

## wednesday. dec. 22

scripture: isaiah 1.17

### freedom fact:

There are about 600,000 cocoa farms in the Ivory Coast, with an estimated 15,000 children forced to work as slaves on these farms.

### prayer:

God, we pray today for orphans and other vulnerable children in the Ivory Coast. We pray for the hands who have farmed chocolate we have consumed. Forgive our ignorance of their plight. Help us to respond in love. Amen.

### challenge:

Share today's fact with someone your meet.

## thursday. dec. 23

scripture: james 1.27

### freedom fact:

It is estimated that 90% of cocoa farms on the Ivory Coast use child labor. Many of these children are trafficked from other African countries like Mali.

### prayer:

God who loves orphans and widows, this season is filled with religious events and offerings and themes. Let it also be full of religion that is pleasing to you - religion that cares for orphans and widows. Amen.

### challenge:

Find out what places near you sell fairly traded chocolate and share this information with someone.

## friday. dec. 24

scripture: john 1.1 thru 14

### freedom fact:

Major chocolate companies know about the slavery involved in harvesting chocolate but still buy from the criminals who run these plantations.

### prayer:

Lord, on the eve of our celebrations of your birth into the world, we remember that you identify yourself with suffering and poor people. You came into our brokenness vulnerably. As we celebrate you tonight and tomorrow, keep us mindful that you came and made your dwelling among us - in all our injustice, poverty, suffering, and vulnerability. Help us to make our dwelling with vulnerable and suffering people. Amen.

### challenge:

Have a conversation with someone about chocolate and slavery some time today.

## saturday. dec. 25

scripture: luke 1 thru 2

### freedom fact:

Over 2,000 years ago, God came to earth - being born as a small, vulnerable child of an occupied people - to bring freedom in every imaginable way. In 2010, several people and churches decided to celebrate this birth by fighting for freedom when slavery was at its worst.

**Today's fact is your story as an abolitionist! Celebrate it!**

### prayer:

Take a few minutes out of the Christmas festivities to write your own prayer. What would be your final prayer on this journey to Christmas? Send it to [info@midtownfriends.org](mailto:info@midtownfriends.org) if you can and we will post all the prayers on [orangechristmas.com](http://orangechristmas.com) in coming days.

### challenge:

Have an amazing Christmas!