the time is drawing closer and now it is high time to awake out of our sleep! The night is far spent and the Day is at hand! Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

DAY TWELVE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

REAP IN JOY

Scripture Reading: Psalms 126:5: "They that sow in tears shall reap in Joy."

For the month of October, I chose to have a study on tithing. Using the Footprint of "The Widow's Mite (or offering)" I endeavored to learn all there was about giving to God what He requires, and more, There are all kinds of teachings out there on "sowing and reaping" as pertaining to our giving and receiving. I know firsthand just how true it is that God blesses us when we give. We know that God loves a "cheerful giver" and always looks upon our heart (or attitude) in these kinds of actions. We should never feel obligated to give, even though it seems to be a commandment. We know that Jesus came to do away with the old way of following rules to please God, and brought us a new way of pleasing Him, by our love relationship with Him. When we have a heart of love, we will be FULL OF JOY! When we have achieved Joy, we have achieved many other attributes such as generosity, perseverance, compassion, endurance, forgiveness, and peace, etc. We just want to worship Him, when we get so full! Worship is our outlet for a heart full of joy. Giving of ourselves is part of warship. Now we are getting somewhere. Romans 12:1-2: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." The definition of worship that was presented to us at a seminar on worship: Our whole life responding to the revelation of God's greatness and glory. In Psalms 92:1-4 we are given another definition: "It is good to say thank you to the lord, to sing praises to the God who is above all gods. Every morning tell Him, "Thank You for Your kindness," and every evening rejoice in all His faithfulness. Sing His praises, accompanied by music from the harp and lute and lyre. You have done so much for me, O Lord. No wonder I am glad! I SING FOR JOY!!" BUT LET US CONTINUE—vs. 5-15 "Oh Lord, what miracles You do! And how deep are Your thoughts! Unthinking people do not understand them! No fool can comprehend this: that although the wicked flourish like weeds, there is only eternal destruction ahead of them. But the Lord continues forever, exalted in the heavens, while His enemies—all evil-doers—shall be scattered. But you have made me as strong as a wild bull. How refreshed I am by Your blessings! I have heard the doom of my enemies announced and seen them destroyed. But the godly shall flourish like palm trees, and grow tall as the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted into the Lord's own garden, and are under His personal care. Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green. This honors the Lord, and exhibits His faithful care. He is my shelter. There is nothing but goodness in Him!" AMEN

DAY THIRTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

WORSHIP IS RESPONSE TO THANKFULNESS

Scripture Reading: Psalms 103: "I bless the holy name of God with all my heart! Yes I will bless the Lord and not forget the glorious things He does for me. He forgives all my sins; He heals me; He ransoms me from Hell; He surrounds me with loving kindness and tender mercies; He fills my life with good things; my youth is renewed like the eagle's! He gives justice to all who are treated unfairly. He revealed His will and nature to Moses and the people of Israel. He is merciful and tender to those who don't deserve it; He is slow to get angry and is full of kindness and love. He never bears a grudge nor remains angry forever. He has not punished us as we deserve for all our sins, for His mercy toward those who fear and honor Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth. He has removed our sins from us as far as the East is from the West!" Psm. 104:31-33: "Praise God Forever! How He must rejoice in all His work! The earth trembles at His glance, the mountains burst into flame at His touch! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will praise God to my last breath! May He be pleased by all these thoughts about Him, for He is the source of all my joy. Let all sinners perish—all who refuse to praise Him. BUT I WILL PRAISE HIM! HALLELUJAH!"

Our study of the November Footprint of Joy continues to reach back to all that we have encompassed throughout the year. But there is so much more, and of course we will celebrate this month with our Holiday of Thanksgiving. In all of our outpouring of Worship and Praise to our Heavenly Father for His Faithfulness to us, we must culminate this whole symphony of Joy with our December study of the Birth of our Lord. Some of you have been given a preview of this study. For others, it is the first time and you have not yet been privileged to experience the Joy of a New Revelation of the Birth of our Savior seen in a different light (so to speak). Needless to say, there is much to discover as we are led through each month of development of the tiny embryo and fetus inside Mary that leads us to a new understanding of the development of each one of us. It is a very graphic revelation of God's Blueprint for Creation that I know you will find fascinating. So this completes the whole picture of God's Amazing Love to all of us in His gracious outpouring of blessings upon all of us here on planet earth. To worship Him in response to all that He does for us, is our part of the JOY! The Reason for the Season is to Worship Him! Oh How we love You Lord! For all the great things that You have done, are doing and will do for eternity! Amen

DAY FOURTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....SECOND WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

MY JOURNEY

(taken from my journal while being a houseparent to two handicapped girls)

There have not been many moments of happiness since I came here to do God's ministry; but an abiding joy has reigned; doing His will is hard work and includes a lot of uncertainty, anxiety and fears. Not at all what I thought, I guess I thought I would have it made "doing His will"; but now I understand. I am in His service and surrendering myself is the name of the game. There is just not a whole lot of fun involved in that – but we aren't here on the earth to have fun. That's what the world has; you can take the world but give me Jesus! Praise His Name! I have a hard time remembering this one: I am not here to be comfortable, happy or secure. I am here to serve. Sometimes I want to run away and hide from the awesome tasks before me; but then I am reminded that He will not load me down with more than I can carry; and His yoke is easy and His burden is light that we carry in service for Him because He is holding up the heavy end! Besides all that, He may come today and take us all home, so what is this burden so heavy for only this last day? Oh! I was thinking that it was heavy because I was worrying about tomorrow and next week and next year, but praise be to God; because He only gives enough strength to handle today, then tomorrow we can come to Him again and ask Him for one day's worth of strength. Praise God! He works so intricately in my life giving added blessings in every day – working more and more detail into the design. The more willing I am to obey, and the more eager I am to serve, the more He blesses! How can I be the servant and He the Master? It seems the other way around in His treatment of me. It seems to be a rotation in constant motion; of the roles intertwining; He the servant-me the served, me the servant-He the Master; and then He shows me I am His servant only in the fact of Him using me or working in me and through me – His will to be done on earth. All that I have to do to be of service is to let His power be seen through me. To serve is to just not resist, to be completely submissive is to serve. The only peace, safety, happiness and contentment and strength is found in being in God's will. (continued tomorrow-please think about your own journey and what you have learned about finding God's will for your life)

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

ELEVENTH MONTH

JOY

THIRD WEEK

**MY PERSONAL JOURNEY
CONTINUES**

DAY FIFTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN

ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK

(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

FINDING GOD'S WILL LEADS TO JOY

(continuing from my journal while caring for handicapped girls)

“I repeat, the only peace, safety, happiness and contentment and strength was found in being in God’s will. I began seeking God’s will in major decisions, once in awhile. But when I went through some real shaky times I finally realized I needed to seek God’s guidance moment by moment just to survive, then I was completely reliant upon His leadership, I found that there was great victory in finding His will and then obeying His will; I found then that living in His will is having fellowship with Him; that’s praying without ceasing; it is a full time prayer life – communion with God. I found secondly, that living in the will of God is to be in the fullness of the spirit. There is no room for self-indulgent activities when the will of God is being lived. That invites the spirit to fill to the brim, the temple of God. There is no end to the will of God in my life. He keeps adding daily to all the areas of service. It involves resigning as an “individual entity of creation.” I belong to God completely, I am a part of God and move to His impulse. My delight is in the Lord day and night. I am flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. How I long to draw ever closer to Him, to feel more of His presence, but alas, I see through a glass darkly, for I could not behold His brilliance as I cannot fathom His wisdom. The very energy of my passion keeps me in hope; my hope is an unrequited love; a yearning for His touch; unrelenting is my need; never quenching the fire of hope burning on to greater hope. Oh how dimly I see through that darkened glass; I struggle with my mind to grasp a clearer picture; and its there for a split second and then it vanishes. The miracles being wrought before my eyes; and often I don’t even allow myself to comprehend them nor to marvel at them. But when I do there have been times of great mountaintop experiences when the JOY was too great to handle and I didn’t know what to do. I was so full of wonder I had to let it go. Yes! It was too great a share of JOY for one person and if I had held onto that vision of loveliness I am sure that I would have been killed by its’ power! (continued tomorrow, please think about the miracles in your life and give Him praise and thanksgiving)

DAY SIXTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH
(concluding the reading from my own personal journal)

My glimpse of a small portion of the glory of His brilliance has awakened me to sheer adoration and awe and helped me toward becoming at least to a small degree, humbled before God and to know of His greatness so that I would be shaken out of my dismal, drab, demeaning and ridiculous picture, in attitude, of what I off-handedly referred to as; my own idea of what my personal Savior is like. Apathy threatens to permeate every crevice of our being not filled with faith, and it does so, I believe, because we do not have a clear enough picture of the one in whom our faith rests. Why are our images of our Heavenly Father so absurdly belittling of Him? I believe it is because we try to put Him on our level, so that we can feel comfortable enough to talk to Him, but in doing so we have completely missed the boat! The idea is backwards; He wants us on His level so He can talk to us. If only we would be still and know that He is God! A preacher friend touched upon the very essence of the purpose of our lives. In the end all things will be burned, everything and everyone, except the souls of the redeemed. That puts a lot of priorities in order, our purpose is clear, God's will is obvious. Simple – isn't it? All He ever asks us to do is to share with others what we have. There is plenty to go around. Plenty of room in the Kingdom to come and take the bread of life. He has the bread, all we have to do is serve it. It is up to each man to eat of it. If they reject Him, we are privileged to feel the joy of sharing in His suffering. The Bible reassures us of our JOY in suffering. So what is there to fear if we take His yoke upon us? At best – it is JOY unspeakable; to soar with Him on wings of faith! And even at its worst; the burden of suffering shall be turned to JOY in the morning. Our power in Jesus is found in JOY! This JOY – no one can take away and all those faces watching us in suspicion, disgust, astonishment and amusement will be waiting for the answer. Serve His Bread with a Smile – Cheerfully and Proudly! Scripture Prayer(Nehemiah 8:10)

Father Praise You for Your infinite wisdom in teaching the people of Israel that the day was Holy that was set aside for a special Feast, for eating as well as sending to those who have nothing to eat. Thanksgiving is our time to do this, help us to be led by the JOY of the Lord - that is our Strength.

Amen



JOY

Joy can accomplish all of those chores
That dread had yet to do;
In half the time with half the effort
And twice the strength of you!
For His coming may be today—
Will He find me at work or at play?
If this be the last day in time,
Help me show God's love sublime!
And if there be any worry or care,
Is there enough time to spare?
Each fleeting moment is strengthened by thee;
May each hour - a soul be set free!

by Cathy Price

Art by Connie Rhodes

DAY SEVENTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

HAVING LIFE'S ABUNDANCE IS JOY

Scripture Reading: John 10:9-10: "I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Seeing the potential—Seeing beyond what is there now—that is seeing with our spiritual eyes. Jesus said, "Seek first the Kingdom and all these things will be added unto you." That is seeing the heavenly or spiritual realm—getting a grasp of God's perspective on our life and how He sees things and putting our lives into His perspective. Then all of "those things" will be added unto us! What things is He talking about? (Luke 12:22-32) He is talking about material needs as well as worry and anxiety about obtaining those things. He tells us about how He has clothed the lilies and knows the needs of His children as well as the birds of the field. He says there is no need for worry—He knows your need before you do. He concludes by saying, "Do not fear little flock, it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom!" In the next few verses, notice what we are to do. "Sell what you have and give it to charity. Provide for yourselves money bags that do not grow old; a treasure in heaven that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Hmmm.

And yet Jesus said that He has come so that we may have an abundant life. He is teaching us a new principle here! As we give away our treasures to those who are in need, the treasure is stored in heaven, and we look to the Lord for all of these treasures to be given back to us in His good pleasure. The Living Version of the Bible says "Your treasures there will never disappear; no thief can steal them; no moth can destroy them. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will be." This is something that we have learned in our study last month, but it is also something we must keep in mind at all times, so there is so much more to learn as well

DAY EIGHTEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
BEING READY FOR HIS RETURN

. Scripture Reading: Luke 12:33-37. "Be prepared, all dressed and ready—for Your Lord's return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let Him in the moment He arrives and knocks. There will be great JOY for those who are ready and waiting for His return. He himself will seat them and put on a waiter's uniform and serve them as they sit and eat!"

Our abundant life is quite a different thing than what we have been thinking. Luke 12:15 tells us to beware. "Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. For REAL life and REAL living are not related to how rich we are!" We seek after that abundant life, but we feel that we are empty, hungry and so very needy. The Great Discovery—we can find the abundant life, right here, right now! It is a state of mind; an attitude! We didn't have to toil or spin! A simple shift in paradigm! That's all it takes. We already have all that we need. We have accepted Jesus as our Savior; we are redeemed, we have been resurrected from the dead and set free from the bondage of sin; and translated from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Light. We will live forever in our Kingdom with our King! This Thanksgiving Season, start taking inventory of your abundance in Christ and rejoice as the list just keeps on growing! Envision the Thanksgiving Dinner as the Wedding Feast with the Lord that we have read so much about. I discovered some years ago that the abundant life is connected to our perceptions and attitudes we have about ourselves, others, and even the Lord. I began learning to allow myself to enjoy my blessings! It's OK! The things we take for granted; like our health, our relationships, our possessions, our provisions, etc. are a tangible part of that abundance, but the real treasures are those things that we have obtained since we gave our hearts to Christ. It is Very Important to see into our abundant life by actually sitting down and listing all of the blessings of God, because if you are like me, we have been doing a lot of "stinkin' thinkin'" and being negative, and "STRESSED OUT". This is why we are sometimes under a lot of stress, the thinking is all out of whack. If you are stressed out right now, there is no way you can be operating in the "Abundance Attitude". We learned about the "Be-attitudes" in July, but we may have skipped over this one. I think it means "Be Content" coupled with "Be Thankful". I read a little book by Joyce Meyer on stress. Her answer to stress—listen and obey the Holy Spirit. Obedience is the Key to Peace, Peace leads the way to JOY. JOY is where we find the ABUNDANT LIFE! Make that list. It will give you JOY!

DAY NINETEEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

JESUS IS THE ABUNDANCE

Scripture Reading: Romans 10:5-13: "For Moses wrote that if a person could be perfectly good and hold out against temptation all his life and never sin once, only then could he be pardoned and saved. But the salvation that comes through faith says, "You don't need to search the heavens to find Christ and bring Him down to help you, and you don't need to go among the dead to bring Christ back to life again. For salvation that comes from trusting Christ—which is what we preach—is already within easy reach of each of us; in fact, it is as near as our own hearts and mouths. For if you tell others with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation."

If you are reading this devotional and you feel your heart being tugged, and know that you have never really ever trusted the Lord to save you and have not received Him into your heart through the Holy Spirit, you can do that right now, just as you are. That is where the abundant life begins! For, you see, there is no abundant life without Christ. He IS the abundance! All that we are and have is His. But He is so generous because of His love for us, that He bestows all of this abundance upon us. When we have achieved Salvation, we have achieved the Abundant Life and we will begin expressing our JOY! JOY will bring us into Worship and move us into Love and that is where God Dwells! But I recall a scripture also, that says "He inhabits our Praise!" So He lives in our praise, and we live in His love! Awesome.

Scripture Prayer from Ephesians

Oh Praise You Lord! For You are so rich in mercy. You loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, You gave us back our lives again when You raised Christ from the dead—only in Your mercy—have we ever been saved—and You lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ where we sit with Him in heavenly realms all because of what Jesus has done for us with His blood! Precious Jesus, thank You for being our way of peace, making us all one family, Jews and gentiles have been made into one new person—fused together to be parts of Your own body. I pray that our roots will grow down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love, and may we be able to feel and understand, as children of God should, just how long, how deep, how wide, and how high that love really is! And at last, may we be filled up with You, Father. For You are able to do far more than we could ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes. Amen

DAY TWENTYCHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

GIVING IN GRATITUDE

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:10-12: "It is a time to celebrate with a hearty meal, and to send presents to those in need, for the JOY of the Lord is your strength. You must not be dejected and sad! And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, "That's right! Don't weep! For this is a day of Holy JOY not of sadness. So the people went away to eat a festive meal and to send presents; it was a time of great and joyful celebration because they could hear and understand God's words."

This was the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths) As we celebrate in much the same way, let us come with much JOY as we meditate upon all of God's rich blessings to us, and help those in need especially now. It is a time of deep gratitude. I must say that this is the overall season of Thanksgiving AND Christmas. We give the gifts to one another at Christmas time, extending the hand of compassion all throughout this rather lengthy season of gratitude and love and praise and thanksgiving. We also sing more songs at Christmas and this is mentioned in Colossians 3:16: "Remember what Christ taught and let His words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus, and come with Him into the presence of God the Father to give Him your thanks." His mercy and His grace and His love are such marvelous gifts that we possess—received from Him and to be given to others. Yes, in the "abundance mode" we are both givers and takers. We freely received—let us freely give! Let us reason together—The miracles of mercy, grace and love are coming from a divine source, so how can we give the same to others? Although these are divine attributes, God has given us another precious gift, the Holy Spirit. He is inside of each one of us who have accepted Christ as our Savior. So, He works through us to bestow on others these gifts, using as a vehicle material things, but also things such as; forgiveness, service, kindness, meekness, patience, understanding and compassion and all with love for our fellow man. The fruits of the Spirit are growing on we who have been grafted as branches into His divine tree; they are for others to enjoy and learn about God from! Oh! The Light Dawns!

Scripture Prayer from Colossians: Father, Thank You for filling our lives with Joy and Thanksgiving for all You have done for us, setting our sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where Your Son sits beside You on Your throne in the place of honor and power. Let heaven fill our thoughts instead of all those worries and cares about our lives here on earth; for we know that we should no longer let worldly cares concern us since we have died to the fleshly desires of this world, and risen to the newness of the real life in the heavenly realms with Christ and God. Lord, when You do come back again, who are our real life, we will shine with You and share in all Your glories!AMEN

DAY TWENTY -ONE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....THIRD WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

A VISION OF ABUNDANCE

Scripture Reading: Gen. 28:10-22: "So Jacob left Beer-sheba and journeyed toward Haran. That night, when he stopped to camp at sundown, he found a rock for a headrest and lay down to sleep, and dreamed that a staircase reached from earth to heaven, and he saw the angels of God going up and down upon it. At the top of the stairs stood the Lord. "I am Jehovah" He said, "the God of Abraham, and of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on is yours! I will give it to you and to all your descendants. For you will have descendants, as many as dust. They will cover the land from east to west and from north to south; and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. What's more, I am with you, and will protect you wherever you go, and will bring you back safely to this land; I will be with you constantly until I have finished giving you all I am promising." Then Jacob woke up. "God lives here!" he exclaimed in terror. "I've stumbled into His home! This is the awesome entrance to heaven!" The next morning he got up very early and set his stone headrest upright as a memorial pillar, and poured olive oil over it. He named the place Bethel (House of God) though the previous name of the nearest village was Luz.

"And Jacob vowed this vow to God.: If God will help and protect me on this journey and give me food and clothes, and will bring me back safely to my father, then I will choose Jehovah as my God! And this memorial pillar shall become a place for worship; and I will give you back a tenth of everything You give me!" As we saw last month, this was a very interesting story on tithing and giving back to God, and that we are still under this principle of sowing and reaping: we receive from God, and then we are to give back a tenth. But this time I want to call our attention to the Staircase of Heaven. Do you believe it exists? It is called "Jacob's Ladder" as well. Let us look with spiritual eyes and see the Vision of Abundance here portrayed in this story. Look at the staircase—it is ascending to the Gate of Heaven. It is the Angels who are bringing treasures to heaven, and from heaven. Now when I use my brain that God gave me to use, I immediately ask this question—why would heaven need anything? Aren't all the Treasures in Eternity—already prepared from the foundation of the Existence of all things??? But the scriptures do not say anything about "treasures" in these verses. What did we learn in July when we studied all about prayer? Our prayers ascend to God. The tapestry on the ceiling of the Tabernacle indicated that it was the Angels who brought the Prayers of the Saints up to God in "Vials" which was mentioned in Revelation. Our prayers are taken by the angels and ascend on this Staircase up to God. Pretty Far Fetched!! But I didn't make this stuff up! It is in the Bible! So we have to trust it. Whether it is literal or figurative, that is the question. The point here is: As we pray, (ascending), there are treasures coming our way, (descending). Praise You Lord for this wonderful Promise. Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

NOVEMBER DEVOTIONAL

FOURTH WEEK

"PROMISES OF ABUNDANCE"

DAY TWENTY -TWO.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PROMISES, PROMISES

Scripture Reading: 11Cor. 5:21; 6:1-2; 5:1: "For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, He poured God's goodness into us!" "As God's partners we beg you not to toss aside this marvelous message of God's great kindness. For God says, "Your cry came to me at a favorable time, when the doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered." Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today He is ready to save you." "For we know that when this tent we live in now is taken down—when we die and leave these bodies—we will have wonderful new bodies in heaven, homes that will be ours forevermore, made for us by God Himself, and not by human hands. This is what God has prepared for us, and as a guarantee He has given us His Holy Spirit."11 Pet.2-8: " Do you want more and more of God's kindness and peace? Then learn to know Him better and better. For as you know Him better, He will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life; He even shares His own glory and His own goodness with us! And by that same mighty power He has given us all the other rich and wonderful blessings He promised; for instance, the promise to save us from the lust and rottenness all around us, and to give us His own character. But to obtain these gifts, you need more than faith; you must also work hard to be good, and even that is not enough. For then you must learn to know God better and discover what He wants you to do. Next, learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly, gladly letting God have His way with you. This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply. The more you go on in this way, the more you will grow strong spiritually and become fruitful and useful to our Lord Jesus Christ. Vs. 10-11: "So, dear brothers, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen, and then you will never stumble or fall away. And God will open wide the Gates of Heaven for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!! "Praise You Lord for giving us the "Secret to Abundant Living" Amen

DAY TWENTY -THREE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

OUR TREASURE FROM ABOVE

2Cor. 4:7-10; 6:5-10; 4:16-17: "But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shines within us—is held in a perishable container, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did, so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within who keeps us safe." We have been beaten, put in jail, faced angry mobs, worked to exhaustion, stayed awake through sleepless nights of watching, and gone without food. We have proved ourselves to be what we claim by our wholesome lives and by our understanding of the Gospel and by our patience. We have been kind and truly loving and filled with the Holy Spirit. We have been truthful with God's power helping us in all that we do. All of the godly man's arsenal---weapons of defense, and weapons of attack—have been ours. We stand true to the Lord whether others honor us or despise us, whether they criticize us or commend us. We are honest but they call us liars! The world ignores us but we are known to God; we live close to death, but here we are, still very much alive. We have been injured but kept from death. Our hearts ache, but at the same time we have the JOY of the Lord. We are poor, but we give rich spiritual gifts to others. We own nothing yet we enjoy everything! That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day. These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!"

This is the Abundant Life! Not always pleasant, but so full of God's provision. Looking at the situation through fleshly eyes it doesn't look good, but looking through spiritual eyes we can see beyond the present problems! This is Faith! All the treasures of heaven are up there waiting to be released! When we pray believing God for the miracle, we can have authority in confidence.

Prayer

Father, I pray in the name of Jesus, that You will help me to receive the authority in confidence that I need to believe Your promises are true and that I can receive the things into my life that You would have for me. Amen

DAY TWENTY -FOUR.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

Scripture Reading; Matt. 16:15-19: "Then (Jesus) asked them, "Who do you think that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "The Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!" "God has blessed you, Simon, son of Jonah," Jesus said, "for My Father in Heaven has personally revealed this to you—this is not from any human source. You are Peter, a stone; and upon this rock I will build My Church; and all the powers of Hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatever doors you lock on earth shall be locked in heaven; and whatever doors you open on earth shall be opened in heaven!" What an awesome Proclamation! There are a lot of wonderful blessings that are bestowed on not only Peter in Jesus' words, but on all believers that, Yes! Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and He is the Rock! He gives us these Keys of the Kingdom, now that the Church has been established and is flourishing. What are they and how do we use them? I believe that He gives us Authority in Prayer—to reach Heaven and to Open the Windows of Heaven and yes, even the Gate of Heaven and to Release the Blessings or Treasures that are Stored in Heaven for us, and give the Angels the job of descending Jacob's Ladder and bringing these treasures to us in our lives! Jesus is also telling us that we have the authority to Bind Satan and all of the evil things that do not belong in our lives; unforgiveness, anger, selfishness, pride, depression, financial lack, bondage to bad habits, etc. Look again at the story of Jacob's Ladder. The angels were ascending and descending. There was no mention of bringing treasures to earth, and certainly no mention of bringing them to heaven. Heaven doesn't need our tithes and offerings, but we are told to give them, even so. They are to be used here on earth to help the needy, and to build the churches and help missionaries go to other countries and preach and teach the Gospel Message. So the angels must be bringing something else to heaven, and I have hinted that this could be the prayers of the saints. So what are they bringing when they descend? We are told in other scripture and in commentaries that the Angels are given assignments from God to do on earth for the people of God. This is the picture of this action. The Angels are released to go to earth to help answer the 911 calls of us saints. What more could we need? We have the Holy Spirit within us and the angels all around us—give God all the Glory!

Scripture Prayer from 1 & 11 Thessalonians

All Praise and Thanksgiving to You, Father God for blessing our work; let it be produced by Faith and prompted by Love, and our endurance inspired by Hope in the Lord Jesus. Our love continues to grow by Your Power, Oh God. For we whom You Love have been chosen to be the recipients of the Gospel Message and not simply with words but with Power; with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction! In spite of severe sufferings, let us continue to have the Joy that the Holy Spirit keeps holding out to us as a gift to be unwrapped and used over and over again. AMEN

DAY TWENTY -FIVE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

LOCKING AND UNLOCKING
USING THE KEYS

Malachi 3:8-12: "Will a man rob God? Surely not! And yet you have robbed me. "What do you mean? When did we ever rob you?" "You have robbed me of the tithes and offerings due to me.. And so the awesome curse of God is cursing you, for your whole nation has been robbing me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be food enough in my Temple; if you do, I will open up the windows of heaven for you; and pour out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen," says the Lord of Hosts. "And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land sparkling with happiness. These are the promises of the Lord of Hosts."

Luke 6:38: "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together. (For if you give, you will receive! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.") The Vision is one of "The Windows of Heaven" and all of the treasures of Heaven are up there waiting on us to RELEASE them into our lives! Wow! We will have streets of Gold and Mansions! Why can't we borrow from that Now and have all the wealth we need! We will have perfect bodies and no more pain or sickness! Why not borrow from that now? He has promised us that if we will ask anything in His name; which includes being in His will; He Will Answer. He says He will pour us out a blessing we cannot even hold all of it! But we have to follow ALL the instructions! Obedience to His Word—that is the Key to the other Keys of the Kingdom. Now we have talked about just about everything that pertains to our having the abundance that God wants us to have. There is just so much to cover about what gives us Joy! Next month we will talk about "The Gift" and how to give it. The other part of abundance is giving that gift to someone who doesn't even know he needs it. We talked about this in "Fishers of Men" about how to witness to others. In my little poem on Joy, we find a key: it is up to others to receive it. All we can do is hold it out to them and try to give as much as we can, but it is still up to them to take it and open it up, as my poem on the gift indicates.

Prayer: Lord, help us to open our hands, to receive, and to give. Open our hearts to do the same. Amen

DAY TWENTY -SIX.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

PETER GIVES US THE SECRET TO THE KEYS

Scripture Reading: 11 Peter 1:5: “.....add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We have gone over this particular passage several times, I know, but each time there is something else to learn. The Keys of the Kingdom are not mentioned again in scripture after they are bestowed upon Peter by Jesus. Now Peter is writing this Epistle to the Church and he gives us these wonderful clues. Yes! As we have discovered in the study on Faith—these are fruits of the Spirit! The Keys of the Kingdom are fruits. Then there is another secret that is also given to us. Peter says, “So be truly glad! There is wonderful JOY ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here. These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on that Day of His Return!”(1Peter 1:6-7) Here we have the eternal battle—we want God’s Abundance and are learning how to open the windows of heaven to receive His blessings BUT then there is the other side of the coin, or the opposite side—satan causes us trouble and tries to keep us from these blessings, or he comes to steal, kill and destroy them. So, what does the Word tell us about how to fight back, or to defend ourselves from the devil? We know that there were many things that were mentioned in those scripture portions we read earlier about all of the trials and persecutions that the saints have gone through, and even we have experienced some really fiery trials. You see this is just a test, for you are more precious than gold to the Lord. I would like to share with you a “formula for the Kingdom-Walk” if I might in the days to come.

Prayer

Father, I praise You for Your Word that just keeps giving and giving. Every answer is there, for us, in ABUNDANCE! Praise Your Name, Amen

DAY TWENTY -SEVEN.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Eph. 6:10-17: "Last of all I want to remind you that your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all strategies and tricks of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world, and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. So use every piece of God's Armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up. But to do this, you will need the strong belt of truth and the breastplate of God's approval. Wear shoes that are able to speed you on as you preach the Good News of Peace with God. In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. And you will need the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God." We go on to see that all of these pieces of armor are put on with PRAYER! So I would like to be able to put precept upon precept here and present this "formula for our Kingdom-walk." We have the Keys of the Kingdom which unlock all the power in the Kingdom; but in order to receive these blessings we must be victorious in the battle with satan. You will see shortly what I am proposing that can be done. The first Key that was to be added to FAITH was VIRTUE. Let us use the first piece of Armor to aid us in this quest; THE BELT OF TRUTH. Tightening the belt of truth around your (loins-KJV). I think of a belt around the loins as a chastity belt (something the girls had to wear in the olden days to keep pure or chaste). Virtue means purity and holiness. Truth is the Word and the Spirit; when used as our armor will keep us pure and holy. Going right along with this is the next Key which is KNOWLEDGE. Let us use our next piece of armor which is BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. A breastplate on a suit of armor is to protect against any injury to the heart or lungs. This breastplate is our covering of integrity and moral rectitude and right-standing with God. We have to know who we are in the Lord. (knowledge of the Word). More to come in the next few days.

Scripture Prayer from John

Holy Father, keep us in Your own care during our time here, keep us safe within our own church family, nurturing us as we grow. Lord, the world hates those who believe in You, and there is persecution and hardship because of this hated, but I'm not asking that You take us out of the world, but just to keep us safe from satan's power. We are not of this world, so I ask that You make us pure and holy through teaching us Your words of truth! Amen

DAY TWENTY -EIGHT.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FOURTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE KEYS ACTIVATE THE ARMOR

Scripture Reading: Eph. 6:15 (Amplified Version)

"Having shod our feet in preparation (to face the enemy with firm-footed stability; the promptness and the readiness produced by the Good News) of the Gospel of Peace, we are ready to run the course that is set before us." Are you ready to activate the Armor after praying; using the Key that unlocks all the power of the Kingdom? Let us take the next Key which is SELF-CONTROL and activate the piece of armor that is next on our list; SHOES OF READINESS—We are to practice the race and flee when the enemy sets temptation before us, or any appearance of evil comes around. Here again, being prepared by knowing the Word of God makes us sure-footed. Our self-control takes us away from our temptation to sin when we know what God's word says about that sin and the consequences, and helps us to walk in the paths of righteousness. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet; and a light unto my path!" The next Key is PATIENCE and when we pray the next piece of Armor is activated; THE SHIELD OF SAVING FAITH. Protection over and above our other armor is faith. The Amplified Version of the Bible says: "To lift up over all—the COVERING! THE shield OF "SAVING FAITH" What gives us patience? Our faith! "Those things that are hoped for but not yet seen worketh patience, and faith is the substance of things not yet seen but hoped for." Along with faith goes trust, our shield is trust! In God's protection! Eph. 6:16 says, "In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by satan." I will stop here and let us get our breath. There is much to contemplate and meditate upon in these precepts. There is much JOY in realizing that there is even more ABUNDANCE that we possess as Christians! When we have this knowledge of how to live a more victorious life then a lot of burdens are lifted and a lot of stress and anxiety evaporates.

Scripture Prayer from Romans

Father, we praise You even in the midst of this tribulation we are going through in our lives, because we know that suffering gives us patience, and through patience we gain experience, and through experiencing Your faithfulness we have greater hope. It is Hope that makes us not ashamed of sharing with others the Good News of the Gospel. Father, help us to be patient in this tribulation by continuing to pray to You about it. Help us to remember those who are in need and minister to them. Help us Lord to overcome evil with good! Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of Light, which is the Lord Jesus Christ! Amen

FOOTPRINTS TO A CLOSER WALK

ELEVENTH MONTH

FIFTH WEEK

**ACTIVATING THE ARMOR
THROUGH THE KEYS**

DAY TWENTY -NINE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

+ GODLINESS = THE RENEWING OF OUR MIND

(The scripture prayer at the end says it all)

This piece of armor is called the Helmet of Salvation. The helmet protects our head, our minds; we are to have the mind of Christ, we are to renew our minds, the devil attacks our minds, trying to tempt us. What we think in our minds, we do. This is really the most vulnerable part of us. Every thought **MUST** be taken captive, by focusing on our salvation, which has been purchased for us with Christ's blood. He lost His life so that we might find New Life in Him, and have everlasting life with Him. Now we must carry out this mission through life, to obtain the salvation that is not yet fully realized until we reach our goal of heaven, when we see Him face to face and exchange that helmet for a crown! Our Godliness is based on putting our faith and trust in Jesus Christ's atoning Blood to save us from our sin. This is such a great part of the JOY that Jesus wanted us to inherit, knowing that we are forgiven and that we have free access to communicate with our heavenly Father any time of the day or night is all a part of Godliness.

Scripture Prayer from Romans

Praise the name of Jesus! Take our fears for today and our worries about tomorrow, where we are in our circumstances - whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, and help us to know that NOTHING will ever be able to separate us from the love of God. Because of our Lord's sacrifice on our behalf and because we have trusted Him to save us He has set His seal of the Holy Spirit upon us to bring us safely to Heaven! That is why, in our joyful gratitude for all Your wonderful kindness to us, we present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God, and count it as the very least we can do in our service to You, Precious Lord. We pray that we will not be conformed to this world, but You are transforming us by renewing our minds to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. We rejoice in this hope! Our hearts overflow with gratefulness and thanksgiving to You, Precious Savior! For You have taken all our sins with You to the Cross of Calvary, where they were nailed up along with Your precious body - to free us from sin's power over us. And since our old sin-loving nature died with You, Lord, we know that now we also share in Your new life! We are full of JOY in the hope of experiencing and enjoying the Glory of God! AMEN

DAY THIRTY.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
IS AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON**

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power(making it operative, active, energizing and effective); It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and (the immortal) spirit and of the joints and marrow (of the deepest parts of our nature), exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart."

This armor is different than the others, all the others are more or less for defense, this one is an offensive weapon. We are to share the Word with our brothers in kindness, if we love them we will try to save them from God's coming judgment and wrath, and bring them into the Kingdom of God's Love with us. There are two Keys at work here, Love and Brotherly Kindness.

When the "Word-Sword" is wielded people are convicted of sin and the war is won with satan and people are won to the Lord! Prayer is the action by which all these different pieces of armor are put on. The battle is in prayer! Pray without ceasing, in the Spirit, interceding on behalf of all saints! This is the love that Jesus wants us to have for one another, that we would carry one another's burdens into the prayer room! There is power in prayer! Jesus says in Matthew that whatever we ask for in faith we will receive. Love covers a multitude of sins, and love conquers all! God is Love! Also, our love of God is #1. Our communion with Him is a Vital Union! We cannot love our brothers and sisters unless our relationship is one of love with our Heavenly Father and Lord!

We have now come full circle—the circle of JOY is complete. We have found out how to have access to God (it is through the Veil, His torn body) His death made the way of access for us to enter the Holy of Holies where God is! Now we can PRAY and get into the Gate of Heaven and the Windows of Heaven and the Staircase of Heaven is being utilized by the Angels on OUR ACCOUNT when we ask in faith, believing. Giving all that we have and all that we are, we freely give our praise and thanksgiving, and are open to receive God's Will for us and His purpose being made clear by the Word of God we can now confidently and with authority and JOY let our request be made known, according to His Will.

Scripture Prayer from 1 Corinthians

Praise You Lord for the Love that You give to us as a gift, to shower upon all those around us. We know that this gift is the greatest of all the gifts. Love is patient and kind; is not envious of others or conceited; selfish or rude. It is Love that doesn't insist on its' own rights or its own way; and isn't spiteful or complaining and does not keep a list of wrongs. Love rejoices in justice and truth and keeps going no matter what happens, believing the very best about everyone and hoping until it becomes a reality. AMEN

DAY THIRTY-ONE.....CHAPTER ELEVEN
ELEVENTH MONTH.....FIFTH WEEK
(Devotional).....(Bible Study)
ADVENT BEGINS THE LAST SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER

I FELT THAT IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE THE ADVENT SERVICES FOR EACH SUNDAY IN THE FRONT OF EACH WEEK'S DEVOTIONAL—TO BE A SPECIAL ADDITION TO THE SUNDAY READING—EACH WEEK'S ADVENT SUBJECT GOES ALONG WITH THAT WEEK'S DEVOTIONALS IN SOME WAY.

ADVENT SERVICES FOR CHILDREN'S STORY



This is an Advent Service Scheduled around the time in the service when it is Children's Story. The children will have a very active part in the Advent Service this way and everyone will enjoy the fresh and simple manner in which it is delivered.

1st Week of Advent: Last Sunday in November

The ADVENTures of the Story of Jesus with
The Candles and the Gifts:

What is Advent? Come up to the front for Children's Story, children, and we will search for the answer to this mystery together. Now, look at the poster I have made... (make a poster with the large letters that say: "ADVENTURE" with ADVENT underlined). The word ADVENT means coming or arrival. There is a very special Holiday coming that is

all about the arrival and birth of a very special person. Who can tell me who that is? Yes! This is the celebration of Jesus' Birthday! We are going on an adventure that will take us through all of the years of waiting for this most important event right up to the event of Jesus' birth. We will discover how we can begin becoming much more aware of God's Presence through His Son, Jesus Christ in this wonderful season of the year.

Who would like to light the first candle? Let us begin by lighting the First Candle of Advent – this is the WHITE candle that represents The Light of Christ. We are lighting it first because without Jesus none of the other things that the candles represent would have any meaning, and we are lighting the candle of Christ first because He is first and is what it is all about. (Be very careful when having the child help light the candle, I have found it too hard for them to use the ignition wand and have used a smaller candle that I light for them and hand it to them with which to light the Advent candle.)

The story begins over 700 years before Jesus came. God told His plan to a very special man named Isaiah, who was God's messenger and he wrote it all down, so that we could see it whenever we open our Bibles to Isaiah 9:2, 6-7. "The people who walk in darkness shall see a great Light – a Light that will shine on all those who live in the land of the shadow of death." "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. His ever-expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule with perfect fairness and justice from the throne of His Father David. He will bring true justice and peace to all the nations of the world. This is going to happen because the Lord of Heaven's armies has dedicated Himself to do it."

Who would like to light the second candle? The Second Advent Candle (PURPLE) that we will light represents "Preparation and Anticipation" We want to prepare for the celebration of the greatest of all events on this earth. There should be anticipation—this is being anxious and excited for the celebration to begin—Celebrating Jesus' Birthday! At this celebration, Jesus wants us to show our love that we have for Jesus by showing our love for each other in the giving of ourselves to one another through gifts we call presents, and through being together and having fun together, fellowshiping and singing and sharing everything that we have and everything that we are. It is also very important to let everyone know about the Story of Jesus and Why He came to live among us, His gift or present was His presence! So it is very important that we know the story so we can tell others, and so that we will know for ourselves how wonderful God is, and How Much He Loves everyone, everywhere. Next week, we will see God's Plan unfolding in just a matter of months before that great event takes place. And the Messenger this time will be a very special Angel named Gabriel. See you here next week for the next chapter in this Adventure. Let us Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, help each one of us stop and be still and feel You are right here with us as we have a Moment of Silence in which to sense Your presence... (wait)... Prepare our hearts, and minds, and spirits, our whole lives, to anticipate the miracles of Christmas, yet to be revealed in us. Amen

Sing: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"