



# HEADS UP

THE  
LORD  
IS NEAR!

Advent Daily Devotions  
for Teens and Young Adults







# HEADS UP THE LORD IS NEAR!

**Lift up your heads, O gates!**

**And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.**

**Who is this King of glory?**

**The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!**

**— Psalm 24:9-10 —**

## HEADS UP!

*... you don't want to miss this*

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**  
—Psalm 24:9-10

Even though we know it's coming, Christmas has a way of catching us unprepared. I often feel like I'm on the receiving end of a pass that I wasn't aware had been thrown my direction. Or learning that the Algebra midterm is tomorrow and not (as I clearly had written down) sometime late next week. In situations like this—when whatever is incoming isn't entirely in my focus—a timely “heads up!” is greatly appreciated. And can even help avoid a nasty outcome.

That's just what the Advent season provides. “Heads up! Remember God's promise.” You'll want to pay attention—or get back to paying attention—for your own benefit.

It's Advent. Look forward! Get ready! Prepare! Pay attention! “Heads up!”





Monday of the First Week

# **KNOCK, KNOCK**

*... you know who's there*

It's fitting that a beloved seasonal tradition is opening doors on an Advent calendar. Someone is coming, after all. That's what the word Advent means. It's time to raise your head, open your eyes, ears, hearts and even your actual doors, and be prepared for some good old-fashioned welcoming!

The Advent hymn puts the words of Psalm 24 this way:

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.**

Who is this King of glory? Good question! One that the psalmist (and all of the Old Testament door openers, the prophets) we trying to clue us in on. All we have to do is be open to receive it!

So, let's take a peek into those open doors throughout these coming weeks to see just what kind of "heads up" we've been given.



Tuesday of the First Week

# WE CAN'T LOOK FORWARD

*... to something in the past*

We are post-Christmas Christians.

And there's nothing wrong with that. In fact, it's pretty awesome! We *know* that God's Son was sent to earth.

Not only that, we're post-*Easter* Christians too. We know the Good News that the reason that God's Son was sent to earth was to *save* us! To open heaven for us forever.

And while that's great, it does pose a problem. Especially where Advent is concerned. Because Advent is all about hoping against all hope ... and anticipating answers ... and waiting for promises to come true ... and expecting the unexpected.

But (and this is a big but!), we *have* the answers ... and the promises *have already* come true ... and the unexpected *happened*. We're post-Christmas Christians, after all. Jesus' birth is a matter of historical record. Case closed!

If Advent is all about waiting, and the thing we're waiting for already happened, we'd better keep our heads up for what has come ... is coming ... will come soon.

**Think:**

**What are some things you're looking forward to in life? What are some things you were looking forward to but have now already occurred?**

**Do you give them much thought anymore?**

Wednesday of the First Week

# LET'S MAKE LIKE A TREE

*... and get out of here*

So, if the problem is that we're post-Christmas Christians, I guess there's only one solution. We need to become *PRE-Christmas* Christians. We need to travel back to a time when we *will* experience the hope and anticipation that's vital to the season of Advent. We need to enter an era before the birth of Christ.

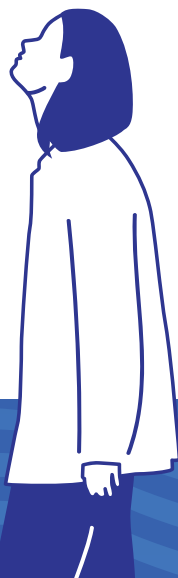
We need a "time machine."

Fortunately, we have one. No ... I'm absolutely serious. And I'm not talking about Marty McFly's flying DeLorean, either, or any contraption from an H. G. Wells novel.

Our time machine is ... the *Bible*. Specifically, the Old Testament (and a tad of the beginning of the Gospel of Luke).

The Old Testament is more than just a bunch of stories. If we allow ourselves to dig into it—to steep ourselves in it ... to enter those old stories—the Old Testament can be a mode of transportation. We can enter that time through the pages of this text and wait with those ancient characters for our Christmas Savior.

So, fire up the time machine ... um ... I mean open up your Bible. Let's take a trip!





# HEADS UP THE LORD IS NEAR!

## Advent Daily Devotions for Teens and Young Adults

Though we know it's coming, Christmas has a way of catching us unprepared. It would be nice to have some kind of alert or alarm that reminds us that it's time to ready, and exactly being prepared is so important. Taking a lead from the Old Testament prophets, the daily messages in this booklet provide the prefect *heads up!* so that we're not caught unprepared to welcome the Savior. It's Advent. Look forward! Get ready! Prepare! Pay attention! Get open! "Heads up!"

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