

**Holiday
Edition**

The Gathering

Connecting Through Faith

**Festive
Decor**

**We Whisk
You a Merry
Christmas
(Recipes)**

**Don't forget the
Fur Babies!**

**Do You Hear
What I Hear?**



All I Want for Christmas

1 Corinthians 13:7

*(Love) - bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

*T*his holiday season promises to be especially joyful. Let's not forget that Christmas celebrations are a great avenue for introducing the Saviour to our neighbors, friends, and especially family members.

Christmas time gives us the freedom to love as Jesus loved. Putting aside family variances and loving anyway. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." So, let's give the gift of love without expecting anything in return. Many people have been in hard places this year and really need this kind of love.

We sincerely hope you get what you want this year, but I'm guessing what you need most isn't wrapped up under your Christmas tree (Hebrews 11:1). Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Even though you may not see it, God is working on your behalf and sending the gift of Hope.

This December Gathering Magazine is all about setting the atmosphere for bolstering your love, hope, and faith. Inspirations for decorating, sweet recipes, and fun ideas to make your holiday preparations easier. But it is our greatest desire that you get back your HOPE; we are reminded of what the angel Gabriel told Mary in Luke 1:38 AMP "For with God nothing [is or ever] shall be impossible."

*God Bless and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jodiann Schott*



The Gathering Magazine's Nice List (no naughty list)

Thank you for sharing your time and hearts to make the ladies magazines of 2021 possible! It has been a joy and a blessing serving alongside you all. We praise God for the many souls who have been encouraged and who will continue to be as we follow the Lord's lead in this ministry.

Pastor Jodiann



Pastor Kayy

Pastor Shirley



Beulah Donison



Angela Zhou



Elaine Lum



Nicole Cortez



Pastor Fran



Lina Ritchie-Lim



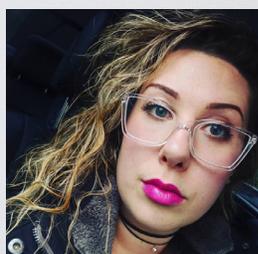
Chato Wiseman



Lorna Webb



Lubi Bernardino

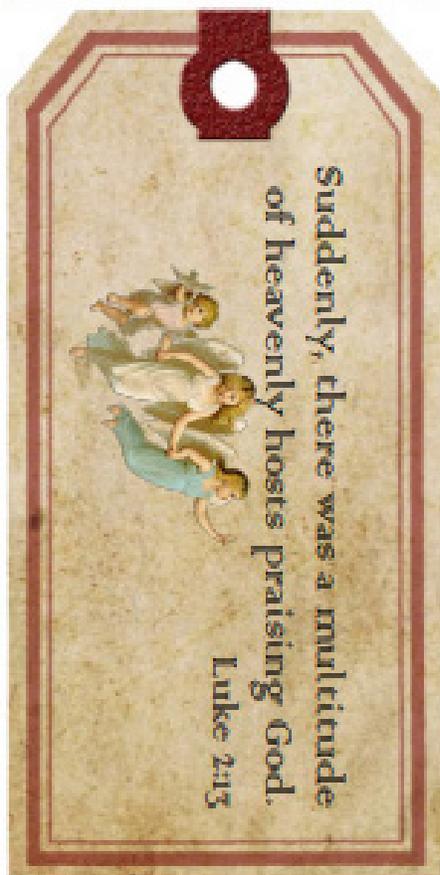
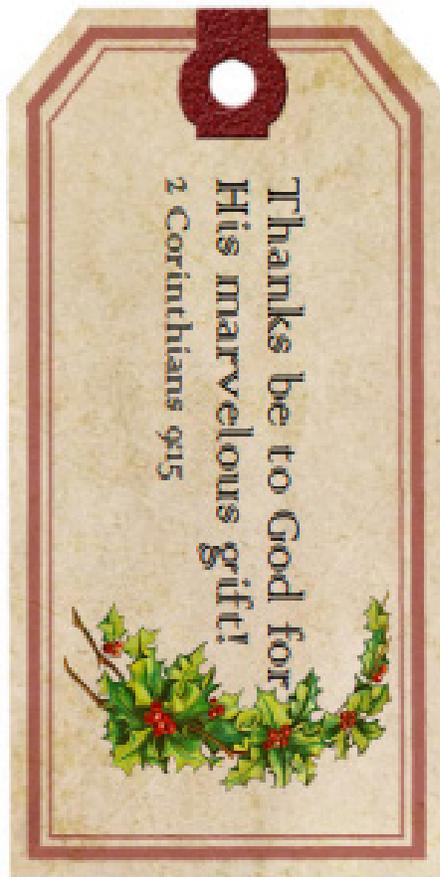


Sam Thisholm



Marion Wallis

Wings of Whimsy - Vintage Package Tags



Napkin Envy... It seems that every year I imagine colorful, bright, and beautiful folded napkins at my holiday dinners. Intending to impress my guests, when the time comes to set the table, I'm too rushed and at a loss on how to fulfill that vision. We found some great pins to help you set an awesome holiday table this year.

<https://pin.it/3ycwnWf>

<https://pin.it/2g9EuES>

<https://pin.it/gAMFzBp>



*The perfect day to launch the season for celebrating our Saviour!
Special thanks to all you beautiful women for bringing laughter and
love to the Women's Extravaganza.*

Do You Hear What I Hear

by Pastor Jodiann

But He said, "On the contrary, blessed (happy, favored by God) are those who hear the word of God and continually observe it." Luke 11:28

You've heard the saying, "That person has no filter on their mouth." When a woman 'lacks a filter', it means that she isn't giving consideration to her audience, and often ends up saying things that later she will regret. I like to call them flesh words. We must remember there is power in our words.

Contrary to that common childish saying, words do hurt and sometimes very deeply. They come through our ears, embed in our hearts, and influence our steps. Unfortunately, lots of women have a habit of receiving everything they hear as truth. However, all truth is in Jesus Christ. (1 John 4:1)

Take a good look at the person feeding you information. Are they someone you want to emulate? Are they campaigning for your loyalty? Are they discerning and humble in spirit? Would you trust them with your bank account or your children? If the answer is "probably not", why would you allow them to influence your outlook on life? It is tainting your spirit.

God guides us through our spirits, so we need to filter what we hear. If what you hear doesn't bring peace then be selective in what you receive.



God's Word is the best filter. It helps us put into perspective God's way of thinking about our challenges. Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37) and He has only good planned for us. When negative or scary words come our way, we can filter them. We counteract those words with the most powerful word of all—the Word of God—the Bible. God's words have a creative power. Genesis 1:3, "And God said... and it was so."

Putting a filter on our hearing is simple. First, evaluate what you are allowing in your spirit. Does it build you up? Agree with the Bible? If not, filter them! Don't let them into your heart. You can contradict them by focusing on the truth- the Word of God. Filter out flesh and hear by the Spirit. This is the way to become a confident woman of God!

Let's Go Deeper

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you consider these strategies in using a filter to improve your hearing patterns. For what we listen to affects our spirit.

1. Music has a powerful effect on the mind. Is there a form of music that you need to avoid?
2. Is there a person in your life who tempts you to listen to gossip or maybe partake in it?
3. Do you receive negative opinions of yourself as the gospel truth?
4. Do you focus more on your physical challenges than your strengths?
5. Is there a person in your life who speaks harsh words often? What ways can you filter out those words with the love of God? _____

Writing out God's Word is a great way to incorporate more of the Bible into your heart and mind.

Write the following scriptures on a piece of paper. Consider hanging it in a place you look often to reinforce God's love for you.

Genesis 28:15

1 John 4:1

Psalms 34:18





Poinsettia Care

 Keep them in a bright place, out of direct sunlight that's not too warm.

 Poinsettias don't need a lot of water. To water your plant, check the soil. It shouldn't be dry nor drenched. A small sip of water every two days is perfect, or mist daily.

 The optimum temperature for a poinsettia is 15-20 C°.

 Keep poinsettias way from drafts.

 The foil wrap is not necessarily waterproof. Place it on a saucer, poke a hole in the bottom to let the water out, and dump any water that has accumulated in the saucer.

 They are fragile, so be gentle!

 They are only poisonous if you consume a large quantity. They will not harm your dog or cat.

 The 'flowers' on poinsettias aren't flowers at all but modified leaves called bracts. They are brightly coloured to attract insects to the tiny yellow flowers in the centre.





festive decor



The Journey

TESTIMONY OF CHATO WISEMAN

I AM A SIMPLE WOMAN who grew up in the Philippines. Life is poor in the Philippines. My father had a stroke when I was 15. My mother died of Lung Cancer when I was 17.

I got married at 19 hoping to escape from poverty. I was pregnant with my first child finishing up my Degree in Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Married life was more challenging than I thought it would be, definitely not a bed of roses.

My first child died at the age of one. After that, God blessed me with a beautiful baby boy. Unfortunately, when he reached 3 months, he died as well. My faith in God

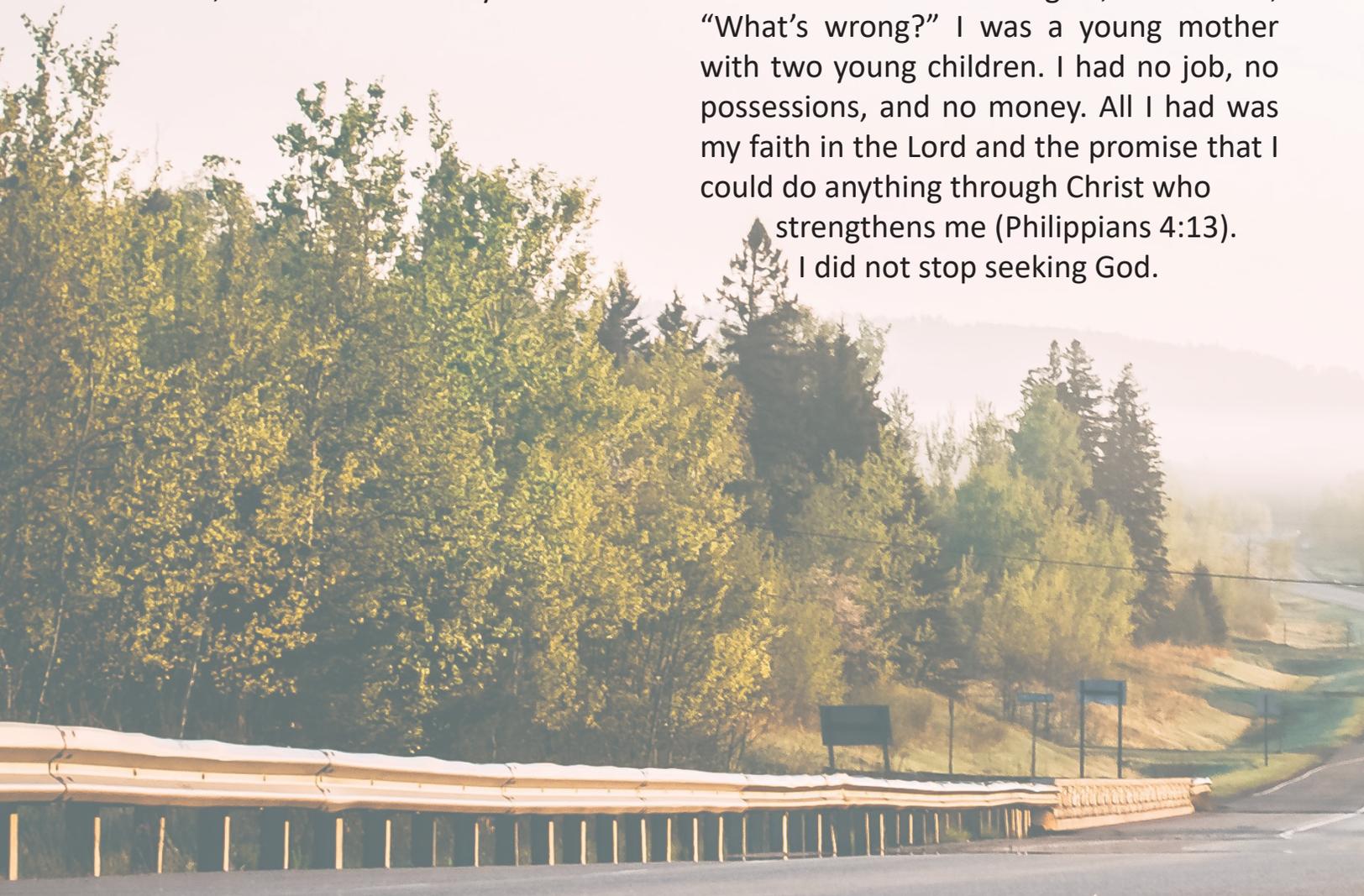
was tested with questions like, “Am I really that bad of a person, God?” and “Why is this happening to me?”

The death of my second child tested my marriage and my faith. I quit going to church. However, because of the persistence of church members and my strong personality, I began to bounce back. Three years later, God blessed me with my daughter Gia Ann. She was the joy of our lives. Four years later, another blessing came, her sister Rhoanne.

Five months after, my husband passed away from Liver Cancer. Once again, I wondered, “What’s wrong?” I was a young mother with two young children. I had no job, no possessions, and no money. All I had was my faith in the Lord and the promise that I could do anything through Christ who

strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

I did not stop seeking God.



I joined the choir and attended Life Groups. These things strengthened me and helped me to make sound judgements. I took any job I could get. I sold retail clothes, cooked and did other people's laundry; anything to earn money.

After some time, I had the opportunity to work in Hong Kong as a domestic helper. It was a tough decision requiring me to leave my two daughters with my in-laws. Perseverance was needed for the future of my girls, as Hong Kong was our stepping stone into Canada. In 1993, I arrived in Vancouver, and 3 years later, my girls joined me.

Nineteen years of single motherhood brought emotional and physical challenges. I raised my girls alone and never thought of my own happiness. However, God never forgot about me. He gave me a precious gift of unconditional love through Mr. Arle Wiseman. I married him and he treated me like a queen; my knight in shining armour!

We were married for 17 years until Blood Cancer took him. For 3 years, we prayed everyday reading God's Word, fighting cancer, and during that time he accepted the Lord as his Saviour. He's been gone for almost 5 years but his wisdom is fresh in my mind and his legacy is precious to me.

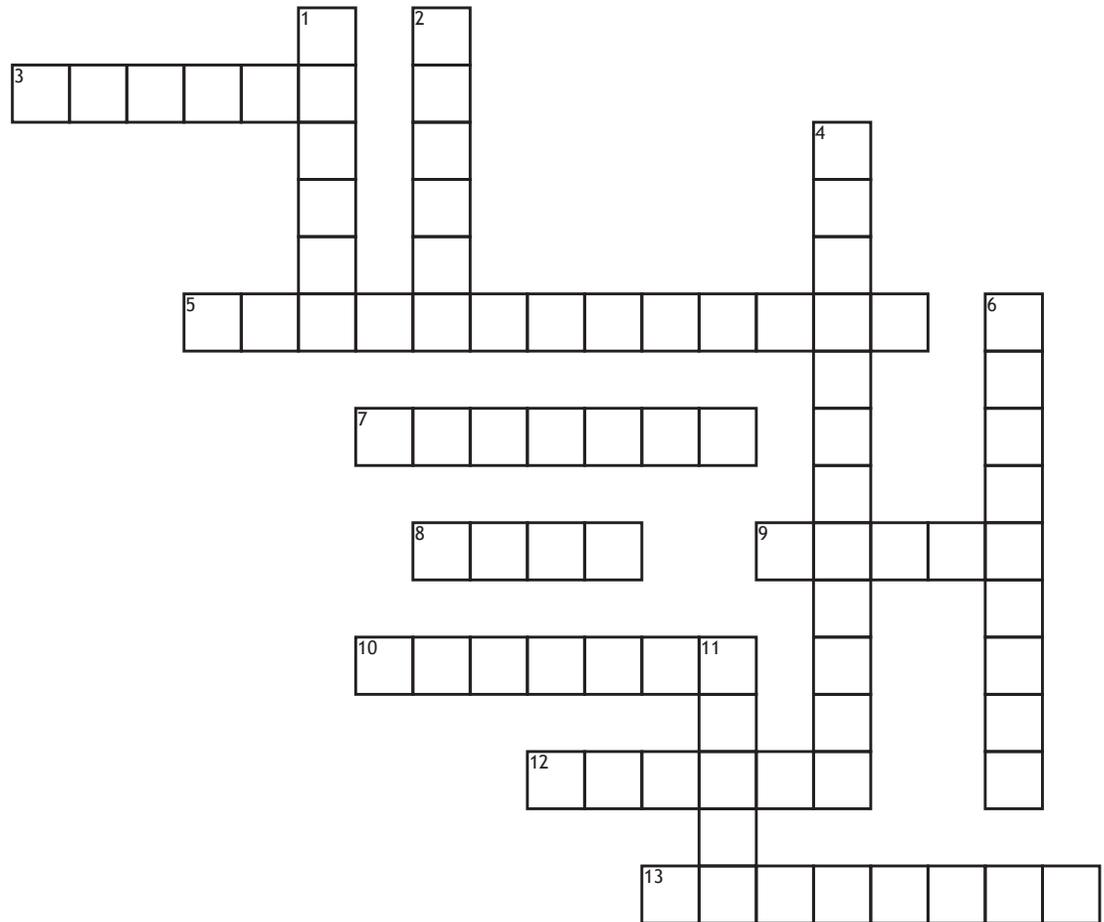
Over time, I've learned to cling to God's promises and I know that I am much stronger because of it. Today, my daughters have their own families and have given me 4 beautiful grandchildren who bring me great joy. Though it all, I'm more inspired to serve the Lord with the talents he has given me.

Psalm 37:23 says, "The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth his way." God is directing my steps and He will fulfill His plans for me.

"However, God never forgot about me."



Mary Did You Know?



Across

3. Mary is also the Mother of the.....
5. Name for Mary
7. Place Jesus was crucified
8. Another of Jesus' brother
9. A brother of Jesus
10. The angel Gabriel called her this.

12. Mary was a young _____

13. Jewish celebration of freedom from slavery

Down

1. Her son was also known as....
2. Jewish building of worship

4. Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about Jesus' birth
6. She took her son here when he was 12 years old
11. Official teaching made by the Church

— D E C E M B E R —

Christmas Calendar

Pause on Services December 22 and 29

19 - Glad Tidings Christmas
Service 10:30am



24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service 6pm

26 - Children's Baby Jesus
Birthday Party 10:30am

31 - New Years Eve Countdown
Service 11pm

Solemn Assembly January 3-7, 2022

Join us this Christmas season!



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Fudge for Christmas

Who doesn't like the feeling of fudge melting in their mouths? It's so delicious, you can't stop eating it! And that's why we think this pin is such a good idea! Homemade fudge makes an extra special gift for teachers, carpoolers, co-workers, and friends. And did you know you're giving your BFF happiness neurotransmitters: serotonin, dopamine, and endorphins? **We mean CHOCOLATE!!** Plus, it's a potent source of antioxidants... *and you just thought it only tasted delicious.*

Gift Hack:
Pack the
fudge in
cookie cut-
ters as an
bonus gift.



<https://pin.it/6EvXd7nx>



Every good and perfect gift is from above...
James 1:17a

The Present of His Presence

By Nicole Cortez

GIFT-GIVING THIS TIME OF YEAR IS COMMON among households all around the world. Some say gift-giving at Christmas has its roots in the Bible from when the three Wise Men brought gifts to baby Jesus.

In Acts 20:35, Jesus is quoted saying, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The One who was *brought gifts* said it’s better to *give gifts*?

Though he received gifts at birth, he was the gift given. While we’re all busy giving *and* getting, let’s keep on our hearts that His presence is the best present. The time came for God to be with His people once again, and in full understanding and through the Holy Spirit, Jesus came. He lived and breathed among us and changed the world forever. Incredible!

This Christmas, let’s give and love in the knowledge that He gave and loved us first.

Pause and cherish Immanuel, God with us.



Recipes for the Fur Babies

by Lina Richie-Lim

I'm so excited to share two recipes. The first is a turkey, quinoa, carrot and squash bowl and the second is beef liver 'brownies'. My cats love it! Both recipes are easy to make and healthy too. Just make sure that your family doesn't accidentally eat the brownies!



Oscar and Tia are my rescue dogs from Yucatan, Mexico. Oscar endured horrific abuse and Tia was thrown out on the streets at 2 months old. Now, they are living their Canadian dream and their days of abuse and starvation are over. They are my pet kids and they love the homemade brownies. Hoping they will get to experience their first snowfall this Christ-



Turkey-Veggie Bowl

Turkey thighs (or chicken)
Carrots chopped
Squash chopped
1 cup Quinoa (or rice)

1) Boil turkey or chicken and then simmer for 1-2 hrs. Add veggies and simmer till tender.
2) Cook quinoa (or rice) until done. Remove meat and shred into container. Add veggies and grain. Pour broth over top. Serve with drizzle of flax seed oil.

Save leftover broth for your own personal use. You can eat too!

Beef Liver Brownies

1 lb beef liver
1/4 cup canola oil or other
2 eggs
2 Tbsp honey
1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 tsp baking powder

1) Preheat oven to 350°F. 2) Blend liver in food processor with oil, eggs, and honey until liquified. 3) Slowly add in flour and baking powder. 4) Liberally coat an 8 X 8 inch glass baking dish and spread batter evenly. 5) Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until the top is springy to the touch or do the knife test. 6) Cool and cut up into small treats.





Homemade English Toffee

allrecipes

Ingredients

- ½ cup butter (no substitute)
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1 cup minced, roasted, salted almonds
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate, melted

Instructions

1 Place first four ingredients in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat. Attach a candy thermometer (make sure the tip is not touching the bottom of the pan).

2 Stir to combine when butter melts. Bring to 300°F (150°C) on the thermometer, remove from heat, stir in 2/3 cup of the almonds, and immediately pour into a 9x13-inch pan. Because the candy is so hot, it will spread out to the proper thickness on its own. Cool to room temperature.

3 When cool, pour melted chocolate over the top and spread out evenly with a spatula. Then sprinkle on the remaining ⅓ cup minced almonds. Refrigerate until the chocolate is cold and then break into pieces with your clean hands. It cannot be cut. Store in the fridge.



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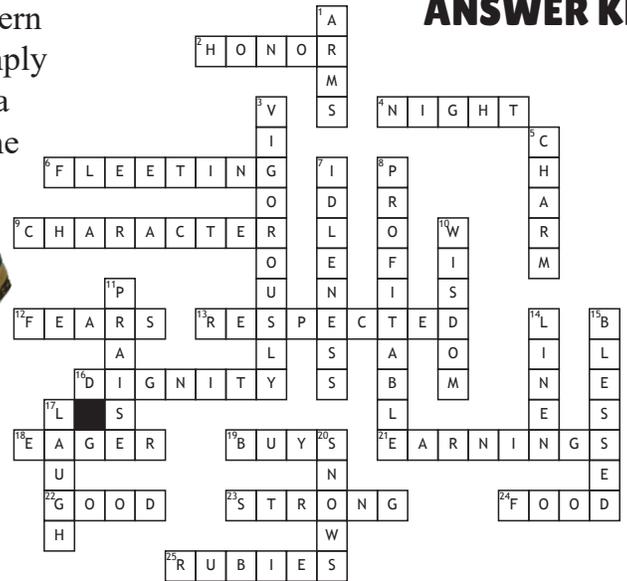
FREE GIFTBOX PRINT OUT

Great things come in small boxes and we have *the* box pattern for you! Download page 18 for a hidden little treasure. Simply cut on the solid line, fold on the dotted, and you can make a cute box for a chocolate or a piece of jewelry. Hang it on the Christmas tree or use it as a placeholder to make your holiday dinner extra special.



The Proverbs 31 Woman

ANSWER KEY



DECEMBER

Birthstone: Turquoise

Birth Flower: Daffodil/Poinsettia



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GOSPEL GIFT TAGS (free)

We have created our very own Gospel-themed gift tags. It is our gift to you this Christmas. Page 4 has six gift tags for you to print. We feel they work best on cardstock or full sheet label paper to make them adhesive.

Nicole printed them on cardstock, laminated, and hole-punched them just for fun, as you can see to the right.

