



LESSON 1 // GET READY

Big Idea: At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God's Son into our world to redeem us. But we should also be preparing our hearts and minds for spiritual awakening and renewal in Christ. This starts with goals for spiritual growth and includes changing our attitudes through repentance and taking action based on God's Word and work in our lives.

Philippians 3:10-12 (NIV) *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*

2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV) *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.*

Mark 1:4 (NIV) *And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Isaiah 6:5-8 (NIV) *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Start Talking:

What's one practical way you can keep your focus on Jesus in this Christmas season?

Start Thinking:

Read Philippians 3:10-12. How do these verses encourage you about setting spiritual goals for your life?

Read 2 Peter 1:5-7. How does Peter's exhortation to "make every effort to add to your faith" the godly qualities listed here challenge you as a believer in Jesus? What would it look like for you to proactively pursue this challenge?

Read Mark 1:4. What difference can repentance—a heart-felt turning away from sin and turning to God—make in how you live every day?

Read Isaiah 6:5-8. Why is it so important to realize that "your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for" in Christ in order to serve God effectively?

Start Praying and Doing:

Throughout this Christmas season, pray for the grace and power of the Holy Spirit to repent from any sin in your life, know Jesus better and better, and take steps each day to build godly qualities (as listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7) into your faith in Him.