

This calendar is meant to help you set time aside with Jesus. Decide on where you'll meet Him, and choose a time when you won't fall asleep or be distracted. You can cut out this page and keep it in your Bible. "Come close to God, and God will come close to you" (James 4:8).

# JANUARY



By Justin & Courtney Rose

Age 30 & 28 | Mayfair Community Church | Metropolitan Division



To be able to defend your faith, you must know your faith. Scripture is a primary way we are able to get closer to God and understand our faith. Creeds are also a great way to know what we believe. They are short statements of faith confirmed throughout history as accurate affirmations for Christians to make.

**I believe in God:** In the Christian faith we affirm there is one God who has three distinct persons. We call God the Trinity. We only worship God and call God, "He who is," because He is God of time and space, and is everlasting. Read the story of the burning bush from **Exodus 3:1-17**. **1**

We are meant to love our one God with all of our being. To be a Christian means that we worship God wholly. Not one part of our being can be hidden from God. All of who we are is saved through our relationship with God. We love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Matthew 22:37**). **2**

**The Father Almighty:** What does it mean to call God our "Father"? It means that God is the source of life, our authority, provider, and friend. God is a better dad than any father on earth and He cares for you unconditionally. Do a Bible search for "God the Father" and see how God is our parent. **3**

Calling God "Father" means that God is a parent. God also has nurturing qualities as well, like a mother. God is tender in His actions with us and His love for us is life-giving and intimate. Read **Hosea 11:3-4** and think about the "motherly" attributes of God. **4**

**Maker of Heaven and Earth:** As Christians we declare that God is our creator and the originator of the universe. Read **Genesis 1** and think about God as creator. Understanding Him as creator means that He had intention, interaction, and delight in His creation. **5**

**Jesus, His Only Begotten Son, our Lord:** When we say that God is Father, we also proclaim that Jesus, through the relationship of the Trinity, is the Son of the Father. Jesus and the Father are so close in relationship that each one shows us the other. Look at **John 17:21** and think about the relationship of the Trinity. **6**

To say that Jesus is "begotten" means that Jesus was not made or created, but is of the same essence as the Father and the Spirit. When we call Jesus "Lord," we say that Jesus is above all else in the universe. He is over everything in power and glory. Take time to worship Him today. **7**

**Conceived by the Holy Spirit:** Jesus was both fully God and fully man, free from sin. The Holy Spirit supernaturally and immaculately (without sex) impregnated Mary as revealed in **Luke 1:26-38**. Trust God with things in your life that may need His supernatural touch. **8**

**Born of the Virgin Mary:** God partnered with Mary, a young woman who responded to the call to obedience, to bring God into the world as a human. Jesus is therefore both human and God—knowing the realities of the world, but able to deal with the world's problems. Read Doctrine 4 in the Song Book of The Salvation Army on page 352. **9**

**Suffered Under Pontius Pilate:** Read **Luke 23** and see how Jesus endured suffering on our behalf. As we endure life and its sufferings, we believe that we have a savior who knows what it means to suffer like us. As we follow in Christ's footsteps, suffering is a promised part of a Christian life (**John 16:33**). **10**

When we say Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, it sets Jesus into history in a way that no other line in the Creed does. The historical coming of Christ is important. Setting Jesus within the Roman Empire has important ramifications for how the Gospel played out. **11**

**Crucified:** The cross was unique to the Romans and allowed for ultimate shame and painful, slow torture. After Jesus rose and His body went missing from the tomb, the public execution played an important role in confirming that Jesus truly did die. Read **Matthew 27:32-44** and think about Jesus' sacrifice. **12**

A crucifixion was an execution practice reserved for non-Roman citizens. People who were the lowest in the eyes of the empire: the poor, the weak, the dominated, and the colonized. When Jesus allowed Himself to undergo crucifixion, it was a final act of allegiance to the "least" and "last" in the eyes of society. Reference **Luke 6:20-22**. **13**

**Dead:** In order for death (which entered into the world through the Fall in Genesis) to be defeated, Christ had to submit Himself to death. As Christ allowed death to overtake Him, His divinity and power finally conquered death. Spend time today telling God what this means to you. **14**

When considering the miracle of Jesus' resurrection, many questioned whether Jesus really died. We affirm Jesus' death so we can affirm a true resurrection. **15**



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**Buried:** Read **Mark 15:42-47**. According to Jews, in order for someone to be considered truly dead, they had to be dead for three days. When Jesus was buried in a tomb for three days, it proved He really was dead and truly entered death.

16

Women were often responsible for preparing the bodies of the deceased for the grave, as seen in **Mark 16** and **John 20:1-18**. The women who prepared Jesus' body were also the first to hear about the resurrection. This first witness gave legitimacy to women as preachers of the Gospel.

17

Christ conquered death by remaining in the grave for three days—bursting the chains of Hades through His resurrection, wrought by God's power alone. Read **1 Corinthians 15:25-26** and remind yourself of Christ's great love for the world.

18

**On the Third Day He Rose Again:** Jesus, fully dead as symbolized through the number three, the number of completion, rose from the dead. There was no external power that raised Jesus, like we see with Lazarus (**John 11**). This shows Christ's power over death.

19

We celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Resurrection is where the power and change is displayed. The resurrection is the culmination of the Gospel and how we are able to have hope. If Christ can rise from the dead, what can He do for *your* life?

20

When Jesus resurrected He was given a new, transformed body. Read **John 20:19-29**. While it still bore the scars of His time on earth and required food, this "resurrection body" gives a picture of how our own heavenly bodies will look and function.

21

**He Ascended into Heaven:** The Scriptures teach us that after Jesus' resurrection, he stays on earth for 40 days. After this, He physically goes to Heaven to be reunited with the Father. This unity of the Father and the Son explains why Jesus' physical presence is no longer on earth. Instead, Jesus is present through the Holy Spirit.

22

Jesus ascends into Heaven so that the Holy Spirit can come in full force and do further work for God's Kingdom. Read **Acts 2**. Jesus' physical departure marks a shift in God's plan for the world and His people—an indwelling of the Spirit of God within the hearts of believers.

23

**Seated Next to God the Father Almighty:** The Father and Son are now united in Heaven. In **John 14:6**, Christ taught that no one is able to know the Father except through the Son. Christ now advocates for us before the Father. Because we know Jesus, there is no fear to come before the Father.

24

**From Thence He Shall Judge the Living and Dead:** When we die, we will go before God for judgment. Will you be counted worthy to be in the presence of God for eternity or not? Christ is the one who is doing the judging. For Christians, there is great joy and comfort in knowing that our friend, advocate, and savior is the judge (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

25

**I Believe in the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. For many, the Holy Spirit is an afterthought, but affirming the Holy Spirit's work and presence is fundamental to Christianity. Read **John 14:15-21** and see that the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit of Christ, indwells in Christians, convicts, teaches, discerns, and comforts.

The Holy Spirit is God's presence for the Church today.

26

**The Holy Catholic (catholic: meaning "universal") Church:** The Christian life is a life of community through the Church. The Church, instituted by Christ, is made up of Jesus' followers throughout time.

How can God use you in His Church?

27

**Resurrection of the Body:** Christians believe Jesus will come back to earth and bring His believers to Heaven. The Church or "the body" will some day physically resurrect from death's temporary hold. It is here that we'll come before Christ for judgment and receive new heavenly bodies. Read **1 Corinthians 15**.

30

**The Communion of Saints:** Being a Christian means we worship and live among other Christians. When we worship, we don't just worship with people of our own time, but also with those in the past and future from all over the world. We call anyone who is a Christian and made holy a "saint." Read **Hebrews 10:25** and pray for your local corps (church).

28

**Forgiveness of Sins:** Central to Christianity is the belief that our sins can be forgiven and our lives can be changed and made holy through relationship with Jesus Christ. Without forgiveness of sins, we cannot be in the presence of God in eternity.

29

**Life Everlasting:** Death on earth is temporary. We believe there is more than just this life. Christ promises us "everlasting life" in the presence of God and with our fellow believers in the New Heaven and New Earth, where the earth will be completely restored and we'll be in perfect community with one another.

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