

12 Days Closer to Christ

It's 12 days until Christmas! Each day until then you will receive an envelope from us with a new thought, scripture, challenge & treat. Once you have completed the challenge you can eat the treat! ☺

Day 1

We know things *about* Christ, but do we actually *KNOW* him?

John 17:3

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

For the next 12 days we will focus on qualities of the Savior and experiences He had so that we can truly *know* him better.

Jesus Christ loves each of us. He gave his life for us, atoned for our sins, and desires that we each **Come unto Him.**

D&C 88:63

“Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

Challenge:

We hope for the next 12 days, together we can Seek and Find, Ask and Receive, Knock and have answers opened unto us. Your challenge is to take part in this activity by reading the scriptures and doing your best to complete the challenges.

As your YW leaders we want you to know how much we love you. We also know how much the Savior and Heavenly Father love you.

Merry Christmas!

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Day 2

Jesus Christ set a perfect example for us. If we could see Him as He lived upon the earth what kind of person was He? Would we have followed Him? Would we have been His friends?

Jesus Loves Children and has a kind and tender heart. He is very aware of you and wants to bless you.

Mark 10:13-16

We are not alone during times of trial. Never be afraid to turn to the Lord in times of need. He is anxious to bless you and comfort you.

Challenge:

Read, memorize & never forget! John 14:18

We love you...

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Day 3

Jesus Christ wants us to be happy! Jesus has given us the gift of life, the atonement and eventually eternal life.

Joy: A condition of great happiness coming from righteous living. The purpose of mortal life is for all people to have **joy**. A full **joy** will come only through Jesus Christ (Guide to the Scriptures, LDS.org)

D&C 88:33

1 Thessalonians 5:18

...My sincere prayer is that we may adapt to the changes in our lives, that we may realize what is most important, that we may express our gratitude always and thus find joy in the journey. Pres. Monson

Challenge:

Bring joy to your family! Spend time with them today! Read a book to a younger sibling, play a board game, watch an uplifting movie together, go see Christmas lights...just be together and be joyful.

We love you...

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Day 4

Jesus was humble and willing to serve others.

John 13:3-5

Despite His knowledge that He was Heavenly Father's only begotten son, he still loved and served others. He did not expect "royal treatment." He served all men, including those who would later deny and betray Him. It is not always easy to serve!

Challenge:

Perform a quiet act of service for a family member or friend. As an extra challenge, pick someone you may be struggling to get along with! 😊

Love...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 5

Jesus was talked about for being friends with those who were not popular.

(The story of Zacchaeus; Luke 19:1–10.)

Challenge:

Reach out to someone who is “not popular” or lonely.

Know that you are following Christ’s example.

We Love You...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 6

Christ was compassionate. His heart was always turned towards those who needed help.

He remained with the Nephites to heal their sick, lame, and blind.

3 Nephi 17:5-7

Challenge:

Make a list of people who are less fortunate than you (you don't have to know them personally) make a special effort to pray for them in your family and/or personal prayers.

We love you...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 7

Even Jesus was tempted by Satan. He understands what it feels like to be tired, weak, and just trying your best to resist temptation.

Matthew 4:1-11

Think how tired, hungry and weak Jesus must have been after his extremely long fast. Satan comes at moments of weakness to try to persuade us to do evil. Did you notice that angels were there to minister unto Him? We are never alone as we journey through this life!

Challenge:

Choose 3 topics in the “For The Strength of the Youth” that might be a temptation in your life...read them and decide now what you will do/say

We Love You...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 8

Jesus loves ALL men. His atonement paid the price for ALL mankind. If He only loved those who never made mistakes, He would not have needed to make the ultimate sacrifice. All of us will make mistakes; all of us fall short of perfection. How wonderful it is to know that the Savior loves us and is there encouraging us to get back up and try again.

Jesus loved even the sinner.
Luke 7:36-50

Challenge:

Jesus loves and forgives all men. Write a note to someone you may have hurt asking for forgiveness or offer forgiveness to someone who has hurt you. Or, you can write a note to someone who sets a good example of Christlike love.

We Love You...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 9

Jesus knows how it feels to be let down by people we trust.

Matthew 26:36-46

During his time of pain, agony, and great suffering Christ plead with his apostles, his friends, to stay close and keep watch. They were not able to do it. They fell asleep 3 different times even though he needed them.

Challenge:

Be a good friend to others. Help others when they need help.

Set a goal to help one of your friends. You could help them study for a quiz, you could help them babysit siblings, you could help them do their chores etc.

We Love You...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 10

Jesus knows the intent of our heart and appreciates all that we can give, even if it seems small to us.

Mark 12:41-44

Although the widow did not have much to give, she gave with a pure heart and she gave all she had. The Savior does not keep score. The Savior asks that we all give our best and that is enough. He has made up the difference.

Challenge:

Choose 1 area where you can make a commitment to give 100% effort (not be perfect, just give it your all! ;) Maybe you want to read scriptures more often, pay your tithing, bear your testimony...Choose something you can “give back” to the Savior.

We Love You...

12 Days Closer to Christ

Day 11

Jesus knows that challenges can be difficult but he gave us a perfect example of never giving up and always trusting in our Heavenly Father's love.

Matthew 26:39

John 16:32

Speaking about the Lord's final hours on earth Elder Holland said:

“But Jesus held on. He pressed on. The goodness in Him allowed faith to triumph even in a state of complete anguish. The trust He lived by told Him in spite of His feelings that divine compassion is never absent, that God is always faithful, that He never flees nor fails us”. Jeffery R. Holland

Challenge:

Find a picture of Christ to display prominently in your room or somewhere you will see it each day. (bathroom mirror, locker etc.) Let this picture remind you of your commitment to “Come Unto Christ” even when life gets hard.

We Love You!

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Day 12 and everyday forward.....

“There is no better time than now, this very Christmas season, for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the principles taught by Jesus Christ.

“Because He came to earth, we have a perfect example to follow. As we strive to become more like Him, we will have joy and happiness in our lives and peace each day of the year. It is His example, which, if followed, stirs within us more kindness and love, more respect and concern for others.

“Because He came, there is meaning to our mortal existence.

“Because He came, we know how to reach out to those in trouble or distress, wherever they may be.

“Because He came, death has lost its sting, the grave its victory. We will live again because He came.

“Because He came and paid for our sins, we have the opportunity to gain eternal life.” (President Thomas S. Monson, 2011 First Presidency Christmas Devotional)

We look forward to this coming year 2014 as we focus on “Coming To Christ.” We are so excited to incorporate this theme into our lives. As we work hard to “Come Unto Christ, our testimonies will be strengthened. We will transition from knowing *about* Christ to truly *knowing* Him.

Merry Christmas!
Lots of Love,