



**Daily Devotionals – January 5, 2025**

**Following the Light**

## **Day 1: The Light Has Come**

**Scripture:** *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”*  
(Isaiah 60:1)

### **Reflection:**

Epiphany reminds us that God’s light shines in the darkest places. The Magi followed a star through the night, trusting it would lead them to the Savior. God’s light doesn’t just illuminate; it guides and gives hope. Where do you see God’s light in your life today?

### **Story:**

Anna felt stuck in her job, unsure of her purpose. Every morning felt like a chore, and the spark of joy seemed to have left her. One evening, she attended a church service and heard Isaiah 60:1 read aloud. Something stirred in her heart—a sense that God was calling her to look beyond her immediate struggles and to trust that His light was breaking through. That night, she knelt by her bed and prayed for direction. Over the following months, small “stars” began to appear: a conversation with a mentor, a new volunteer opportunity, and finally, the courage to pursue a dream she had shelved long ago. Looking back, Anna realized that God had been lighting her path all along, even when she couldn’t see it clearly.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, we thank You for Your light that pierces through the darkness in our lives. Just as You called the Magi to follow the star, call us to rise and shine in Your glory. Help us to trust that Your light will guide us, even when our way feels uncertain. Teach us to see the signs of Your presence all around us, and give us courage to follow where You lead. May Your glory shine through us, illuminating the lives of those we encounter. Amen.

## **Day 2: Following the Star**

**Scripture:** *“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”* (Matthew 2:10)

### **Reflection:**

The Magi’s joy wasn’t just in the star itself but in what it represented—a promise fulfilled. Like them, we may journey through challenges, but God’s promises bring joy along the way. Are you willing to follow His leading, even when it requires patience and trust?

### **Story:**

As a single mom, Denise was no stranger to challenges. Bills piled up, her job was demanding, and her children needed more time and energy than she felt she had to give. One evening, her neighbor invited her to church. At first, she resisted—her Sundays were for catching up on chores. But something nudged her to go. That Sunday, the pastor preached on Matthew 2:10, explaining the joy of the Magi as they followed the star. Denise felt as if the sermon was meant for her. She began praying daily for guidance and started attending church regularly. Over time, small changes began to unfold—unexpected help with childcare, encouragement from her church family, and new confidence in her ability to navigate life’s challenges. Denise realized that the “star” she was following was her faith, guiding her through life’s storms and filling her with hope.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the joy of following Your guidance. Just as the Magi rejoiced at the sight of the star, fill our hearts with joy as we trust in Your promises. Lead us through life’s challenges, and remind us that even in difficulty, Your light shines brightly. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You, trusting that Your path leads to peace and purpose. May we walk with confidence, knowing You are always with us. Amen.

## **Day 3: Bringing Our Gifts**

**Scripture:** *“They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures.”* (Matthew 2:11)

### **Reflection:**

The Magi brought gifts that symbolized Jesus’ kingship, divinity, and sacrifice. What gifts can you offer Jesus today? Perhaps it’s your time, talents, or a commitment to serve others.

### **Story:**

James had always considered himself an average guy. He didn’t think he had much to offer, especially when it came to serving in his church. One day, during a church potluck, he overheard someone mentioning the need for help at the local soup kitchen. He hesitated, thinking it wasn’t his thing, but a friend encouraged him to try. Nervously, he signed up for a shift. That first evening, as he prepared meals for those in need, James found unexpected joy. Over time, cooking at the soup kitchen became his passion. He realized that his “gift” wasn’t just about food—it was about sharing love, dignity, and hope with others. By offering his talent in service to others, James found a deeper connection to God and his community.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, we come before You, humbled and grateful for all that You have given us. Like the Magi, we bow in worship, bringing the gifts of our hearts, time, and talents. Teach us to offer these gifts with love and humility, not for recognition, but to glorify You. Show us how to use what we have to bless others, and let our lives reflect the generosity of Your grace. Thank You for calling us to be part of Your story. Help us to serve with joy and purpose, bringing Your light to those around us. Amen.

**Day 4: Walking by Faith**

**Scripture:** *“We walk by faith, not by sight.”* (2 Corinthians 5:7)

**Reflection:**

The Magi didn’t know their exact destination but trusted the star to lead them. Faith often requires us to step forward without seeing the full picture, trusting that God is guiding us. It is in these moments of uncertainty that God’s presence becomes most evident.

**Story:**

Sarah had always been a planner. She thrived on having every detail mapped out, whether it was for work, family vacations, or even her daily routines. But when she felt a nudge to start a ministry for young moms at her church, she had no idea where to begin. Questions swirled in her mind: “What if no one comes? What if I fail?” Despite her fears, she prayed for guidance and decided to take the first step. She gathered a few women for coffee to brainstorm. To her surprise, the response was overwhelmingly positive. Week by week, the ministry grew, becoming a safe space for moms to share, pray, and support one another. Sarah realized that faith isn’t about having all the answers but about trusting God enough to take the next step.

**Prayer:**

Lord, teach us to walk by faith, even when the path ahead is unclear. Remind us that You are always with us, guiding our steps and lighting our way. When doubts arise, give us courage to move forward, trusting in Your promises. Help us to let go of the need for control and to lean into Your perfect plan. May our faith grow stronger as we follow Your leading, one step at a time. Amen.

**Day 5: Avoiding Herod’s Path**

**Scripture:** *“Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”* (Matthew 2:12)

**Reflection:**

After encountering Jesus, the Magi were changed. They took a different route home, avoiding Herod and his harmful intentions. Meeting Jesus often calls us to change direction, turning away from the paths that lead us away from God’s plan.

**Story:**

Tom had built his life around chasing success. For years, he worked long hours, sacrificing time with his family in pursuit of a promotion. He told himself it was for their benefit, but deep down, he felt empty. One day, his daughter asked, “Dad, do you even know my teacher’s name?” Her innocent question hit him hard. Around the same time, a friend invited him to a men’s Bible study. Reluctantly, Tom agreed to go. As he studied scripture and spent time in prayer, he began to realize how far he had strayed from the life God wanted for him. Slowly, he made changes—leaving his high-pressure job, spending more time with his family, and volunteering in his community. Meeting Jesus redirected his life, giving him a new purpose and joy.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, when we encounter You, our lives are transformed. Help us to recognize the paths that lead us away from Your will and give us the strength to turn toward You. Guide us to walk in the ways of love, truth, and grace. Like the Magi, may we leave behind what is harmful and embrace the new life You offer. Keep us rooted in Your presence, and let our lives reflect the transformation that comes from knowing You. Amen.

**Day 6: Sharing the Light**

**Scripture:** *“You are the light of the world.”* (Matthew 5:14)

**Reflection:**

Epiphany calls us not just to follow the light but to share it. Jesus declares that His followers are the light of the world, shining His love in a world that often feels dark. How can you reflect God’s light in your relationships, community, or work this week?

**Story:**

Maggie was a schoolteacher with a challenging group of students. Many of them came from difficult home environments, and their behavior often reflected it. She began praying each morning for her students, asking God to show her how to be a light in their lives. Over time, she started small acts of kindness—writing notes of encouragement, staying after school to tutor struggling students, and speaking words of hope into their lives. By the end of the school year, something remarkable had happened: her classroom felt like a safe and loving community. Maggie realized that by sharing God’s love, she had become a beacon of light for her students.

**Prayer:**

God, thank You for calling us to be the light of the world. Help us to reflect Your love, kindness, and grace in all we do. Show us the places where our light is most needed, and give us the courage to shine brightly. Teach us to love others as You love us, and to share the hope and peace that come from knowing You. May our lives bring glory to Your name. Amen.

## **Day 7: A New Journey**

**Scripture:** *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)

### **Reflection:**

Epiphany isn't just about a moment but a lifelong journey with Jesus. As we follow His light, He leads us into deeper faith and purpose. Where is God calling you to step forward in faith?

### **Story:**

After retiring, Karen wondered what to do next. For years, her identity had been tied to her job, and now she felt a void. One morning during her devotional time, she came across John 8:12. Inspired by Jesus' promise, she prayed, “Lord, what is the next step in my journey?” Over the next few weeks, she felt a nudge to mentor young women at her church. Nervously, she reached out to her pastor, who welcomed her idea. What started as a small group soon grew into a vibrant ministry. Karen discovered that following Jesus' light brought not only purpose but also deep fulfillment. Her journey with Christ entered a new and joyful chapter.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, You are the light of the world, and in You, we find life and purpose. As we walk with You, help us to see the next steps You are calling us to take. Illuminate our paths and give us the courage to follow, even when it feels unfamiliar. Thank You for guiding us into deeper faith and joy. May we continue to walk in Your light every day, trusting in Your love and grace. Amen.