

MOHAWK MOMMA STUDIO

KWANZAA

2022



This Devotional Belongs To:



blessings
joy &
prosperity

INTRODUCTION

An Introduction to Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa comes from a Swahili phrase meaning “first fruits.” The Kwanzaa holiday was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in the United States in 1966 and is celebrated each year from December 26th to January 1st; however, African peoples have been celebrating “First Fruits” for generations. The Kwanzaa celebration is a time of reverence + gratitude to the Creator for harvest.

We welcome this time for celebration + reflection on the generosity of God and sacred dignity of African descendants.

During the 7-day feast, we celebrate the **Nguzo Saba** (Seven Principles) by speaking words from the African language of Swahili (Kiswahili):

Umoja (oo-MO-jah)	Unity
Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah)	Self-Determination
Ujima (oo-JEE-mah)	Collective Work and Responsibility)
Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH-ah)	Cooperative Economics
Nia (NEE-ah)	Purpose
Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah)	Creativity
Imani (ee-MAH-nee)	Faith

These Seven Principles are essential toward building + sustaining ethical community flourishing.

The standard greeting during Kwanzaa is the Swahili phrase Habari Gani – meaning “what’s the news?” Whenever someone says “Habari Gani,” the community responds with the Nguzo Saba (Kwanzaa principle) for that day.

An example greeting would be:
Greeter on December 26th says: “Habari Gani”
The community replies: “Umoja”

What to anticipate? SOULjourner, this devotional journal is an exploration of noticing, nurturing, and embodying the God-with-us coming into our midst in this 7-day journey through the Nguzo Saba, as well as Scripture and images. As for the images accompanying each reading, my suggestion is to spend a meditative minute with each image. Let it excavate you. Whatever this Kwanzaa holds for you, may unity win over uniformity in your scribbling, speaking, and shalom-making-personally + collectively.

We hold space to commitment to cultural + community solidarity – while also providing space for the inclusion of all who wish to participate in a Joyous Kwanzaa!

MEDITATION

The right hand of God is writing in our land,
Writing with power and with love.
Our conflicts and our fears, our triumphs and our tears
Are recorded by the right hand of God

The right hand of God is pointing in our land,
Pointing the way we must go,
So clouded is the way, so we easily stray
But we're guided by the right hand of God

The right hand of God is lifting in our land,
Lifting the fallen one by one
Each one is known by name,
And rescued now from shame,
By the lifting of the right hand of God

The right hand of God is healing in our land
Healing broken bodies, minds, and souls,
So wondrous is its touch
With love that means so much,
When we're healed by the right hand of God

The right hand of God is planting in our land,
Planting seeds of freedom hope, and love
In all these lands
Let God's people all join hands
And be one with the right hand of God.

-adapted from the Caribbean Conference of Churches, An
African Prayer book

UMOJA



SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - Day 1

Umoja (oo-MO-jah): Unity. To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race. Unity stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community, which is reflected in the African saying, “I am We,” or “I am because We are.”

YOUR RESPONSE:

(Listen - for kids + kids at heart)

KUJICHAGULIA



SCRIPTURE: Habakkuk 1.12, 2.1-4 – Day 2

Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-GOO-lee-ah): Self-determination is the second night. To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves. Self-Determination requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and community.

We must dare with a determination to ask like Habakkuk, then, hear God's voice redirecting our focus to envision a future permeated with the imagination of God.

YOUR RESPONSE:

([Listen](#) – for kids + kids at heart)

UJIMA



SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 34 – Day 3

Ujima (oo-JEE-mah): Collective Work and Responsibility. To build and maintain our community together and to make our brother's and sister's problems, our problems and to solve them together. Collective Work and Responsibility reminds us of our obligation to the past, present and future, and that we have a role to play in the community, society, and world.

“None of us is free until all of us are free” Fannie Lou Hamer

The principle of this third day of Kwanzaa is a call to take a personal stake in communal responsibility. The Gospel of light + liberation is the ethos of our Ujima.

YOUR RESPONSE:

Artwork: “Ujima Journey” Marcus Kwame
([Listen](#) – for kids + kids at heart)

UJAMAA



SCRIPTURE: Acts 2.44-47 – Day 4

Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH-ah): Cooperative Economics. To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together. Cooperative economics emphasizes our collective economic strength and encourages us to meet common needs through mutual support.

Oh God, help us to be mindful to make investments in one another beyond a purchase. Enlighten + empower us Spirit of Truth to never give up on supporting each other with our time and talents and treasures.

(Worth noting: In Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit appears fifty days after Yeshua/Jesus finishes his ministry.)

YOUR RESPONSE:

Image: Clarke Sanders
([Listen](#) – for kids + kids at heart)

NIA



SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4 – Day 5

Nia (NEE-ah): Purpose. To make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness. Purpose encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.

Yeshua/Jesus wholistically reveals more of the story about humanity's connection to a just + benevolent Creator. The voice/vocation of the Beloved was central to His mission of restoration + reclamation. Likewise, it's the ministry of your life's voice (vocation) to recognize your unique voice for the purpose of restoration + reclamation in all of your relationships, roles, and responsibilities.

Before we tell our lives what we intend to do with it, may we listen to what it intends to do with us.

YOUR RESPONSE:

(Listen – for kids + kids at heart)

KUUMBA



SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1: 1-31 – Day 6

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah): Creativity. To do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful than when we inherited it. Creativity makes use of our creative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community.

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live." – Mae Jemison

In the beginning, God created... And on the sixth day, co-creators were designed to reflect that divine image.

YOUR RESPONSE:

Artwork: Alyssa I.
([Listen](#) – for kids + kids at heart)

IMANI



SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 11 – Day 7

Imani (ee-MAH-nee): Faith. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The author of Hebrews pondered and found hope in the abiding presence of God in every generation, especially, in the example of generations of ancestors who continued to move in faith despite the odds against them. For the writer, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Moses, and a whole host of others, offered not only inspiration but a testimony of endurance, strength, and determination. What can our troubles say to the dignity, faith, hope, love, courage, and perseverance of our ancestors?

In this New Year of 2022, Emmanuel, we put flesh on our belief as we put our faith in bodily action—personally + collectively. Let faith be embodied + emboldened in these earthen vessels. Amen + Asé.

YOUR RESPONSE:

(Listen – for kids + kids at heart)

NOTE TO SELF



Additional Musings of Intentions + Intercessions.

Unlined space below for Doodling. Sometimes, we don't need words for Intentions + Intercessions—squiggles are sacred, too! The beautiful thing about doodling is that it is a whole brain activity—spontaneous, at times unconscious, self-soothing, exploratory, and mindful. Neuroscientists and other researchers say doodling can help people focus, ease impatience, vent emotions and even generate bursts of insight or new ideas.

NOTE TO SELF



Additional Musings of Intentions + Intercessions.

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Andrea (or Angie) Palmer is 'Mohawkmomma'

First and foremost—I welcome my sacred (divine) humanity—a jar of clay with God inside. I am a sassy, curious, meditative storyteller, scribbler, and shalom-making ninja. I'm the wife of Keith + mom of eight on the earth and one in heaven. I'm a former women's pastor + director. I create + curate trauma-informed, soul care spaces to welcome + awaken writers and speakers into sustainable, redemptive, revolutionary, embodied living: wholeheartedly, courageously, creatively (without guilt).

I pray you enjoyed this guide + shared it with someone.

—
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ously &
creatively

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