

JESUS CHRIST

THE TREASURE *of* ADVENT |  WEST LAKE CHURCH

2021



Traditionally, the season of Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. It is a time of remembering all the minute details and crazy circumstances that our God has aligned from the beginning of time to herald the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Often, Advent is convicting because it really is no different than the rest of the year, right? Shouldn't we be readying ourselves for the return of Jesus and studying God's Word all year long just like the prophets and apostles encourage us to do? Shouldn't we take Peter's encouragement in 2 Peter 3 and be stirred up as the church by making it a practice to "*remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles*"?

The answer is a resounding, "Yes!", which is the heart of Advent. Life is distracting, sin is oppressive, and the years are long. The Lord knows this and therefore instructs us to set up reminders in the days, weeks, months and years of our lives to serve as simple and very real reminders of His love toward us. Advent is one of those reminders during a season culturally that is all about self and purchased goods.

Nothing can so quickly turn our attention away from self and onto the glory of the Lord than perfect love Himself, Jesus Christ. "*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power*" (Hebrews 1:3). It is for His return that we wait. The word "advent" means "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event". So as we await His return, do so with eagerness and expectancy. It doesn't mean it will always be exciting. God's Word is clear that often our sanctuary will be the house of mourning. Read these scriptures and pray with fervency. Ask God to use this season to stir in you a love for His Word and give you eyes to always be waiting for His glorious return whether we are in a season of mourning or rejoicing.

We pray that these 25 days would not end on Christmas Day, but that this season of Advent would spur on the eternal hope we have in Jesus Christ until the day of His second coming. We are in the tension of *already* and *not yet* - 2 Peter tells us that we already possess everything we need for life and godliness through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and yet Romans is clear that we do not yet have the ability to fully enjoy this work until His second coming.

And so we wait. Actively. Expectantly. Patiently. Honestly. Prayerfully.
We pray that Jesus Christ would truly be our hope in the waiting.

THE TREASURE *of* ADVENT



Using this Advent Guide

Our hope is to provide helpful structure to families at West Lake Church who have no reference point for a time of study and prayer. And yet, we want this to be useful and helpful to anyone going through it, first-timer or seasoned veteran. God's Word is encouraging for all believers which makes studies like this rich and fruitful no matter the simplicity or depth.

Each day should take anywhere from 2-5 minutes. If you wish to ask more questions, sing songs, or pray longer, please do! However, here are some suggestions to keep it simple, manageable (especially for families with young children), and encouraging:

Decide on a Time

Choose a time to do this each day as a family and try to stick to it - maybe after dinner or even during dinner while you are all together. Some families will follow an Advent study that incorporates a set of candles or opening a small daily gift or treat.

Feel free to use this study alongside a guide that uses other resources if that is something your family wants to incorporate. Or keep it simple and follow the daily text and prayer in this guide. Set up a spot at the kitchen table or by your Christmas tree to meet each night.

Have One Person Read

Choose one person that day to read out loud. Follow up the reading with the question(s) that are provided for the day. Allow each family member to answer if they wish. If you are doing this by yourself, take time to write down your answers and explore any other scripture provided for that day's reading if you'd like.

Close with a Time of Prayer

There is a guided prayer at the end of each day. You can suggest everyone pray, have one of the adults pray, or choose one person to close out each day. Many families will also close out with a Christmas Hymn. If you wish to incorporate a song, five hymns are provided for you at the end of this guide.

Give Yourself Grace

Things happen. Kids get sick. Work goes late. Dinner gets burnt. If you miss a day, or don't get through the entire study that day, there is much grace! If you get behind, just pick up on the current day. Often trying to "make up" the days get terribly defeating. The goal is to condition our family's hearts on all that the Lord has done. If you get behind, give yourself grace and make it a goal to continue to spur on your family by continuing the daily study, as opposed to doing it each day out of duty.

Before the Study Begins

If you plan to walk through this by yourself for a personal study, answer the following 3 questions before you begin. We will reflect back on these questions in the weeks to come. If you plan to simply use this with your family, then you can move on to the daily readings and prayer.

1

Without diving too far past the introduction of this Advent study, what would be your definition of "hope" if you had to write one down?

2

As you gear up for the Advent season and holidays, where do you find yourself wrestling in life? Do you have fears as the holidays approach/what are those fears?

3

What would be a main hope you could ask God to teach you or do for you during this Advent season? If that hasn't been something you have been praying over or written down, take some time to do that now. This may be something you need to come back to after you have spent time with the Lord or have more time to think through the question. (ex - "I want to grow in my relationship with the Lord specifically through prayer.", "I am going to pray that God uses me to speak to my neighbors and family because I want them to have a relationship with Jesus like mine.")



DAY 01

December 1st • Mark 1:1-3
John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah,
the Son of God. It began

2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.

3 He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”

DAILY QUESTIONS

How are believers in Jesus Christ like the messenger, John the Baptist?

How do we and how can we share this Good News of Christmas?

TODAY’S PRAYER

“God we ask that you awaken our hearts at the start of Advent to be reminded of not only what you have done for us through Jesus, but also to remember that you are indeed coming back for us. Show us ways that we can tell others about this Good News. Help us be prayerful and creative, and teach us what it looks like to be a people that clear the road for the return of Jesus. Amen!”

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Isaiah 40:1-5, Matthew 28:16-20, 2 Peter 1:1-8

DAY 02

December 2nd • Isaiah 11:1-2
A Branch from David's Line

11 Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.
2 And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Who was this “shoot” and “Branch”? What does this scripture say He will be like?

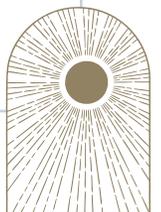
Do you model Jesus in your character? How or how not?
How do we and how can we share this Good News?

TODAY'S PRAYER

“God you are so good to send us Jesus. We pray a simple prayer this holiday season of asking you to make us more like him. Make your Spirit to rest on us, thus giving us rest. Help us to grow in our wisdom and understanding through your Spirit. May your Spirit grow us in the areas of counsel, strength knowledge and our fear of You. May that fear of You produce humility and proclamation of your Kingdom that is to come at Jesus' return. Amen!”

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Zech. 6:12-14, Matt 1:1, Mark 10:46-52, Acts 13:32-33, Rev 5:5 & 22:16



DAY 03

December 3rd • Micah 5:2
A Ruler from Bethlehem

*"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."*

DAILY QUESTIONS

What could be some reasons God would bring the Savior of the world from the humblest of places and people?

What does this scripture reveal about God's heart and His plan for His people?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, you are good. Your scripture declares that we are not. And yet, when we were in sin and against you, it was then, even before we were born that your plans had been set in motion. Jesus Christ has always been the answer to humanity's sin and longing. He is our salvation. He is our hope. We praise you that we have a humble Savior who modeled service. Help us to follow Him as He invited us to do. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Matthew 2:1-23, Genesis 35:17-21, 1 Sam 17:10-16, Psalm 90:2, Zech 12:8

DAY 04

December 4th • Luke 1:26-38
The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" 34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail." 38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

DAILY QUESTIONS

What emotions and confusions would you imagine Mary might be having?

What supernatural things do you see taking place in this text?

How is Mary's obedience and trust reflective of God's character?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, we praise you for how specific and detailed your plans are. We thank you for sending your Son in the most unlikely of ways. As you continue to call us into obedience and ministry to you, help our hearts to not be afraid of where you lead us. Grow our understanding and faith so that we too may also say, "I am the Lord's servant", no matter what you lead us into. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Matt 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7, Luke 4:16-30, John 1:43-51



DAY 05

December 5th • Luke 1:39-45
Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town
40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth.

41 At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her,
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Elizabeth gave a glad cry and
exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child
is blessed. 43 Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me?
44 When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. 45 You are
blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

DAILY QUESTIONS

Even in her hurry, how was Mary's obedience a blessing to those around her?

What happened here to both Elizabeth and her unborn baby when Mary arrived?
How was that about Jesus, who wasn't even born yet?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"Lord, you are our God. Truly this baby was the Christ and we praise your name for how mighty, loving and kind you have been toward us. We pray that as we go out in obedience, much like Mary that had Jesus with her, that we would go in the name and power of Jesus as well. We pray that you would use your church to minister to those around us, bringing joy and gladness through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Luke 1:57-66, Ephesians 2:1-10

DAY 06

December 6th • Luke 1:46-55
The Magnificat: Mary's Song of Praise

46 Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. 47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! 48 For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. 49 For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. 50 He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. 51 His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. 52 He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. 54 He has helped his servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. 55 For he made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children forever."

DAILY QUESTIONS

If you wrote a song of praise to the Lord of how He has blessed you and changed you, what would be some of your lyrics?

What does this song of Mary's teach us about God and His love toward His children?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, thank you for the way you have saved us and brought joy to our hearts. Help us to daily remember your mercy, your gifts, and mostly the promise you have brought us into through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Job 36:24-33, Psalm 40:16, Psalm 71:23, Psalm 126:3, 1 Cor 1:31



DAY 07

December 7th • Luke 1:68-71
Zechariah's Prophecy

68 "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.
69 He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,
70 just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.
71 Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.

DAILY QUESTIONS

What is one thing you heard in this scripture? Why did it stand out to you?

If Jesus, our Savior, wasn't even born yet in this scripture, how did Zechariah already know God's people were saved?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, give us faith like Zechariah. Even though he disbelieved initially, you showed grace in his life, allowing his earlier lack of faith to be the avenue of humility that led to great faith. Thank you that we are saved through the life of Jesus, just as you had promised through the prophets long ago. Thank you for your patience toward us. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Genesis 21:1, Genesis 22:15-18, Exodus 18:1-12; Psalm 72:12-14,
2 Corinthians 1:20-22, 1 Peter 1:3-5

DAY 08

December 68th • Luke 2:1-5
From Nazareth to Bethlehem

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Everyone has a birth day and birth story. Leading up to Jesus' birth, how do these details show God's hand and power?

How does God use governments, law and order, and everyday happenings to show His nearness and care for His people?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, thank you for the families and scenarios you have allowed us to be in so that we have landed here. God, use our lives, our money, our jobs, our skills, and our story to proclaim your goodness and love. We love you. Amen!"

OPTIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

Psalm 113, Matt 1:18-25, Matt 22:15-22



DAY 09

December 9th • Luke 2:6-7
The Birth of Jesus

6 And while they were there,
the time came for her baby to be born.
7 She gave birth to her firstborn son.
She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth
and laid him in a manger, because there was
no lodging available for them.

DAILY QUESTIONS

In these 2 verses, what are all the things that sound like they could be stressful, uncomfortable or just wildly different than what we are use to?

How and why does God use pain and irritations in our lives for our good?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, we admit we are prone to discontentment and bent towards finding things to complain about. We ask that you would use the irritations of our day and our unmet (and sometimes unrealistic) expectations to magnify just how patient you are. Change us so that we reflect your goodness, patience and character. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Micah 5:2, Romans 11:26-27, Rev 12:1-5

DAY 10

December 10th • Luke 2:8–14
The Shepherds and Angels

8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep.

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them.

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

DAILY QUESTIONS

What do you think of this welcome Jesus had at His birth? What all do you notice here?

What was the good news that was shared on this night?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, we pray that our eyes would always be open to your works and to the fact that the message shared in this scripture is still good news to us today. We pray the same words of the angels, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased". Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Exodus 3:12, Matt 8:18-22, Luke 2:7



DAY 11

December 11th • Matthew 2:1-2
Visitors from the East

1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea,
during the reign of King Herod. About that time some
wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,
2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star as it rose,
and we have come to worship him."

DAILY QUESTIONS

How does God use His own creation here to summon these men's hearts to worship?

What does God use in your life to remind you of His awesome power and love?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, make us like these wise men who knew the prophecies and were continually looking for signs of the Savior that you promised. God, make our eyes to continually look to Christ, as is the point of Advent, stirring our hearts to long for His return and welcome it, ready and watchful. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Esther 1:13, 2 Chronicles 6:32-33, Daniel 2, Zephaniah 2:11

DAY 12

December 12th • Matthew 2:10–11
Finding the Savior

10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!
11 They entered the house and saw the child with
his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.
Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Not even seeing Jesus yet, but only the star, what were these men's response?

What was their response when finding the child?

How does our current attitude and excitement toward our Savior compare against
our current attitude and excitement toward Christmas and gifts?

TODAY'S PRAYER

*"God, you sent Jesus and we are thankful. Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Continually remind me of the joy of your salvation, and the treasures that are ours
by following our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!"*

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Psalm 51, Psalm 67:4-5, Matt 2:1-5, Romans 15:8-13



DAY 13

December 13th • Luke 2:39-40
Mary Visits Elizabeth

39 When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. 40 There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Jesus had a home. Home can bring about happy and sad thoughts. Good and painful. How has your home brought wisdom and strength to your life?

What can you see in these short verses that causes you to pray and seek the Lord today?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, heal our pains and hurts. Give us stability by your Word, your church and Your Holy Spirit. Keep us strong and grow us in wisdom by your very hand. We need you and we praise you, knowing that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to Your purpose. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Isaiah 53:1-3, Luke 2:21-24, Romans 8:28, Gal 4:4-5

DAY 14

December 14th • Galatians 4:4-5
Freedom and Adoption

4 But when the right time came,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law.
5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were
slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us
as his very own children.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Why did God wait so long to send Jesus?

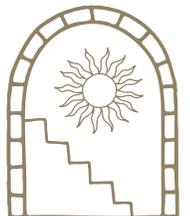
Knowing that His perfect timing brings us freedom, how should this change
the way we wait for the second coming of Jesus?

TODAY'S PRAYER

*"God, in our waiting, steady our hope and grow our faith. May our lives exude joy
and love and peace because of the freedom we have received in Christ. Through
our freedom and testimony, bring salvation to our friends, family,
community and this world. Amen!"*

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Gen 17:5, Isaiah 56:7, Gal 3:23-29, Col 2:11-15, 1 Tim 2:1-6, Rev 7:9-10



DAY 15

December 15th • John 1:14
Seeing the Son

*14 So the Word became human
and made his home among us.
He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.
And we have seen his glory,
the glory of the Father's one and only Son.*

DAILY QUESTIONS

How is Jesus a direct reflection of God's power, glory and character?

Since Jesus was human, what did he go through that we also go through?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, let our minds continually fall on your character. Let us think about You sending your only Son and giving Him up for us. Let us consider that Jesus gave up much to become man, and yet was still fully God. Today we ask that the mystery and excitement in these thoughts would only grow more as we are reminded that you are indeed coming back for us and live in us today. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Genesis 22:1-14, Isaiah 7:14, John 1:1-5, John 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:16-20

DAY 16

December 16th • Isaiah 61:1-3
Good News for the Oppressed

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies. 3 To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

DAILY QUESTIONS

How powerful is Jesus, whom this scripture is about?

How compassionate and tender is Jesus, whom this scripture is about?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, you bring good news to the poor. You comfort the brokenhearted. You set free those who are imprisoned and enslaved. You give hope to those who mourn, and bring justice to all evil. Humble us. May we trade our earthly treasures for eternal blessings. Establish us as great oaks planted by your hand. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Psalm 48:16, Isaiah 11:2-5, Isaiah 51:1-3, Luke 4:16-20, 1 Peter 4:12-19



DAY 17

December 17th • Hebrews 8:1-2
Christ Is Our High Priest

- 1 Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven.
- 2 There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands.

DAILY QUESTIONS

How does this scripture show Jesus' power and deity, as well as His humility?

Why are these verses encouraging during a season of Advent/Christmas?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, you are high above us. You show your care to us through Jesus and through your creation. You have given us every reason to trust you, and never once have you mislead us or given up. You are perfect in all of your ways. Change us through your work of sanctification. Make us true worshipers who worship the Father in spirit and truth. We love you and trust you. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Psalm 8:4-6, John 4, Acts 5:31, 1 Cor 15:20-28, Ephesians 4:6,

DAY 18

December 18th • Jeremiah 31:31
A New Covenant

31 *"The day is coming," says the Lord,
"when I will make a new covenant with the
people of Israel and Judah.*

DAILY QUESTIONS

How does this relate to 1 Corinthians 11:25-26?

Why are we thankful that God's covenant does not end with Israel?
What does this mean for us?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, thank you for adopting us as sons and daughters into the Kingdom of God! We are eternally thankful and humbled by your grace toward your creation and the work of your Spirit. May our lives mirror the life of Christ, and may this holiday season be saturated in gratitude and excitement for all that you have done, are doing, and what is to come. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Jer 31:27-28, Amos 9:13-15, Hosea 2:19, Romans 11:26, Eph 2:12-13, 1 Cor 11:25-26



DAY 19

December 19th • Hebrews 8:6
Jesus, Our High Priest

*6 But now Jesus, our High Priest,
has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood,
for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God,
based on better promises.*

DAILY QUESTIONS

Who is Jesus according to this scripture?

How is Jesus so much more than just a baby born on Christmas day?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, thank you this holiday season where we can sing songs, eat good food, and enjoy time with friends and family. Would you remind us daily of the promises we now have through Jesus and the covenant we have with You as redeemed sons and daughters. We deserve death, but you give us life. We will never be able to repay You, and yet you continue to shower us with your love and gifts. You are a good Father. We pray this in the name of our High Priest and Lord, Jesus. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Deut 5:1-21, 2 Chron 5:10, Isaiah 42:6, Acts 6:8 - 7:60

DAY 20

December 20th • John 1:16-18
God's Unfailing Love & Faithfulness

16 From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.
17 For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.
18 No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

DAILY QUESTIONS

From where do we receive great blessings?
And who was the messenger of God's unfailing love and kindness?

What specific things does verse 18 say about Jesus?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"Our Savior is our God. Thank you, Lord, for all you do and are. Though we do not see you, we know you through Jesus and long for the day when we dwell in your presence. Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Psalm 84:11-12, John 1:14, John 3:31-36, 2 Cor 9:15, Eph 3:7-13



DAY 21

December 21st • Hebrews 2:14-15
Flesh & Blood

14 Because God's children are human beings —
made of flesh and blood — the Son also became flesh and blood.
For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break
the power of the devil, who had the power of death.
15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives
as slaves to the fear of dying.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Why did Jesus become a man?

What did He set us free from?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"Thank you for becoming man that we may have power over the devil, sin and death. We are hopeless without You, but with You we have all hope because of Your name. In Your name, we are free. Use us to proclaim this freedom and good news to all people. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Matt 27:45-54, 1 Cor 15:50-58, Hebrews 2, Rev 1:17-18, Rev 12:10-12

DAY 22

December 22nd • Isaiah 52:7-10
The Victory of Our God

- 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!
- 8 The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem.
- 9 Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song, for the Lord has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.

DAILY QUESTIONS

Feet aren't the most attractive things. They can be stinky and often dirty. Why are the messenger's feet in this text considered beautiful?

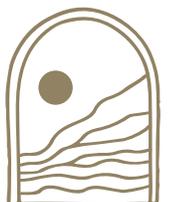
How do these four verses describe our God?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, you are our peace and salvation. You reign over all nations. You make us sing for joy and let us look upon your power. You bring us comfort and redemption. You are victorious and mighty. You are our God. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Psalm 96:1-6, Isaiah 40:9, Nahum 1:15, Luke 2:10-14



DAY 23

December 23rd • Isaiah 9:2
A Great Light

*2 The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.
For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.*

DAILY QUESTIONS

What could be some reasons God would bring the Savior of the world from the humblest of places and people?

What does this scripture reveal about God's heart and His plan for His people?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, we often feel like we are walking in a land of darkness, and often we are. We ask for your protection and guidance, and yet we know You promise it to those who seek it. May we join You in Your work? May we act as a beacon of hope, salt to the earth, and a city on a hill as we live faithful lives that point people to the light that is Jesus. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

*Isaiah 50:10, Isaiah 60:1-3, Matt 4:15-17, John 8:12,
Acts 26:16-18, 2 Peter 1:19, 1 John 2:8*

DAY 24

December 24th • Isaiah 9:6-7
The Passionate Commitment of the Lord

6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 His government and its peace will never end.
He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor
David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of
Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

DAILY QUESTIONS

What stands out to you most in these verses?

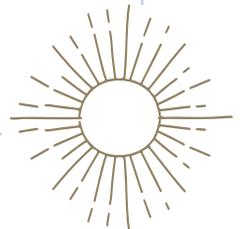
What are all the things you are excited about for Christmas?
Praise the Lord these things.

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, we thank you for the gift of family and friends. We thank you for our possessions and gifts. May our greatest gift and excitement be found in the treasure of Advent, Jesus Christ, himself. We are excited to celebrate these next few days. You are a worthy celebration. Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 28:9, Matt 11:27, Luke 1:35, Romans 8:32,
Eph 2:14-18, 1 John 4:10-14,



CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25th • Revelation 21:1-7
The New Jerusalem

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.

All these things are gone forever." 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. 7 All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

DAILY QUESTIONS

On this Christmas Day, how do these verses align with the hope the people of Israel had when awaiting the Savior that was to come?

How are you going to celebrate these promises today?

TODAY'S PRAYER

"God, you are our celebration and song. We await the day of your second coming and all the unknowns that come with imagining You making all things new. On this Christmas Day, we echo the words of the angels that welcomed your Son many, many years ago, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Amen!"

OPTIONAL REFERENCES TO STUDY

Isaiah 65:17-19, Luke 2:14, 2 Cor 5:17, 2 Peter 3:13,



And so we wait.
Actively. Expectantly.
Patiently. Honestly.
Prayerfully.
We pray that Jesus Christ
would truly be our hope
in the waiting.

THE TREASURE *of* ADVENT



FOR PERSONAL STUDY USE

After the Study

If you answered these questions at the beginning of the study back on **DAY 01**, answer the following three questions again BEFORE going back to look at what you wrote. AFTER you answer, then go back and compare your answers between **DAY 01** and **DAY 25**. Take time afterward to pray and ask God to continue to grow you in faith, diligence, and grace in the areas you are praying over and that God has been working in.

1

After going through this season of Advent, what would be your definition of “hope”?

2

As you went through the Advent season and holidays, where did you find yourself wrestling in life? Did you have anything you overcame or have grown in over the last month?

3

What would be a main hope you could ask God to teach you or do for you leaving this Advent season? If that hasn't been something you have been praying over or written down, take some time to do that now. This may be something you need to come back to after you have spent time with the Lord or have more time to think through the question.



SONG LYRICS (PAGE 1 OF 3)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King"
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled

Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of Earth
Born to give them second birth

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings

Christ, the highest heaven adore
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Come, Desire of Nations, come
Fix in us Thy humble home
Come, Desire of Nations, come
Fix in us Thy humble home

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

SONG LYRICS (PAGE 2 OF 3)

O Holy Night

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

Angels From the Realm of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Chorus:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:

[Chorus]

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:

[Chorus]

SONG LYRICS (PAGE 3 OF 3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.

Chorus:

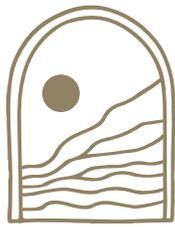
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest.

[Chorus]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.
Son of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

[Chorus]



JESUS CHRIST

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