

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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"Angels, from the Realms of Glory (And He Shall Reign)"

One of my favorite ways to open any Christmas worship gathering is to sing: "Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King!"

Psalm 95:1-7 is not normally associated with the Christmas season, but it does a great job answering the question, "Why do we worship?" Here are a few answers that stand out to me in this text.

- The Lord is a great God.
- The Lord is a great King above all gods. (As if to say, He's the only real God.)
- The Lord is a big God. (In His hand are the depths of the earth.)
- The Lord is our God. (He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture.)

Take a moment and read through these seven verses of Psalm 95. This passage is a great reminder that Emmanuel—God with us—is the only One worthy of our worship.

"O Worship the King (All Joy)"

Read Luke 2:8-14.

The Good News in verse 11 is that Christ the Lord—our Savior—has been born.

His birth was foretold in Isaiah 7. (Read Isaiah 7:14.) No more waiting. He is here!

Have the group recite the chorus together:

"Sing joy to the world! He is Lord everlasting. All joy to the world, He is here! O come and adore Christ the Lord, our Messiah. All joy to the world, He is here!"

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He is here! He is the light of the world and we rejoice together and sing praise to His name for He is worthy of all the praise!

"Reign Forevermore"

Take a moment and read Luke 1:26-33. Now go to the end of the New Testament and read Revelation 11:15.

The truth that the angel told Mary over 2,000 years ago will still be true for all of eternity: Christ will reign forever!

It's true for us today, as well. No matter what difficulties we face, Jesus reigns over them all. Be encouraged!

"Worthy of Your Name" with "O Come All Ye Faithful"

He is worthy of His name.

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name above every name.

Read Matthew 1:21.

He was given the name "Jesus" because He will save His people from their sins.

Read Colossians 2:9-10.

In Jesus we are made alive. He is our Hope and Salvation. He is Worthy!

"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (Forever Yours)"

Scripture to read: John 6:38 and Philippians 2:1-11

Can you imagine what Jesus laid down in heaven to come to earth? He was surrounded by riches, glory, safety, peace, and the worship of the angels and heavenly hosts, yet chose to take on the form of man to redeem you and your heart.

Take a moment to thank Jesus, our Messiah, for leaving the majesty of heaven for you.

Now, take a few minutes to lay your heart before the Lord. Confess anything that would take the place of Jesus having full reign in your heart. Then, speak or sing this prayer from your heart to God:

"Here's my heart, make it Yours. All I am, forever Yours. You are King. You are Lord. All I am, forever Yours. You alone, my reward! All I am, forever Yours!"

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"I Call Him Lord"

Scripture to read: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Matthew 1:18-25

Throughout Scripture, Jesus has been known by so many names: the Great I AM, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Friend, Prince of Peace, King of kings, Lord of lords, and so many more. The name "Lord" means something so rich in our lives. It means to have great power, authority, and influence, and to be the true master and ruler of our lives. Nothing is more wonderful than when we entrust our past, present, and future to Jesus as Lord.

Make your own list of all the names of Jesus that you recall in Scripture. Now as you look at that list, what are two or three names that stick out to you and why?

Take some time to pray the names of Jesus over your life. One way to do this is to use this sentence and fill in the blank with a name of Jesus that touches you deeply.

"Lord, I need You to be _____in my life today."

In every minute and every moment, Jesus is all we'll ever really need.