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Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room: Daily Family Devotions For Advent



Synopsis

How many Christmas mornings have you found your family gathered around the tree with presents beautifully wrapped and a scrumptious feast on the table, but with hearts that have not been prepared to truly take in the wonder of God become human? Not this year. Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room, a family Advent devotional from Bible teacher and mom Nancy Guthrie, is designed to bring your family together during a season that is oftentimes too much about programs and presents, and simply not enough about Jesus. Along with devotions for every day in December, this resource includes explanations of some hard-to-understand aspects of popular Christmas carols, and discussion questions to draw in your elementary through high school-aged kids, transforming this time together from a dry lecture into a treasured family experience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many treasures lie hidden inside the small Advent devotional written by Nancy Guthrie entitled Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room. To discover daily readings that extend past Christmas Day to December 31st was a refreshing surprise that encouraged our family to reflect back on Christmas and focus on the year ahead. Each devotional includes a prayer; discussion starters that have a range of questions appropriate for elementary, middle or high schoolers; and additional verses for future investigation. Nestled between the pages are eight Christmas carols, five of which include the story of their composer and composition; twelve pages entitled, "Remembering how God has prepared our hearts from year to year," and allowing space to record thoughts and questions; and the full Christmas story found in Matthew and Luke. There is an excellent lesson on getting and

giving as well as a shift in focus from eagerly expecting Jesus' first coming up until December 25th to a focus on His second coming from the 26th to the 31st. There are two small things that hold me back from giving this book 5 stars. The first may seem trivial and has nothing to do with content but is important. On the front and back covers are pictured small chalkboards with the title and a tag line written in chalk. However, on the chalkboard is a white pencil crayon. It just doesn't make sense. The second thing is found in the devotion for December 3rd. In the discussion about Jesus' ancestral line, it lists some ancestors with "tarnished reputations - like Judah, who was intimate with his daughter-in-law; Rahab, who was a Canaanite prostitute". While this is true, I do not feel it is appropriate for a devotional meant to include a younger audience.

This is a beautiful book for the whole family to go through together during the Christmas season! With focused devotional pieces on Jesus' birth (and the surrounding events), prayers, questions to ponder, verses, hymns, and places to write down the family's thoughts, this book goes in depth into the true reason we celebrate Christmas. A small, simple, yet lovely hardcover book, *Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room* can sit anywhere in your home as a reminder to set aside time to gather everyone together and learn about God and His amazing gift in Jesus, as well as what our practical, real response to His gift should be in how we live our lives year-round. This book is thought-provoking and insightful! Here are just a few lines from some of the devotionals that I underlined: "We have to clear other things--even good things--out of our schedules if we want to make time to listen to him by reading his Word and talking to him through prayer." "Wouldn't a better question to ask each other be, 'What are you giving for Christmas?'" "Because of what Christ accomplished on the Cross, we can be friends with God instead of his enemies." "If we're not careful, ordinary life can cause us to lose our sense of wonder over Jesus' coming." I loved that this book included hymns for the family to sing together, along with explanations of the hymns that are helpful. And I also loved that the pieces for Christmas Eve and Christmas are solely Scripture reading (with a hymn following each)--emphasizing our need to spend time in God's word. While this is a family devotional, I would recommend it more for older children, teenagers, and their parents.

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