Encountering JESUS AT Christmas

Dear Mama, Jesus wants to meet with you this Christmas!
At a time of year when busyness, worries, and distractions can crowd out the reason for the season, God is inviting you to encounter Him. Join Jen Pierce, worship pastor with Help Club for Moms, for five days of Scripture, worship, and prayer to focus your heart on the One we're celebrating—Jesus! You will find peace and joy as you encounter His presence.

DAY 1: Choose What is Best

Sweet Mama, what if you knew God wanted to meet with you? As moms, we can easily get busy this time of year with all the responsibilities we juggle: planning, preparing, decorating, cooking, traveling, and more! All of this can overshadow our relationship with Jesus, which we need more than ever at this time of year. Today, we see in the account of Mary and Martha that Martha was worried and upset by the many things she felt she needed to do to host Jesus. But Mary chose what was best: sitting at the feet of Jesus! The invitation today is to choose this holiday season to put aside distractions, worries, and cares and be with the One the season is all about: Jesus!

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DAY 1: Choose What is Best

WATCH Go deeper into this beautiful invitation as you watch Jen's video for a heartfelt time of worship and reflection. Let Jesus refresh your heart as you draw closer to Him this season.

PRAY *Jesus, I want to encounter you this Christmas! I invite you in. Holy Spirit, teach me through the Word and reveal Jesus to me!*

READ Grab your Bible and journal and set aside time to encounter Jesus in the Word. He wants to meet with you!

- Read Luke 1:38-42. Do you tend to be more like Mary or Martha?
- What areas are you worried, troubled, or distracted about right now? Write them down.
- How can you "choose the better thing" this holiday season?

PRAY *Jesus, thank You so much that You are with me! Thank You for seeing me and wanting to be with me. Thank You for knowing every burden, care, and worry I carry. Right now, I give them all to You. I choose to trust all of them into Your faithful hands and invite You into my heart and home this holiday season. Come, be the center. In Your Name, I pray. Amen.*

MOM TIP Make an appointment with Jesus! Encountering Jesus will change everything about your holiday season! Schedule times in your calendar right now to spend time with Jesus through the rest of this series. You will be so glad you did!

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DAY 2: Come to Jesus!

In all the activity and demands of the Christmas season, we can find our souls thirsty and dry. Today, we look at Isaiah 55:1-3 and find that Jesus is inviting you to come to Him! He is the only One who can satisfy your soul, and He gives you everything you need without any cost to you! The only thing needed to receive from Him is to *recognize* your need and come. Come to Jesus today in worship, and He will satisfy your thirsty soul!

WATCH Play Jen's video and join her in a time of worship and reflection. Let Jesus refresh your heart and fill your soul with His peace and love this Christmas season.

PRAY *Jesus, my soul feels thirsty and dry. I come to You now. I ask You to fill me afresh from Your Word. In Your Name, I pray, Amen.*

READ Encounter Jesus in the Word.

- Read Isaiah 55:1-3. In what ways do you feel thirsty and dry this holiday season?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. According to these verses, did you do anything to earn salvation? How does the Word say you were saved?
- According to both of these passages, what "qualifies" you to receive from Jesus? Is there anything keeping you from coming to Him right now?

PRAY *Jesus, I thank you that I can boldly come and receive from You because of the price You paid. I lay down anything standing in the way of me coming to You. I choose to trust You and ask You to fill me again with Your living waters!*

MOM TIP In the hustle of the season—cooking, wrapping gifts, baking cookies, managing all the plans—pause and whisper, *"Jesus, I need You. Fill me with more of You."* Let Him refill your heart with His peace and joy, the greatest gifts you'll carry this Christmas.

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DAY 3: Receive His Joy!

The beautiful message of Christmas is that Jesus came to bring great joy! This time of year can be difficult when we're carrying pain and sorrow in our hearts. Today, we look at Isaiah 61 and see that Jesus offers beauty for ashes, joy for mourning, and a garment of praise instead of despair. Lay your burdens down and receive God's joy this Christmas!

WATCH Turn on Jen's video and take a moment to lay down your burdens at Jesus' feet. Let Him fill your heart with His joy, lifting the heaviness and wrapping you in His peace this Christmas season.

PRAY *Jesus, I come to You where my heart is heavy and weary. Would You show me from Your Word how I can lay down sorrow and receive Your joy? In Your Name, I pray. Amen.*

READ Spend time with Jesus in His Word.

- Read Isaiah 61:1-3. Now read Luke 4:14-21, where Jesus declares He is the anointed one referenced in Isaiah 61. According to these passages, what are all the things Jesus was anointed to do? Write these down.
- What areas mentioned in Isaiah 61 are you carrying: ashes, mourning, despair?
- Through Jesus' work at the cross, He invites us to make a great exchange: to trade our ashes for beauty, our mourning for gladness, and our despair for praise. What will you trade in today to receive what Jesus has for you?

PRAY *Jesus, thank You for knowing and seeing the sadness in my heart. Thank You for making a way for me to trade in brokenness, loss, and pain for Your joy, beauty, and praise. I come now to You and release all the pain. I ask You to fill my heart with Your joy this Christmas. In Your Name, I pray, Amen.*

MOM TIP Pick an encouraging Scripture to write on your bathroom mirror in dry-erase marker. Speak this Scripture out loud daily for a month to encourage your faith.

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DAY 4: Be Still and Know

Jesus is the One who calmed the seas and storms, healed with a word, and has the Name above all names. Today, in Psalm 46, we find that God's invitation in times of trouble is to be still and know that He is God. Whatever tumultuous circumstances you may be facing this Christmas, Jesus invites you to quiet your soul and remember He is God. He is exalted over all things and reigns above all! Don't look at the wind and waves. Look to Him. You will find peace as you worship Him!

WATCH Join Jen in today's video and spend time in the stillness of His presence. Let go of the noise and distractions, fix your eyes on Jesus, and let His peace surround and sustain you.

PRAY *Jesus, difficult circumstances in my life have pulled my eyes from You. Holy Spirit, I ask You now to open the eyes of my heart to see Jesus in Scripture. Help me see how great You are! I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.*

READ Strengthen your heart in Jesus by spending time in the Word.

- Read Psalm 46. What calamities does the Psalmist reference? What troubling circumstances are you facing right now?
- Re-read verses 4-5 and 10-11 in Psalm 56. What are God's answers for tumultuous circumstances?
- Read Matthew 8:23-27. How did Jesus still the storm? What areas do you need Him to speak to in your heart right now?

PRAY *Jesus, I praise You that You are the One who calmed the seas and storms. Because You are with me; I will not fall. I ask You to speak Your peace into my heart today. In Your Name, I pray. Amen.*

MOM TIP Personalize the truth of Isaiah 43:2-3 and speak it out loud whenever you feel weak or afraid: When (I) pass through the waters, Jesus will be with (me), and when (I) pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over (me). When (I) walk through the fire, (I) will not be burned; the flames will not set (me) ablaze. For (my God is) the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, (my) Savior...

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DAY 5: *Jesus is King!*

Sweet sister, today's invitation is to celebrate Jesus our King! During this series, we've talked about all the things that can get in the way of focusing on Jesus at Christmas. We've taken time to clear out our hearts, come to Him, receive His joy, be still, and know He is God. Now, we celebrate Jesus as the King of all kings! Today, we reflect on Isaiah 9:1-7 and worship Him for who He is and all He's done. He is the true King who will reign forever and ever. Go forward this Christmas season rejoicing because He is King!

WATCH Play Jen's video and celebrate Jesus, our King! Let your heart be filled with awe and gratitude for who He is and all He's done. Step into this Christmas season joyfully, knowing the King of all kings is with you!

PRAY *Jesus, I worship You today as King of kings and Lord of lords! As I reflect on Your Word, I ask You to open my eyes to see You more and more. In Your Name, I pray, Amen.*

READ Celebrate Jesus through the revelation of His Word!

- Read Isaiah 9:1-7. In Matthew 4:14-16 we find that the verses of Isaiah 9:1-7 are fulfilled in Jesus. What are all the things Jesus has and will accomplish according to the Isaiah passage?
- In Isaiah 9:6, what names of Jesus are listed? What do these names show you about His character and nature? Praise Him for His great name!
- Re-read Isaiah 9:7. What is Jesus' government like? How long will it last? Rejoice in Jesus' unending kingdom!

PRAY *I celebrate You, Jesus, my great King! You have defeated sin and death! You reign now, and forever, in righteousness and peace. I give You all my praise for Your glory and might! I worship You this Christmas and always. In Your Name, I pray. Amen!*

MOM TIP This Christmas, keep it simple: pause each day to whisper, "Jesus, You are my King." Let this reminder ground your heart in joy and His unshakable reign, even in the busiest moments of motherhood.