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Dear Friend,

It's that time of year when we often gather together to celebrate and share special moments of the season. It's also a time of anticipation and waiting. Waiting for Christmas Day and the coming of Jesus to our world.

In John 10:10* Jesus says, **"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."**

What a Saviour! What a promise! The kind of life Jesus offers to each of us is full of hope, peace, joy and love. We look forward to spending a few quiet moments with you this Advent season as we reflect on these themes together.

Gather with us daily, weekly or even just occasionally over the next few weeks to celebrate the gift of Scripture. Experience moments of calm and connection as we wait for Jesus. Stay a little longer to ponder a reflection question or share hope, peace, joy and love with others.



Waiting with you,

Anna

Prayer and Communications Strategist
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada

**All Scripture is NIV unless otherwise noted*

joy



Third Sunday
of Advent

Joy to the world the Lord has come!

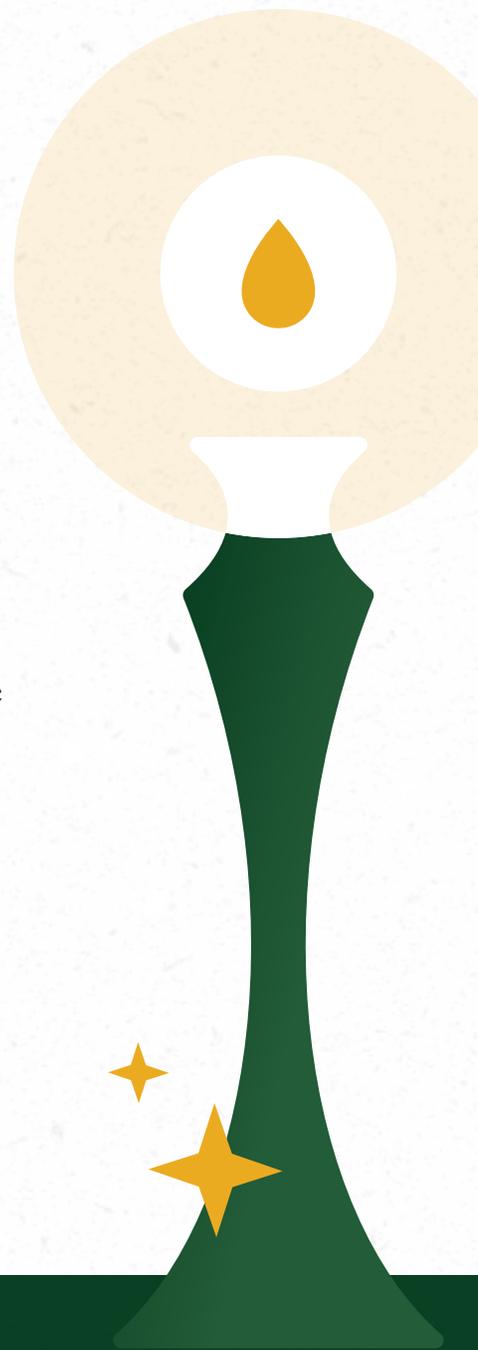
We are more than halfway through the Advent season. How is your joy holding up? Do you find a lightness in your heart—a sense of hope and peace from focusing on Jesus? Or does that sound like an unattainable ideal?

The good news is that hope and peace never end; they are yours to enjoy for your whole life. They are available to every person around the world. That's cause for rejoicing!

Picture hands raised in praise, hearts turned to Jesus, people responding to His invitation of a full life (John 10:10). As the Bible is being translated into more languages, the joy of transformed people, families and communities is spreading quickly.

Let's pray together:

El Simchah Giyli (“God my Exceeding Joy”), we come to you in a spirit of celebration and joy that Jesus was born to our world. We rejoice in the gifts of hope, peace and love He brought to our lives. May you be our joy always and may we carry this joy with us to our families, friends, churches and communities. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Ponder this week:

What is the difference between happiness and joy? In your life, what brings you happiness? What brings you joy?

Is there a simple way you can share joy with another person today?



joy ✦ **Sunday, December 14**

Verse

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. - Psalm 28:7

Reflect

When the psalmist trusted God as his strength and shield, he experienced joy—and even burst into song! Do you trust in God in this way? What could help you put your trust in God?

Which song of praise comes to mind as you think about joy? Take a few minutes to create a playlist of joyful praise songs to listen to this week of Advent.

✦ **Monday, December 15**

Verse

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
- Philippians 4:4

Reflect

Is it possible to rejoice in the Lord “always?” Let’s remember Jesus’ words to us as we reflected on peace last week—that He has overcome any trouble we may have in the world (John 16:33).

What causes you to celebrate? Did you know that celebration is considered to be a spiritual discipline? Think of one way you can work celebration into your regular routine once the celebrations of Christmas are over.



joy ✨ **Tuesday, December 16**

Verse

Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. - Psalm 47:1

Reflect

Clapping is usually synonymous with applause or praise. Imagine all nations praising God together with shouts and cries of joy!

Look up the word joy in other languages and learn a few different joyful “shouts” and “cries” this week.

✨ **Wednesday, December 17**

Verse

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. - 1 Peter 1:8

Reflect

We wait during Advent for the arrival of Jesus. More than 2000 years after His birth, we now wait for Him to renew the world. We believe in Him and we love Him, even without ever having seen Him. This belief fills us with a kind of joy that can be inexpressible.

The experience of waiting can be difficult, and sometimes exciting. What have you learned in times when you have been forced to wait? How do you find joy in the waiting?



joy ✦ **Thursday, December 18**

Verse

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. - Philemon 1:7

Reflect

Joy is meant to be shared with the world around us. As others glimpse the joy in our hearts that comes from loving Jesus, they find their hearts are encouraged, lightened and refreshed, too.

Is there a simple way you can bring glory to God through sharing your joy today with another person?

✦ **Friday, December 19**

Verse

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. - Psalm 94:19

Reflect

Anxiety can easily keep us from joy. The tornado of swirling thoughts and emotions can sweep us away if left unchecked. The Lord offers us consolation and comfort in the midst of the storm; we are invited to find our joy even there.

How is your anxiety level so far this Advent season? Have you been able to experience increased hope, peace and joy over these past three weeks? Now is a good time to check in with yourself and see if there are any particular areas that need God's consolation and healing in the days leading up to Christmas.



joy ✨ **Saturday, December 20**

Verse

... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:2

Reflect

It's a reassuring, freeing thought that Jesus initiates and perfects our faith in Him. It is not up to us, except to stay focused on Him. He went to the most extreme measures to prove His love for us, and attained the joy that was set before Him.

Have you ever experienced deep joy in a place of hardship?



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In John 10:10 Jesus says, **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

Thank you for joining us in waiting and focusing on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love this Advent season.

Our hope is that your gatherings and celebrations during the past weeks showed you glimpses of the “full life” Jesus offers to each one of us.

Did you find some quiet moments amidst the busyness?

Was your heart calmed and refreshed by spending a few moments with this devotional?

We’d love to hear from you at intercede@wycliffe.ca.

If you haven’t already, please [share with us](#) a favourite Bible verse. We’ll highlight a few of them in future Wycliffe Canada publications!



Celebrating with you,

Anna

Prayer and Communications Strategist
Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada

Share a verse with us.



Scan the QR code,
or click this [link!](#)