

# DAILY READINGS

# 2025

# WELCOME TO ADVENT

Hello, grace people! Our theme for Advent this year is "Make Room," inspired by the classic hymn lyric, "Let every heart prepare him room." The devotionals on the following pages are intended to help you do just that: make room for Jesus' arrival. Each Sunday, we hope you will gather with family members or friends to share a time of worship, candle lighting, Scripture, and more. Written with kids (both big and small) in mind, these devotionals include optional activities meant to inspire childlike wonder and joy. We encourage you to do what works best in your context, whether that's gathering at a piano to sing the hymns, waiting to light your candles at the end, foregoing the activity, etc. For your convenience,

we have curated a Spotify playlist that includes two versions of each hymn, one more traditional and one more modern-sounding. Simply scan the QR code below to view and play songs.

Between each weekly devotional, daily readings and reflection questions are included through Epiphany. These are intended more for personal reflection, but could also be done around the family dinner table or in the car on the way to school.

As you "prepare him room" this year, may

you find the Lord Jesus filling your heart and mind, joining you at your table, and becoming the focus of your routines.



# Sunday, November 30

### **WEEKLY THEME:**

# MAKE ROOM IN YOUR HEART

CANDLE 1: LOVE

# FAMILY **DEVOTION**

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED

### Required:

- -Bible
- -Advent wreath & candles
- -Lighter or matches
- -Device to play music

#### **Optional:**

-Playdough (may substitute paper and crayons/markers)

If you have younger children, put your wreath somewhere out of reach, but keep it visible for everyone as you share this time together.

# **CANDLE LIGHTING**

Read aloud. Our theme for Advent is "Make Room." Each week, when we light these candles, they will remind us to make room for Jesus in our hearts, in our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. Tonight, we begin by lighting the Love candle. As it illuminates our space, we will reflect on what it means to make room in our hearts for the God who deeply loves us.

#### **HYMN SING**

Listen to your preferred version of "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" on our accompanying Spotify playlist and/or sing it together as a family.

Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim,
That God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying,
In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked,

And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Go around the circle and give each family member a chance to answer one of the following questions:

- •What is the *noisiest* place you have been recently? OR
- •What is the *quietest* place you have been recently?

### **BIBLE STORY**

Read Luke 1:26-28. To engage younger children, consider reading and/or showing the pictures from "An Angel Visits Mary" in the Beginner's Bible instead (pgs. 266-270).

### REFLECTION

Read aloud. We often think that God prefers quiet places to speak to us. Stories like Elijah on the mountain hearing God's "still, small voice," or Jesus retreating to "isolated places" to pray, come to mind as the preferred examples of encountering God. Thankfully, God isn't opposed to noise or being loud (let all the moms and dads of toddlers rejoice!) He just understands that noise tends to distract us. Distractions can be anything that keeps us from listening for the Holy Spirit's voice. Distractions can also be different from person to person. Optional: Let's try a listening experiment.

# **ACTIVITY**

While you read the Isaiah passage, have family members make one of the following shapes out of playdough: stick person, earth, a road, or a star. Or, let them make an object based on something they hear in the reading. Don't have playdough? Have family members draw pictures instead.

# SCRIPTURE READING

Read all of Isaiah 40.

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

If you skipped the optional activity, go straight to question 3.

- 1. What object did you make/draw and why? Did you hear your object mentioned in the verses?
- 2. Did keeping your hands busy with the playdough (or drawing) make it easier or harder for you to listen to the Bible passage? Why do you think that is?
- 3. What was the voice in the wilderness instructing the people to do?
- 4. How does this chapter call us to make room in our hearts for the arrival of our King?
- 5. What are some distractions in your life that keep you from making room for Jesus?
- 6. What is one thing you could do this week to help minimize or eliminate one of the distractions you named?

# REFLECTION

Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud. The Bible doesn't tell us what Mary was doing when the angel came to visit her. She may have been praying, cleaning her house, making bread, or walking to the village well, for example. Whatever she was doing at that moment, it's clear that she stopped her daily activity to engage in conversation with Gabriel. Perhaps one reason God chose Mary is because he saw her willingness to

make room in her life for his plan-and not just a little bit of room in a small corner of her life! She made room for the embodiment of Love itself-God's physical presence in the person of Jesus-into her whole life: body, mind, and soul.

Tonight, we lit the love candle. As we watch the wax drip down the candle, may it remind us to allow God to illuminate the distractions in our lives that keep us from making room for his love in our hearts. May we invite him to gently melt awav our desire to be distracted so that he can mold and shape us into the disciples he longs for us to become.

### **WORSHIP**

Invite family members to find a comfortable spot in your space to watch the candle as they listen. Play the song "Make Room" by I AM THEY (or search for a longer version if preferred).

### **PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, when our busy, distracted world had no room for you, thank you for coming anyway. Forgive us for the times when we, too, have failed to make room for you. You are welcome in our hearts, our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. We invite your Holy Spirit to teach us to prepare the way for you to come again.

Amen. Invite your child(ren) to blow out the candle as you close this time together.

### ONE STEP FURTHER

Looking for a practical challenge to help you make room in your heart this week? Consider decluttering one area or room of your home and donating unneeded items. Encourage your kids to help. Or, clear a two hour block of time on your calendar and spend it together on family a activity (screen/distraction free!)

# DAILY READINGS

MONDAY: Isaiah 40:3 • What does it mean for you to prepare the way for the Lord? Declutter something in your life that might give you space to listen.

**TUESDAY:** Isaiah 40:4-5 • What do you think the Lord wants to level (take down or lift up) to reveal his glory in your life? Take some time to confess what you think has been standing in the way, or tripping you up from seeing him. Surrender them to him.

**WEDNESDAY: Luke 1:26-35** • Why do you think Mary was 'greatly troubled' by this different vision for her life? What would

she need to let go, in order to embrace God's will for her life? How about you?

**THURSDAY: Luke 1:36-37** • God can be trusted. Elizabeth's story helped Mary trust. What helps you to put your trust in God's promises for your life?

**FRIDAY: Isaiah 40:10-11** • God's presence both protects and comforts. Ask the Lord to show you his love that's made room for you.

**SATURDAY: Luke 1:38** • What do you think the Lord wants to do in your life this Advent? Pray your own prayer of surrender, modeled on Mary's prayer.

# Sunday, December 7

## WEEKLY THEME:

# MAKE ROOM IN YOUR MIND

CANDLE 2: PEACE

# FAMILY **DEVOTION**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED**

### **Required:**

- -Bible
- -Advent wreath & candles
- -Lighter or matches
- -Device to play music

### **Optional:**

- -Cards from a word-based guessing game like Pictionary. Alternatively, have everyone create 1-2 cards with simple words or phrases and shuffle them together.
- -Timer

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

Read aloud. Our theme for Advent is "Make Room." Each week, when we light these candles, they will remind us to make room for Jesus as we prepare for his arrival. The flame of our Love candle reminds us to make room in our hearts for God's love. Tonight, we also light the Peace candle. As it illuminates our space, we will reflect on what it means to make room in our minds for God's perfect peace.

### **HYMN SING**

Listen to your preferred version of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and/or sing it together as a family.

Come, thou long expected Jesus
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,

Born a child, and yet a king;

Born to reign in us forever,

Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

Rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all sufficient merit

Raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Go around the circle and give each family member a chance to answer the following 2 questions:

- •When or where do you like to be alone?
- •When or where do you not like to be alone?

### **BIBLE STORY**

Read Luke 1:5-25. To engage younger children, turn the passage into a "Reader's Theater" with a Narrator, a Gabriel, and a Zechariah taking turns reading their parts.

### REFLECTION

Read aloud. Have you ever had someone tell you to "be quiet?" Imagine not just being quiet, but being absolutely silent for nine long months! That's what Zechariah experienced after his conversation with Gabriel. At first, it was probably frustrating (and scary!) as Zechariah learned to adjust his daily routine to the reality of being unable to speak. While we don't know for sure, it's also probable that Elizabeth could not read, which meant writing was not an option for Zechariah to communicate with her during those long months of her pregnancy. Optional: Let's reenact what a conversation between Zechariah and Elizabeth may have looked like!

## **ACTIVITY**

Play a game of Charades using your deck of game cards (If you have non-readers, draw or use picture-based cards instead). Adjust your rules to the number of family members and their ages. The clue-giver will be "Zechariah" and must keep their lips closed. Everyone else will be "Elizabeths" trying to guess the word or phrase.

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

If you skipped the optional activity, go straight to question 3.

- 1. How did it feel to be the "Zechariah" in our game of Charades?
- 2. How did it feel to be an "Elizabeth" in the game?
- 3. If you were suddenly unable to speak, how do you think your life would change?
- 4. How do you think Zechariah's relationship with God was affected by his forced silence? How about his relationship with Elizabeth?
- 5. How do you think it would affect your relationship with God if you were in Zechariah's situation?
- 6. What might happen if time for intentional silence and/or solitude became a regular practice in your life? If they already are, share what you have noticed as a result of these practices.

# **SCRIPTURE READING**

Read Romans 12:1-13 & Psalm 46:10

## **REFLECTION**

Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud. There's a blink-and-you'll-miss-it moment in Elizabeth and Zechariah's story: after Zechariah returned home from the temple, verse 24 tells us that Elizabeth went into seclusion, meaning she never left her house for five months.

We don't know exactly why Elizabeth chose to spend that time alone. One possibility is that she didn't want her faith in God's promise to be questioned by others' doubts while she waited for her pregnancy to become obvious. spending time solitude, she avoided the serpent's ancient question, "Did God really say...?" Instead, she chose to slow her life down, giving herself the time and space to just be at peace with God's promise.

As we watch the Peace candle, may it remind us to make room in our minds. May we ask God to help us sweep out anxious, hurried thoughts, and to fill that cleared space in our minds

with his peace, the only "peace that passes all understanding."

### WORSHIP

Invite family members to find a comfortable spot in your space to watch the candles as they listen or sing along, if preferred. Play the song "Make Room."

### **PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, when our busy, distracted world had no room for you, thank you for coming anyway. Forgive us for the times when we, too, have failed to make room for you. You are welcome in our hearts, our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. We invite your Holy Spirit to teach us

to prepare the way for you to come again. Amen. Invite your child(ren) to blow out the candle as you close this time together.

### **ONE STEP FURTHER**

Looking for a practical challenge to help you make room in your mind this week? Consider printing copies of Romans 12:2 (or another favorite verse) and hanging them around your home. Challenge family to work on memorizing the verse together. Quiz each other over dinner, or play a game where you write the verse on a white board and take turns reading the verse and then erasing words and repeating it.

# DAILY READINGS

MONDAY: Romans 12:1-2 • Where's your mind been lately? Bring those things to God and ask him to renew your mind by drawing you instead into what's been on His mind—for you!

**TUESDAY: Psalm 46:10** • What about this verse brings you peace? What does the call to stillness mean for you?

WEDNESDAY: Luke 1:5-10 • In this snapshot of life for Zechariah, what do you imagine might have been disturbing his peace of mind? Are there thoughts 'in the background' of your life that color how you live? Bring them to God today.

**THURSDAY: Luke 1:11-18** • Even when Zechariah hears good news, he has a hard time believing it. What are the doubts you have in faith? Bring them to the Lord and ask him to open your mind to his thoughts.

FRIDAY: Luke 1:19-22, 57-64 • Why do you think, in his time of doubt, Zechariah experienced this time of silence? What do you think that time to observe and listen instead of speak did in his life? How do you listen for God in your daily life?

**SATURDAY:** Isaiah 55:8-11 • What would it look like to trust God's way of thinking more than our own? What does this passage speak to you today?

# Sunday, December 14

## WEEKLY THEME:

# MAKE ROOM AT YOUR TABLE

CANDLE 3: JOY

# FAMILY **DEVOTION**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED**

### **Required:**

- -Bible
- -Advent wreath & candles
- -Lighter or matches
- -Device to play music

## **Optional:**

-Pen & Paper (only if you want to keep score)

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

Read aloud. Our theme for Advent is "Make Room." Each week, when we light these candles, they will remind us to make room for Jesus as we prepare for his arrival. The flame of our Love candle reminds us to make room in our hearts, while the Peace candle reminds us to make room in our minds. Tonight, we also light the Joy candle. As it illuminates our space, we will reflect on what it means to joyfully make room at our table.

### **HYMN SING**

Listen to your preferred version of "People, Look East" and/or sing it together as a family.

People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,

One more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim

One more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### **ICEBREAKER**

Go around the circle and give each family member a chance to answer the following question:

•What makes you feel welcome to sit around a table?

### **BIBLE STORY**

Read Luke 1:39-56. To engage younger children, come up with different common tunes (Row, Row, Row your Boat; Jesus Loves Me; Are You Sleeping?, etc.) and use them to sing Mary's song in verses 46-56. Ask kids to judge which tune/verse sounded best together. Remember that this week's theme is joy - it's okay if your Bible reading time is a little silly!

### REFLECTION

Read aloud. Mary had just been given the greatest news ever shared with people: God himself was coming into the world through her womb! But not everyone would believe her good news. In fact, most people would think her news was a lie-just a cover story for having a baby before her wedding. So Mary went to the only person who might welcome and encourage her: Elizabeth, who was also experiencing a miracle. Imagine the relief Mary felt when Elizabeth shouted with joy before she could even tell her the good news! Mary was so thankful that she couldn't help it-she just had to sing for joy. Optional: Let's play a musical guessing-game!

# **ACTIVITY**

Have family members take turns humming the tune of a song. The first person to name the song gets a point. Determine if there is a winning score to reach, or just play until everyone has had a turn to hum a song or two.

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

If you skipped the optional activity, go straight to question 3.

- In our game, your song was a joyful secret only you knew, kind of like Mary's pregnancy. How did it feel when someone guessed your secret?
- 2. How was guessing the song like being Elizabeth?
- 3. How did Elizabeth show Mary hospitality? What was Mary's response?
- 4. When have you helped someone by showing them hospitality?
- 5. How did that person respond to your hospitality?
- 6. Does showing hospitality bring you joy? Why or why not?

# **SCRIPTURE READING**

Read Hebrews 13:1-2 & 1 Peter 4:8-11

### REFLECTION

Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud. Despite Mary's trust in Gabriel's message, it must have still been difficult for her to imagine the long road ahead of her. As an unmarried pregnant mother in her culture, she would face the judgment of others, even though she had done nothing wrong. Elizabeth had long endured a similarly difficult path as a woman who could not carry a child at all. If only we had transcripts of the conversations these two incredible

women must have had together! While Mary was the first to welcome Lord Jesus into her heart and body, Elizabeth was the first to joyfully welcome Jesus into her home and to her table before he was even born.

As we watch the Joy candle, may it remind us to make room at our tables for those who need the blessing of joyful encouragement. May we ask God to help us prepare our tables with joy, and to see hospitality not as a burden or an afterthought, but as a divine calling to share his grace.

### **WORSHIP**

Invite family members to find a comfortable spot in your space to watch the candles as they listen or sing along, if preferred. Play the song "Make Room."

### **PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, when our busy, distracted world had no room for you, thank you for coming anyway. Forgive us for the times when we, too, have failed to make room for you. You are welcome in our hearts, our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. We invite your Holy Spirit to teach us to prepare the way for you to come again. Amen.

Invite your child(ren) to blow out the candle as you close this time together.

### ONE STEP FURTHER

Looking for a practical challenge to help you make room at your table this week? Consider inviting over a family friend or neighbor for a meal this week. Or, sign up to serve a meal as a family at our partner, **Proiect** service Home, or to pack food at a Feed My Starving Children location. Whatever choose to do, remember to include your kids in the challenge! As families. making room at our table begins with our children, however small.

# DAILY READINGS

MONDAY: Luke 1:39-45 • At the time Mary needed support the most, she sought out the hospitality of Elizabeth, who not only gave her a welcome, but reassurance that her life was dedicated to a holy purpose. Whose company do you seek out when you need support? Who could you offer support to this season?

**TUESDAY: Luke 1:46-56** • Genuine Gratitude often leads to both Joy and Generosity. What was Mary thankful for? Tell the Lord what you're thankful for today.

**WEDNESDAY: Psalm 23 •** How do you react to this depiction of the Lord's hospitality and care for you? What might this teach us about the needs our hospitality can meet in others?

**THURSDAY: 2 Samuel 9 •** Saul, the previous king, had often tried to kill David.

Jonathan, Saul's son, had been David's good friend. What impact do you think this unexpected generosity had on others? Is the Lord showing you any way how your unexpected, generous hospitality might bless someone?

FRIDAY: Luke 22:14-32 • At Jesus' table of sacrificial love, Jesus serves his betrayer and one he knows will soon deny him, making it clear, this gift is his to give, regardless of our response. Read Luke 15:11-24. The next time you come to the table for the Lord's supper, respond by receiving Jesus' welcome and grace like the prodigal come home!

**SATURDAY: 1 Peter 4:8-10 •** How is the Lord challenging or comforting you in these verses today?

## Sunday, December 21

## WEEKLY THEME:

# MAKE ROOM IN YOUR ROUTINE

CANDLE 4: HOPE

# FAMILY **DEVOTION**

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED**

### **Required:**

- -Bible
- -Advent wreath & candles
- -Lighter or matches
- -Device to play music

# **CANDLE LIGHTING**

Read aloud. Our theme for Advent is "Make Room." Each week, when we light these candles, they will remind us to make room for Jesus as we prepare for his arrival. The flame of our Love candle reminds us to make room in our hearts; the Peace candle reminds us to make room in our minds; the Joy candle reminds us to make room at our tables. Tonight, we also light the Hope candle. As it illuminates our space, we will reflect on what it means to make room in our routine to regularly share our hope in Jesus with others.

# **ICEBREAKER**

Go around the circle and give each family member a chance to answer one of the following question:

 What kinds of stories make you feel hopeful? OR

### **HYMN SING**

Listen to your preferred version of "Hark! The Glad Sound" and/or sing it together as a family.

Hark the glad sound!
The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure, And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor

Our glad hosannas,
Prince of Peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With your beloved name

 When have you shared a story with others that gave them hope?

# **BIBLE STORY**

Read Luke 2:8-20. To engage younger children, consider reading and/or showing the pictures from "Shepherds Visit" in the Beginner's Bible instead (pgs. 277-281).

### REFLECTION

Read aloud. The time had finally come! After thousands of years of endless waiting, the Savior, whom God had promised to Adam and Eve all the way back in the Garden, was finally born into world! You would think world-changing night would have been celebrated on every street corner around the globe with great shouts and songs of joy and hope. "God has come," they should have been saying. In reality, almost everyone in the world at that time just went about their ordinary routines, doing normal, everyday things. They had no idea about the "good news of great joy." Someone needed to tell them! Enter the shepherds. Optional: Let's play a game about finding sheep!

## **ACTIVITY**

This game is called "Have You Seen My Sheep?" One person is the shepherd; everyone else is the circle of sheep. The shepherd taps one sheep on the shoulder and says, "Have you seen my sheep?" They then begin to describe someone else in the circle by saying things like, "My sheep is wearing a blue shirt," for example. The sheep they tapped has to figure out who in the circle is the "missing" sheep. When they figure it out, they become the new shepherd.

# **SCRIPTURE READING**

Read Matthew 9:35-37 & 1 Peter 3:15-16

# REFLECTION

Darken your room as much as possible, then read aloud. A shepherd's life on the hills of Bethlehem probably didn't change much. Their routine consisted of counting sheep, watching sheep, protecting sheep, feeding sheep, shearing sheep, birthing

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

If you skipped the optional activity, go straight to question 3.

- In our game, you had to look for clues to figure out who was the missing sheep. Before we played the game, do you think you would have noticed any of those clues about the people in our circle? Why or why not?
- 2. How are the people around us in real life kind of like the sheep in this game? How is the Holy Spirit like the shepherd in this game?
- 3. How did the shepherds react to receiving the angel's good news?
- 4. How does receiving good news give people hope?
- 5. Why do you think it's so easy not to notice people who need hope?
- 6. What is one habit you could change in your everyday routine that would help you to share the hope you have in Jesus with other people?

sheep, sleeping by sheep, and...well, you get it. But when God interrupted their monotonous routine with a long-awaited message of hope, the shepherds had to act. They were so moved that they entrusted their entire livelihood-their flocks-to God's care while they ran to meet the Messiah. They didn't just go back to life as usual, either; they spread their newfound hope to everyone they met.

As we watch the Hope candle, may it remind us to make room in our routines to see people the way Jesus sees people: as lost sheep in need of the hope that only Jesus can give them. May it remind us to be "hope-bringers," just like the shepherds, who were the first to proclaim the greatest news of all!

### **WORSHIP**

Invite family members to find a comfortable spot in your space to watch the candles as they listen or sing along, if preferred. Play the song "Make Room."

### **PRAYER**

Dear Jesus, when our busy, distracted world had no room for you, thank you comina anyway. Forgive us for the times when we, too, have failed to make room for you. You are welcome in our hearts. our minds, at our tables, and in our routines. We invite your Holy Spirit to teach us to prepare the way for you to come again. Amen. Invite your child(ren) to blow out the candle as vou close this time together.

### ONE STEP FURTHER

Looking for a practical challenge to help you make room in your routine this week? Consider playing a version of "I Spy," where your family intentionally looks for people in need of prayer as you go about your holiday travel and festivities. As scary as it might be, try to ask at least one person if you can pray for them as a family! Many people are surprisingly open to being prayed over, even if they don't know God personally vet, and especially if they are asked by children.

# DAILY READINGS

MONDAY: Luke 2:1-5 • The Roman census clearly disrupted Mary and Joseph's plans. It must have been hard to imagine how God could be at work in this forced trip. Talk to the Lord about those things that have disrupted your plans lately. Ask him to show you unexpected blessings—or allow you to be an unexpected blessing in them.

**TUESDAY:** Luke 2:6-7 • Mary's inventiveness in using a manger as a crib now is seen as quaint rather than shocking. When things go wrong, how can you, in making the best of things, make memories of joy? Let go of your 'perfect Christmas' expectations. Make room to see the Lord at work!

WEDNESDAY: Christmas Eve • Luke 2:8-14 The shepherds were expecting a night like any night—taking care of their sheep. Instead the angels announced the birth of the Lamb of God, who comes to take away the sin of the world! What might we miss if we look for God to move only in the people and places where we routinely expect 'holy' things? How might the Lord be shaking up your routine this Christmas to see his love is real, for you, right where you are?

THURSDAY: Christmas • Luke 2:15-20 Having experienced the supernatural joy of the angels, the Shepherds realized the once in a lifetime opportunity in front of them and left life as usual to meet the savior. What would it look like for you to step out of 'life as usual' to intentionally seek Jesus this season?



FRIDAY: Matthew 2:1-12 • What difference do you think this journey made in the lives of these men? How do you think it impacted those they shared the story with at home? How about Mary and Joseph? How might the Lord use your journey of faith to impact the lives of those around you?

**SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:16-19 •** Read this several times, and ask the Lord what he's showing you.

**SUNDAY: Colossians 3:15-17 •** How might the Lord be calling you to honor him together with others in community, and also in your daily life?

MONDAY: Psalm 51:1-17 • Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any bitterness or unforgiveness in you-and create in you a clean heart, ready to receive the new things he wants to do in you!

**TUESDAY: 2 Chronicles 7:14-15** • What does it take for you to humbly seek his face in prayer? Find a quiet place, and ask the Lord to meet you in your time of prayer. What is he saying to you?

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 33:8-11 • Pray for the World; especially our mission partner, Mission of Hope, Haiti.

**THURSDAY: Matthew 25:34-40** • Pray for our State/Region; especially our mission partner, Project Home in Ramsey County.

**FRIDAY: Isaiah 58: 6-12 •** Pray for your City (wherever you live); especially our mission partner, White Bear Lake Area Food Shelf.

**SATURDAY: Deuteronomy 4:9, Psalm 86:11, and Psalm 143:10** • Pray for Our Schools; especially our building partners, Community of Grace Christian School, Discovery Center and Master's Institute Seminary.

**SUNDAY: 1 Peter 2:4-6, 9-10 •** Pray for our Church, and our growing as disciples of Jesus together.

**MONDAY: Psalm 139:23-24** • Pray for your own discipleship, that the Holy Spirit would guide you into new growth this year.

TUESDAY: January 6 • Epiphany • 2 Corinthians 4:4-7 • Let His Light Shine through you today!





It's kids, it's carols, it's stories, and maybe a snowball (or two!)



# DECEMBER 23 · 6-7PM





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