

DECEMBER LOVE

A Study of God's Word

For

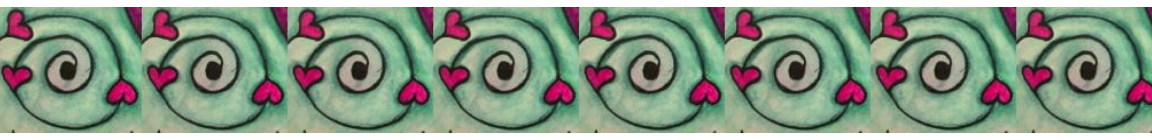
December

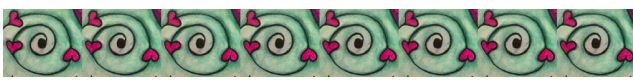


Written & Watercolor Illustrated by

Constance Reeder 

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December Love

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New American Standard Bible

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Written & Watercolor Illustrated by
Constance Reeder
Olalla, Washington 98359

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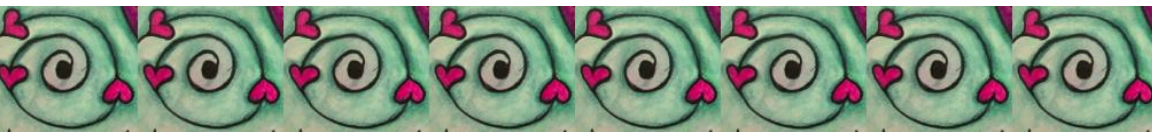
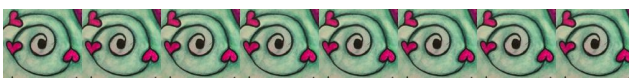




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A Note from the Author

♥ People have often asked how I spend my time in the Word of God. I have written this little book to share just one of the many ways I've learned to study God's Word over the years.

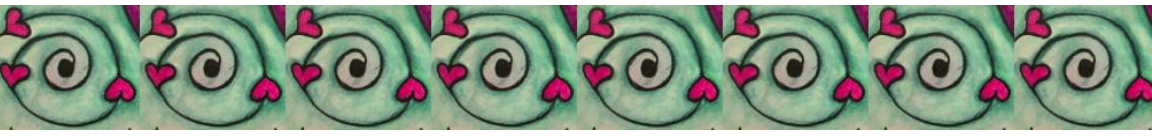
The best time of day to study may be different for each person, but what takes place during that time will remain relatively the same. Knowledge increases in Jesus Christ, faith in God's word is strengthened, and the wisdom and peace of God begin to prevail in everyday situations.

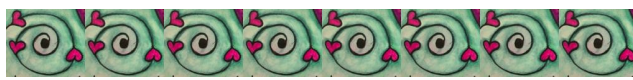
Your Bible, a pen, and this little book are all that is needed for this short study. However, you may prefer to use some colored pencils for the days you are asked to do something special and of course, Google may come in handy as well. But it's up to you how much you choose to do. This short study will give you 3 days in each section, with 4 sections. I have chosen to make this a 12-day study for December, because this month can be pretty busy.

Remember to take time to pray and ask God for direction, then read the whole suggested Scripture, preferably out loud. This helps you lay aside the worries of life and focus on God's Word.

It is important to involve all of your senses while studying God's Word, so take time to write down your favorite portion of the selected Scripture in your most beautiful writing on the page provided. In doing this, you will learn to cherish God's Word and to have a deep reverence for everything God says. Let His powerful words exclaim His great love for you. Take time to adore and worship Jesus and become more like Him. Enjoy.

Constance





Study I, December 10-12

Love Promised in a Seed

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head,
and you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

Genesis 3:15

♥ Let's begin our study by asking God to bless our time throughout this entire study. Remember to begin each day in prayer.

Father, Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore our souls observe them. The unfolding of Your Words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple... Turn to us now and be gracious to us, after Your manner with those who love Your Name. Amen. (Psalm 119:129-130, 132)

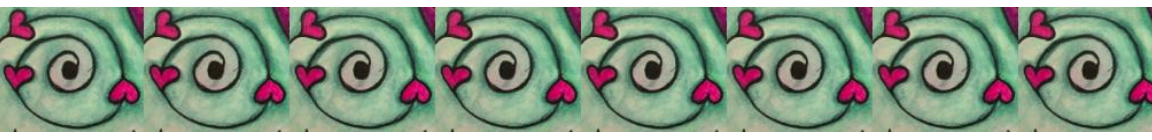
♥ Take time to read Genesis 1-3 slowly. Now read Revelation 12:7-9 and write out who the serpent in the Garden of Eden is: _____

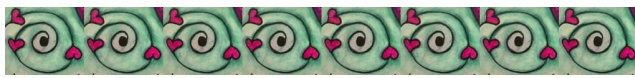
Who does he deceive? (Rev. 12:9) _____

Let's see what Jesus says about the devil. Read John 8:31-44 and write a description of him here: _____

Read and write out what you learn about the enemy of our souls and the battle we are in from Ephesians 6:10-12: _____

Read Genesis 3:15 again. How is the battle described by God? _____





December 11

♥ We have a lot of reading today, but it is so worth it! Read Genesis 22:1-19 and in verses 16-18 underline the word “seed”. Take note of all you learn about this Seed: _____

Let’s flip over into the New Testament to the Book of Galatians, Chapter 3. Read the whole chapter and record from verses 16-29 all you learn about this Seed. _____

♥ Right now in the middle of this study, let’s stop and pray. It’s so important to really understand Galatians 3. Now take time to re-read it out loud in its entirety without interruption. This chapter is worth reading and re-reading three or four times or more. It is so full and rich of Truth in Jesus Christ.

How important is our faith according to verses 1-9? _____

How are the righteous in Christ to live? By Law or by faith?

♥ Let’s review this chapter briefly: God gave Abraham promises of a Seed, who is Christ. Abraham believed God. God then gave the Law as a tutor to lead His people to Christ, until Jesus came bringing these promises. When Jesus Christ came, He justified those who believed by faith. Now that faith has dawned in our hearts, we are no longer under the tutor (Law). We who belong to Christ by faith in Him are also Abraham’s descendants, heirs to the promise that God gave so long ago!!





December 12

♥ Take time to read back over the Scriptures studied on December 10 & 11, and then write out below the ways you see Love promised to us in Christ, the Seed:

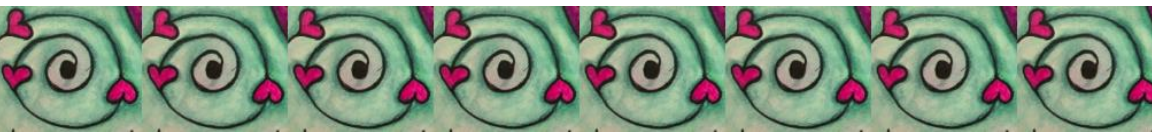
Genesis 3:15 _____

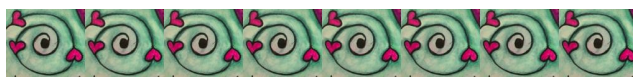
Genesis 22:1-19 _____

Galatians 3:16-29 _____

♥ What a wonderful, faithful and loving Father we have! The Creator of the universe did not hesitate when an attack was made on His children - He did not just walk away defeated and let us go to our destruction with the enemy of our souls! No! He declared war against our archenemy immediately and then made a promise for us to hold on to while the battle raged!

♥ I wonder, do we think of this Righteous example that God has given us in regards to our own family? Do we declare war when the enemy makes a move within our family structure, within the lives of our children, or upon our spouse? Do we drop to our knees on their behalf, or do we crumble in defeat? Do we cling to the promises of God and cast a vision of Hope when those we love most are struggling around us? Write out a prayer and tell God your thoughts: _____





Study II, December 13-15

Love Promised in the Blood

*“... and without the shedding of blood
there is no forgiveness of sins.”*

Hebrews 9:22

♥ Now that we have gotten a glimpse, of how God promised Love in the Seed which is Christ, let's move into Love promised in the blood of Christ.

As soon as sin came into the lives of God's children, it seems that He began to teach them about blood being shed for that sin. We see it in Genesis 3:21 when God made Adam and Eve “garments of skin” to cover their nakedness. Read Genesis 4:3-5 and write out how God feels about each sacrifice. Which one has blood to offer? _____

You will find as you read through the Book of Genesis, that Noah offers a sacrifice with blood, Abraham offers sacrifices with blood, and as you know God offers the sacrifice in place of Isaac, a sacrifice with blood. When we come to the Exodus of Egypt, the Israelites were very familiar with the offering of a sacrifice with blood. Do you remember what we read about the Law in Galatians? God gave the Law as a tutor to lead His people to Christ. Therefore, when you read through the Books of the Law (the first five books of the Bible) you can see how God gave glimpses of Jesus Christ in that Law. Take time now to read through Exodus 12. How do you see God's Love promised in the blood here? _____





December 14

♥ Take time today to re-read Exodus 12 and then we will move into the New Testament. If you would like to read more on how these sacrifices were to be made, you can read Leviticus. The specific Law of Atonement is written in Leviticus 16-17. Take time now to read these two chapters without interruption. Notice the priest and the sacrifice.

Let's read this verse regarding the blood again:

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement." Leviticus 17:11

This sounds very similar to what God told Noah after the flood had ended in Genesis 9:4:

"Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood."

♥ Now let's move into Hebrews 9 and read verses 1-7. The author of Hebrews is speaking to us regarding the atonement sacrifices of the Old Covenant (Law) being offered by high priests and then introduces Jesus Christ as our High Priest under the New Covenant (Grace). But does Jesus offer the same kind of sacrifices that the priests offered in Leviticus? Now take time to read Hebrews 9:11-14. What blood did Christ offer? _____

Jesus Christ is not only High Priest under the New Covenant, He is also the atoning sacrifice of the New Covenant! This is HUGE! Take time to ask God to help you really understand this. _____





December 15

♥ I have always found it interesting that long before the Law was given through Moses, there were sacrifices made to God. How did Cain and Abel know to bring offerings to God? How did they know what pleased Him? Had Adam taught his sons about these sacrifices after God gave the example and made garments of skin to cover their nakedness?

Let's look at Abel's sacrifice again. Read Hebrews 11:4 and write out how the author describes it: _____

♥ God has always made a way for mankind, whom He created, to bring an offering that is pleasing to Him. But in that offering was a reflection of things to come: The high priests were a reflection of **The High Priest** to come, Jesus Christ. The blood of bulls and goats was a reflection of **The Blood of Jesus Christ** that was to be shed on the cross.

Pray and then take time to read and re-read Hebrews 9-10. Honestly, it's not enough to read them only two times; if you can, read them until God begins to reveal His truth to you. Write down what you learn:

♥ When Jesus was crucified, the veil to the Holy of Holies was torn in two (Luke 23:45). Now we who by grace through faith have believed in Him can enter the Holy place by the blood of Jesus. (Heb 10:19). Let's do it with a sincere heart and full assurance of faith! This is Love promised in the blood: Our sins have been forgiven - we are free indeed!





Study III, December 16-18

Love Promised in the Cross

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.”

John 3:14-15

♥ The verses above in John 3 are spoken by Jesus to Nicodemus and He is using part of a horrible scene that took place in the Book of Numbers to compare with what will come. Let's read Numbers 20-21:9.

Now write out Numbers 21:8-9: _____

♥ Let's also read 2Kings 18:1-4. What do you learn from these verses about the Israelites and the serpent hundreds of years later? _____

Now let's move into the New Testament and read John 3.

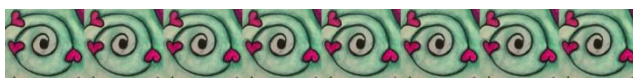
Write out John 3:14-15: _____

What is Jesus comparing to the bronze serpent in the Book of Numbers? _____

Why must the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, be lifted up as Moses had lifted up the serpent in the wilderness? Use John 3 to answer this question: _____

What do you think God was showing the Israelites in Numbers 21:8-9? _____





December 17

♥ It's amazing to me to see the faithfulness and persistence of God. He was so faithful in the Old Testament to keep showing His children the One who would save them and give them eternal life. As you read through the Old Testament, you see that some believed and lived and died by faith, and "...having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised..." (Hebrews 11:39). Reading all of Hebrews 11 will give insight as to what they endured.

♥ Let's go back to John 3 and re-read verses 14-21. Using these verses, answer the following questions:

Who did God give His only begotten Son for? _____

Why did God send His Son into the world? _____

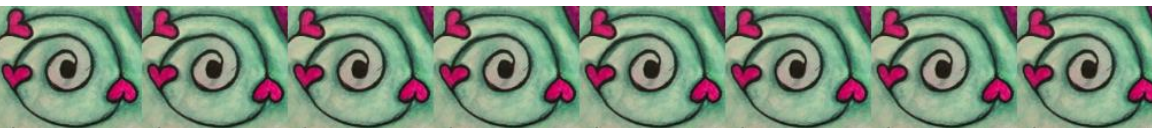
Why are some people not judged and others judged already? _____

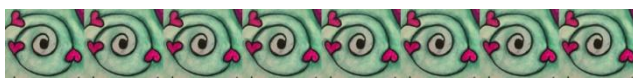
For those who are judged already, what is the judgment? _____

Why will those who do evil not come to the Light (Jesus)? _____

Why do those who practice truth come to the Light? _____

What a beautiful promise God has given us in the Cross of Jesus Christ! But some stumbled over Jesus in the Old Testament, as well as today. Romans 9:30-33 speaks to this. Take time to read it now and write out Romans 9:33: _____





December 18

♥ Since we are in the Book of Romans, let's finish our study of "Love Promised in the Cross". Romans 10 is the perfect place to do this. Paul is crying out from his heart how he longs for his brethren, the Nation of Israel, to come to know Christ as their Savior.

Go ahead and read the entire chapter of Romans 10.

Now, in your most beautiful handwriting, write out how Paul says we are saved. Write it using Romans 10 as your guide, but write it the way you would say it to someone that you long to have know about Jesus as their Savior. This may require reading and re-reading Romans 10 until you are very familiar with it. But what better part of the Bible to be familiar with!





Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is the Word of God and He is God. (John 1:1-3, 14) He was in the beginning when the world was created. He came to this earth, born as a human baby, sent by God to deliver us from our sin and give us eternal life with God if we believe in Him.

God promised those of the Old Testament Love in the Cross. In the New Testament He fulfilled that promise by lifting up His only begotten Son on the Cross. This is Love: He laid down His life that it might be lifted up for you and for me to be set free. Hallelujah! ♥





Study IV, December 19-21

Love Promised in a Baby

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:
Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son,
and she will call His name Immanuel.”*

Isaiah 7:14

♥ Beginning with prayer, let's now move quickly into the Book of Isaiah. Take time to read Isaiah 9:2-7 twice uninterrupted and out loud. Since this is an extremely well-known passage, you probably know much of it from memory, but let's really slow down and pay attention to the prophecy that is being given from God regarding His Son through the prophet Isaiah.

Now write out below what you learn about this child - be specific and stick to what the verses say: _____

Now flip over to Isaiah 11:1-5 and do the same as you did above with the verses from Isaiah 9:2-7: _____

♥ Again, turn to Jeremiah 23:5-6 and do the same as before: _____

Let's fit in one more for today - Micah 5:2: _____





December 20

♥ If you had been alive during the time just before Jesus' birth, would the verses that we studied yesterday in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah have caused you to watch and pray to see the coming of this prophesied baby?

I have often pondered this. I so desperately would have loved being one of those in the New Testament that knew the minute they saw the Baby Jesus that He was their long-awaited Messiah. Many missed it...

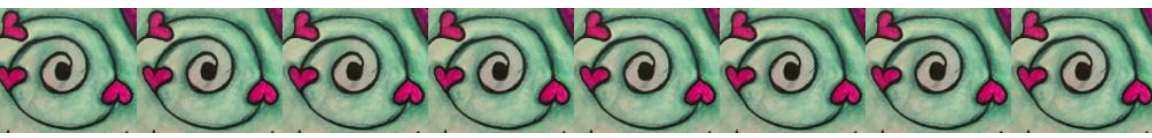
Can you imagine going about your daily routine and suddenly the Holy Spirit lays upon your heart that the Son of God is about to enter your world? Let's read about it:

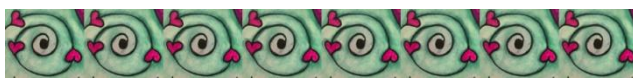
Look up Luke 2:21-38 and write out below the who, what, when, where, why and how of Simeon and Anna - answer all the questions you can straight from the Scriptures:

Simeon: _____

Anna: _____

♥ What do you think made these two so special to know that this particular child was the Messiah, when so many others seemed to miss it? Do you think the way they led their lives had something to do with it? Had they found favor with God somehow? Write it out.





December 21

♥ We are going to end our study today with a passage in the Book of Revelation. Turn with me to Revelation 12:1-6 and read it out loud, slowly. Answer the following questions using the words from the verses we just read.

Who do you think this woman is and why? _____

Who do you think the great red dragon is and why? _____

Who do you think the male child is and why? _____

Many believe this to be a sign in the heavens of Mary, King Herod, and Baby Jesus at the time that King Herod was seeking to kill Jesus and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem, two years old and under (Matthew 2:16-18).

There are so many promises of God's Love through the Baby Jesus in the Scriptures. He sent His Son incarnate (in the flesh) as a baby, not to live out a long sinless life here on this earth, but so He could be the perfect sacrifice for you and me. Some believed these promises and watched and prayed, but some did not believe even though they had read what God said about His Son. How could this happen?

I wonder if one day while we are going about our daily routines of life, that the Holy Spirit might interrupt us with a warning that Jesus is on His way. Even so, Come Lord Jesus, Come!





A Christmas Blessing

*“And when they were come into the house,
they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down,
and worshipped Him:
and when they had opened their treasures,
they presented unto Him gifts; gold,
and frankincense, and myrrh.”*

Matthew 2:11

♥ Christmas is a very special time for all of mankind. Without the birth of God into a human body like yours and mine, we would not have the perfect sacrifice that was needed to make us right with God. Jesus is that Perfect Sacrifice. He is God incarnate; God in the flesh.

Jesus is God's Love promised to us in that Seed foretold in Genesis 3:15. He is the One that the serpent's seed would bruise on the heel, and He is the One that would bruise the serpent's seed on the head.

Jesus is God's Love promised in the Blood, the Blood that held His perfect life which was poured out for you and me - indeed for the whole world.

Jesus is God's Love promised in the Cross. He was lifted up for all to see and be saved. He said, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.”* John 12:32

Jesus is God's Love promised in a baby and Christmas is a perfect day to fall down and worship Him and bring gifts to Him because He is our King. He is our God. He is our Savior. May this Christmas be an especially blessed Christmas for you and your loved ones as you celebrate God's Love promised to us. ♥

