

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: LESSONS FROM BUDDY

A Weekly Devotional

WEEK 1



Day 1: “Smiling’s My Favorite”

Buddy the Elf’s excitement is contagious. One of the most famous lines from the movie is when he says, *“I just like to smile, smiling’s my favorite.”* Buddy is pure joy. It’s not about putting on a fake grin; it’s about genuinely loving life and letting that joy show. He smiles at strangers, lights up rooms, and spreads joy wherever he goes.

What if we approached our day with that kind of joy? Philippians 4:4 reminds us to *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”* We aren’t called to a life of grumbling, stress, or constant worry. We’re called to joy, the kind that comes from knowing we are deeply loved by God.

Maybe smiling could become your favorite today. Smile at someone who might need a lift, or even smile for yourself. It’s a reminder that, despite our challenges, God’s joy is always available. Today, ask God to fill you with His joy and share it with others. Let the world see His light through your smile.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift of joy. Help me to see the good in every situation today, and give me the strength to share Your joy with others. Amen.



Day 2: “Cotton-Headed Ninny Muggins”

When Buddy calls himself a “cotton-headed ninny muggins” after failing to keep up with the other elves, it’s a funny, yet relatable moment. How often do we feel like we just don’t measure up? Whether it’s at work, in our families, or in our faith, we sometimes believe we’re not good enough. But here’s the truth: God never sees us as failures or less-than. Psalm 139:14 tells us that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

In those moments when we feel like we don’t fit in or that we’ve fallen short, God reminds us that our worth isn’t based on our accomplishments. It’s based on His love for us. We are more than enough because He created us with care and purpose.

Today, if you feel like a “cotton-headed ninny muggins,” remember that God sees you differently. You are His beloved child, created with value and dignity. Lean into that truth and let it fill you with confidence.

Prayer: Father, remind me that I am enough in Your eyes. Help me to let go of feelings of inadequacy and embrace the truth that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen.



Day 3: “There’s Room for Everyone on the Nice List”

One of Buddy’s core beliefs is that “there’s room for everyone on the nice list.” While Santa’s list is just a fun part of the Christmas season, it reminds us of a deeper truth about God’s grace. Romans 3:23-24 tells us that all have sinned, but we are justified freely by God’s grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. There’s room for everyone in God’s family because His grace is bigger than our mistakes.

No matter what we’ve done or how far we feel from God, His love is always there, waiting for us to come home. There’s nothing we can do to earn our way onto His “nice list”—it’s all about His grace. And just as Buddy believes in spreading Christmas cheer, we’re called to share God’s grace with others.

Today, reflect on how God’s grace has been at work in your life. Who in your life might need to be reminded that there’s room for them, too, in God’s love?

Prayer: Lord, thank you for Your boundless grace. Help me to see others the way You see them and to extend Your love and forgiveness to those around me. Amen.



Day 4: “World’s Best Cup of Coffee”

Buddy’s excitement over the sign declaring the “World’s Best Cup of Coffee” shows us his ability to find wonder in the ordinary. It’s a simple thing—a sign in a diner—but Buddy celebrates it like it’s a huge achievement. In a world that often overlooks the small, everyday moments, Buddy’s joy is a reminder to pause and see the beauty all around us.

Psalm 118:24 says, “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Each day is a gift from God, filled with small blessings if we take the time to notice. Whether it’s a quiet cup of coffee in the morning, a beautiful sunset, or a kind word from a friend, these moments are worth celebrating.

Today, take time to notice the ordinary miracles in your life. What simple moments can you be grateful for? How might you see God’s hand in the little things?

Prayer: Lord, help me to slow down and see the beauty in the ordinary. Open my eyes to the ways You are present in the small moments of my day. Amen.



Day 5: “The Best Way to Spread Christmas Cheer”

According to Buddy, “the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.” While you might not want to burst into song in public, there’s a deeper truth here: spreading joy and kindness can change the atmosphere around us. Ephesians 4:29 says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up.”

Our words have the power to lift people up or tear them down. By choosing to spread cheer—whether through kind words, encouragement, or simply a smile—we participate in God’s work of bringing light to the world. Imagine how your words could make someone’s day brighter.

Today, look for opportunities to spread Christmas cheer. Whether it’s through a compliment, a thank you, or an encouraging note, let your words be a gift to someone else.

Prayer: Father, help me to use my words to spread Your love and joy. Give me opportunities today to lift others up and bring a little cheer into their lives. Amen.



Day 6: “You Sit on a Throne of Lies”

In a memorable scene, Buddy confronts a department store Santa and declares, “You sit on a throne of lies!” It’s a funny moment, but it also speaks to the fact that we often believe lies—about ourselves, others, and even God. The enemy would love for us to stay trapped in lies about our worth, our identity, or our ability to be loved.

But Jesus came to set us free from those lies. In John 8:32, Jesus says, “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” The truth is that we are beloved children of God, created in His image, and nothing can separate us from His love. Today, take a moment to ask God to reveal any lies you’ve believed. What truth does He want to speak over you instead?

Prayer: Lord, show me where I’ve believed lies instead of Your truth. Help me to see myself and others through Your eyes, and fill me with the confidence that comes from knowing I am deeply loved by You. Amen.



Day 7: "Santa! I Know Him!"

When Buddy hears that Santa is coming to the store, he exclaims, "Santa! I know him!" His excitement mirrors the awe and wonder we should have about knowing God. Do we have that same enthusiasm about our relationship with the Creator of the universe?

John 10:14 says, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." God knows us personally and intimately, and He invites us into a relationship with Him. Do we truly grasp how incredible it is to know God?

Today, reflect on what it means to have a personal relationship with God. How can you deepen your connection with Him this Advent season?

Prayer: Father, thank You for the gift of knowing You. Help me to never lose my sense of wonder at being in relationship with You. Amen.