## Cod with Officers ORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SAVIOR



## Ordinary People, Extraordinary Savior





Every Christmas since my girls were born, my family has had a tradition of setting up a nativity scene in our home. We purchased one a few years ago in Bethlehem, and it sits on the coffee table in our den. I imagine you probably have a nativity scene in your home as well. Your nativity scene may be made of porcelain, glass, metal, plastic, or wood. It might be a family heirloom or a treasured gift. Regardless of what yours looks like, the characters in your nativity scene are probably the same.

Most nativity scenes include these familiar characters in the Christmas story:

- Mary, the young woman who submitted herself to the will of God
- Joseph, the fiancé who didn't understand everything yet still obeyed God
- The angel, representing the angels who rejoiced at Christ's coming
- *The shepherds*, the outcasts of society to whom the angels announced Christ's birth
- The wise men, who followed the star and came to visit the Christ Child later
- Jesus, who is the most important of all—the reason for Christmas

Each Christmas season, when you and I set up our nativity scenes, the characters don't change. It's the same scene, year after year. So how can we get something new out of the Christmas story? In this devotional, we will use a traditional nativity scene to take a fresh look at these familiar biblical characters.

These simple devotions are designed to be read when you set up your nativity scene in your home. Each devotion focuses on a character in the nativity scene and highlights an important spiritual lesson we can apply to our lives today. In the middle of your busy Christmas season, I encourage you to pause, quiet your heart, and spend a few unrushed moments reflecting on the Christmas story from the nativity.

You can use these reflections for your own personal devotion or read them together as a family. You may choose to read all seven devotions at once, or you may prefer to read one short devotion a day. Regardless of how you use this devotional in your Christmas celebration, I pray that God will reveal something fresh to you about what it means to follow Him.