



from Heaven

to Earth



ADULT VERSION

Hey church family! We are excited to introduce our newest devotional booklet. These booklets are designed to complement our current sermon series and foster deeper engagement within our church community. Each week features five reading and devotional days, carefully crafted to align with the themes of our weekly Sunday sermons. By journeying through these devotions together, we aim to create a unified church experience that enhances our collective understanding and application of God's Word.

Each devotional includes a corresponding scripture reading and a scripture memory verse, encouraging us to immerse ourselves in God's Word daily. To guide our study, we will be using the H.E.A.R. method, which stands for Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond. This method is explained in detail on the next page and provides a structured approach to help us reflect on and internalize the scriptures.

Additionally, each week's devotionals are designed to lead into the coming Sunday sermon. This allows us the opportunity to think through common themes and topics that will be explored in the sermon. By studying these themes throughout the week, we can come to Sunday services with a deeper understanding and readiness to engage with the main study of the text.

Our hope is that this devotional booklet will not only deepen our personal faith but also strengthen our collective bond as a church family. By engaging with the same scriptures and themes, we can support and encourage one another in our spiritual growth. Let's embark on this journey together, seeking to grow closer to God and to each other through His Word.

Highlight ► Explain ► Apply ► Respond

The H.E.A.R. Method is a great tool to study and explore God's Word. Explained below, you can use this method as a guide to your daily Bible reading each day.

H Highlight - As you read through each daily passage, several verses and words will stand out to you. Highlight them and consider writing them out. You can even give them a title that holds meaning for you.

E Explain. Explain what the text means. Why was it written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses before and after it? What does the Holy Spirit intend to communicate in this text?

A Apply. Write 2 to 5 sentences about how the text applies to your life. This bridges the gap between the ancient text and your modern life. Ask questions such as: How can this help me? What do these verses mean to us today? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

R Respond. Respond to the passage you have read. Your response may take different forms and change from day to day, based on your reading. It may be a prayer, either for your life or on behalf of someone else. You may write down a specific action step you need to take. You might describe how the passage convicts you to change. Keep in mind that your response to scripture is about you and you alone, not other people or society at large.

THE PROMISE OF A GREAT LIGHT

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1–7

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah paints one of the clearest and most hope-filled visions of the Messiah in the Old Testament. He speaks to people walking in deep darkness—confusion, fear, and the weight of their own sin—and yet promises a great light breaking through. Long before Bethlehem, God made sure His people knew that His plan would not be ruined by their failures or overshadowed by their circumstances. The Messiah would come as a child—unexpected, humble, and yet carrying divine authority and everlasting peace. God’s plan was never a reaction; it was a rescue mission. Life can feel heavy, unclear, or disappointing, and yet Christmas interrupts that darkness with God’s steady declaration: “I have come for you.” Isaiah’s prophecy reminds us that the Messiah didn’t come merely to inspire us but to reign over us with wisdom, strength, and compassion. When we celebrate Christmas, we’re celebrating the moment heaven stepped into history, carrying every promise God ever made.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where do you feel the need for God’s light and peace in this current season?
- How does knowing Jesus’ arrival was planned long beforehand increase your trust in God’s timing?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

THE MESSIAH WHO COMES CLOSE

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:1–5

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

Micah's prophecy points to one of the most surprising details of the Messiah's arrival—He would come from Bethlehem. Not a capital city. Not a place of power. A small, unnoticed town that hardly anyone outside of Israel cared about. Micah wants us to see that God intentionally chooses low places to reveal His highest purposes. Christmas isn't about God meeting us at our strongest but about Him stepping into the small, ordinary places of life. The humility of Bethlehem reminds us that Jesus draws near to us not when we impress Him, but when we need Him. Bethlehem isn't only a location in Scripture; it's a symbol of God's nearness. It tells us that God didn't remain distant or unreachable. He came close, wrapped in flesh, so that we might know His strength, His peace, and His presence personally.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What "Bethlehem moments" in your life—small or humble places—has God used to reveal His presence?
- In what ways do you need Jesus to shepherd and steady your heart right now?

THE RIGHTEOUS BRANCH OF HOPE

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-8

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

Jeremiah prophesied in a time filled with failed leaders, national fear, and spiritual confusion. Yet in the middle of chaos, God spoke a promise of a “Righteous Branch”—a King who would rule with justice and bring salvation. This prophecy gives shape to the identity of the Messiah long before Jesus’ birth. Where human leaders had failed the people, God Himself would send One who would never fail, never mislead, and never break His covenant. Christmas invites us to look at Jesus not only as a baby in a manger but as the promised King who restores what is broken and brings righteousness where we cannot. In Jesus, the Righteous Branch, we find stability in unstable times. His birth in Bethlehem declared that God had not abandoned His people—even when they felt scattered or overwhelmed. In the same way, Christmas tells you that you are not forgotten.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What areas of your life feel “unsteady,” and how does Jesus’ kingship speak into those places?
- How does the promise of a righteous and faithful King impact your understanding of Christmas?

Highlight ► Explain ► Apply ► Respond

THE KING WHO BRINGS PEACE

Scripture Reading: Zechariah 9:9–12, 16–17

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

Zechariah offers a vision of the Messiah that blends victory and gentleness. He describes a King coming not with warhorses or military displays but riding on a donkey—an image of humility and peace. Christmas fulfills this long-awaited picture of a King whose strength is expressed in meekness and whose reign is marked by restoration, not domination. Zechariah shows us that God’s answer to a broken world was not force but compassion, not intimidation but incarnation. Jesus’ birth is the beginning of a kingdom that defeats darkness through light and conquers hearts through grace. Yet Zechariah also describes God’s people returning to hope—becoming “prisoners of hope” rather than prisoners of fear or disappointment. In Jesus, we are invited back into a hope that holds steady and does not disappoint.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What part of Zechariah’s description of the Messiah, humble King, gentle Shepherd, bringer of peace, encourages you most today?
- Where is God inviting you to move from fear into hope this Christmas?

THE DAWN BEFORE THE MESSIAH

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-6

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

Malachi closes the Old Testament with a promise and a warning: God would send a messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah. After Malachi, the people waited in silence for centuries before hearing God speak again through the birth of Jesus. That silence was not abandonment but preparation. Malachi's prophecy shows that God is always working, even when He seems quiet. Christmas is a reminder that God keeps every promise, even the ones that feel delayed. The child born in Bethlehem was the fulfillment of a hope generations longed for but never saw. Christmas isn't merely sentimental—it's deeply spiritual. It declares that God didn't just enter our world; He entered our hearts to make them whole. As adults navigating real responsibilities, pressures, and disappointments, we can rest in knowing the Messiah came not only to save us but to refine us into who we were always meant to be.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where do you sense God refining, stretching, or purifying you in this season?
- How does the long wait between Malachi and Jesus encourage you about God's timing in your own life?

Highlight ► Explain ► Apply ► Respond

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:14

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

The longing expressed in O Come, O Come Emmanuel echoes the ache of Israel's heart—a people waiting in the dark, desperate for God to draw near. Isaiah's prophecies capture that tension vividly. He speaks of a virgin bearing a Son, of people walking in deep darkness who suddenly see a great light, and of a coming King whose reign would be marked by peace, justice, and unshakable hope. The hymn invites us into that same posture of waiting—not a passive waiting, but a hopeful one. It reminds us that God hears His people's cries and answers in His perfect time. We often fill our lives with noise and movement, numbing ourselves to our deeper hunger for Emmanuel—God with us. But Christmas calls us to slow down and listen to that longing. The hope Isaiah promised has already arrived in Jesus, yet we still await the day He completes His work in us and in the world.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where in your life do you feel the ache of waiting and need to invite Emmanuel to draw near?
- How might you create space this season to recognize and celebrate God's presence with you?

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14; John 1:1-5

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen begins with a bold invitation: “Let nothing you dismay.” It’s not a call to ignore hardship but a reminder that the message of Christmas brings courage into the middle of it. The shepherds were tending sheep in the dark of night—an ordinary, exhausting moment—when heaven suddenly broke in with news that changed everything. The Savior had come. The hymn urges us to find true rest not in circumstances, productivity, or escape, but in the good news that Jesus has entered our world to save, redeem, and restore. Real rest comes when we anchor ourselves to the truth that God’s joy is stronger than our fear. We carry pressures the shepherds could have easily understood—uncertainty, responsibility, and the weight of the everyday grind. Christmas doesn’t magically remove those burdens, but it reframes them. The King who stepped into a manger now steps into our chaos with compassion and authority.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What fear, worry, or pressure do you need to bring under the “comfort and joy” of Christ this season?
- How can you intentionally rest—not just physically, but spiritually—in the truth that Jesus is present with you right now?

Highlight ➤ Explain ➤ Apply ➤ Respond

JOY OT THE WORLD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98:1–9

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

Joy to the World isn't just a cheerful Christmas tune—it's a bold announcement of what happens when Christ enters the scene. The carol is rooted in Psalm 98, which calls all creation to sing because the Lord has come to reign with righteousness and faithfulness. That kind of joy runs deeper than emotion. It's the steady confidence that God keeps His promises and that Jesus' arrival brings real hope to a weary world. When the angels told the shepherds they brought "good news of great joy," they weren't offering sentiment. They were declaring that the Savior had come to break sin's grip and restore what was broken. We often chase joy through accomplishments, relationships, or moments of escape, only to find that those wells eventually run dry. The joy Jesus gives is different—it's rooted in His presence, His rule, and His unwavering love.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What area of your life needs to be opened to Christ's reign so His joy can take root?
- How can you practice a deeper, more grounded joy this season—beyond busy schedules and surface-level celebration?

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15–20; Matthew 28:16–20

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

Go Tell It on the Mountain captures the heartbeat of Christmas—receiving the good news of Jesus and then carrying it outward with boldness. The shepherds were the first to model this. After hearing the angel’s proclamation and seeing the newborn Christ for themselves, they “reported the message” with joy and urgency. They didn’t wait until they felt qualified or polished; they simply shared what they had witnessed. This carol reminds us that the Christmas story was never meant to be kept quiet. It was meant to be carried, proclaimed, and celebrated in every place where darkness still hangs heavy. The Great Commission echoes the same call the shepherds lived out: go, tell, and trust that Christ is with you. Christmas invites us to find our voice again—to speak hope into weary spaces, to shine light into dark corners, and to boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is born.

- What is one thing that you saw in today’s passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Who in your life needs to hear hope from you this Christmas season?
- What fear or hesitation keeps you quiet, and how can you trust Jesus to strengthen your courage?

BIRTHDAY OF A KING

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

Birthday of a King draws our hearts to the wonder of Christ's arrival—the moment when heaven stepped into the ordinary and the eternal wrapped itself in human flesh. Isaiah foretold a child who would carry the government on His shoulders, a King whose character would be marked by wisdom, peace, and everlasting strength. Yet this King didn't enter with the fanfare of earthly rulers. He came quietly, born in a stable, laid in a manger, welcomed not by crowds but by a young couple and the hum of a humble town. The beauty of this carol is its reminder that majesty and meekness met in Jesus from the very beginning. It's easy to rush past the humility of Christ's birth, focusing instead on the busyness of the season or the demands we carry. But Christmas invites us to kneel before a Savior who chose the lowest place so He could reach us where we truly are.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How does the humility of Jesus' birth challenge the way you think about power, importance, or success?
- What would it look like for you to honor Christ as King in your decisions, priorities, or relationships this season?

MARY AND THE ANGEL

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26–35, 38

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

Mary's encounter with Gabriel highlights how God steps into ordinary moments with extraordinary grace. She wasn't prepared for an angelic announcement, yet her heart was positioned in humble obedience. The Christmas story begins with a young woman willing to say yes, even when the path made little sense. Her surrender invites us to trust God's purposes even when we feel unqualified or uncertain. When Mary declared, "May it happen to me as you have said," she wasn't agreeing to an easy journey—she was embracing God's promise. Christmas reminds us that faith often means moving forward before we see how everything will work out. Her courage encourages us to approach God's plans with open hands and a willing heart.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What part of Mary's response challenges your faith?
- Where is God inviting you to trust Him more deeply?

JOSEPH AND THE DREAM

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

Joseph's story shows that obedience sometimes requires quiet courage. When everything looked confusing, God met Joseph through a dream and invited him to choose trust over fear. Joseph stepped into God's plan even though it meant reshaping his expectations and reputation.

Christmas reminds us that God still speaks clarity into places where we feel stuck or overwhelmed. By taking Mary as his wife, Joseph protected God's promise and embraced a role he didn't seek but faithfully lived out. His obedience teaches us that faith is not only believing God—it's following Him when the road is costly or misunderstood. Christmas invites us to respond with steady obedience that honors God above our comfort.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How do you typically respond when God redirects your plans?
- What can Joseph's obedience show you about godly leadership?

MARY AND ELIZABETH

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39–56

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

Mary's visit to Elizabeth is a beautiful picture of spiritual friendship. God didn't leave Mary to navigate her calling alone—He placed someone beside her who understood the miracle, the fear, and the promise. Elizabeth's encouragement affirmed Mary's faith and reminded her that God was already at work. Christmas invites us to seek and offer relationships that strengthen belief. When Mary broke into praise, she wasn't celebrating her strength—she was celebrating God's faithfulness. Their meeting shows that joy grows when shared, and faith deepens through community. In a season full of noise and activity, Christmas calls us to slow down and recognize the people God has placed in our lives to help us stay anchored in His promises.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Who encourages your faith like Elizabeth did for Mary?
- How can you intentionally encourage someone this season?

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

The road to Bethlehem wasn't easy. Mary and Joseph walked into uncertainty, discomfort, and inconvenience—all while carrying the hope of the world. Christmas reminds us that God's plans don't always follow smooth paths, but His presence sustains us along the way. Every step of that journey was ordered by God, fulfilling promises spoken centuries before. Arriving to find no room at the inn could have felt like a setback, yet God was still directing every detail. Their obedience on the journey led them exactly where God intended—right into the center of His redemptive plan. We are encouraged to keep walking even when the way feels tiring or unclear, trusting that God is working through every mile we don't understand.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What part of your journey feels uncomfortable but necessary right now?
- How can you trust God with the steps you cannot yet see?

JESUS' BIRTH

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1–20

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

Jesus' birth is the moment heaven touched earth in the most unexpected way. God chose humility—not power, not spectacle—to introduce His Son to the world. The manger shows us that God delights in transforming the ordinary into sacred space. Christmas declares that hope is not distant or unreachable; it came close, wrapped in swaddling cloths. The shepherds remind us that the good news is for everyone. Their response—running to see Jesus and spreading the word—should stir our own hearts. Christmas isn't just a story to remember; it's news to share. The Savior has come, and that changes everything about who we are and how we live.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- How does Jesus' humble arrival shape your understanding of God's heart?
- Who could you share the good news with this Christmas?

THE WISE MEN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1–12

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

The Wise Men traveled far because they believed the newborn King was worth seeking. Their journey reminds us that genuine worship often grows out of intentional pursuit. They weren't content with secondhand stories—they wanted to see Jesus for themselves. In a season full of noise, their devotion calls us to slow down and follow the light God gives us, trusting He will lead us closer to His Son. When the Wise Men finally encountered Jesus, they responded with joy, humility, and generosity. Their gifts weren't random—they reflected honor and surrender. Christmas invites us to examine what we bring before Christ. Not gold or incense, but our obedience, trust, and willingness to follow Him wherever He leads.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What "distance" might God be inviting you to cross spiritually this season?
- What gift of obedience or surrender is Jesus asking from you?

SIMEON AT THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25–35

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

Simeon waited faithfully for God's promise, even when others may have stopped believing. His patience teaches us that waiting is not wasted when God is the One who promised. The Spirit led him to the temple at just the right moment—proof that God's timing never fails. Christmas reminds us that God finishes what He begins, even if the wait feels long. When Simeon held Jesus, he declared that God had kept His word. Yet he also recognized the weight of the mission Jesus came to fulfill—light for the nations and salvation for all. Simeon shows us that Christmas joy is deeper than a holiday feeling; it's rooted in the Savior who steps into human pain with redeeming power.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where are you struggling to wait on God right now?
- How does Simeon's example strengthen your confidence in God's timing?

ANNA AT THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:22-24; 36-38

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

Anna's life shows a quiet, steady devotion that often goes unseen by the world but is deeply treasured by God. She worshiped through fasting, prayer, and daily presence. Her faithfulness positioned her to recognize Jesus when many others overlooked Him. Christmas invites us to consider the rhythms of our own walk with God. Sometimes the greatest encounters with Christ happen in the ordinary consistency of showing up. The moment Anna saw Jesus, she couldn't keep the good news to herself. Her worship overflowed into witness. Christmas isn't just a season to celebrate—it's a moment to share the hope we've found. Anna reminds us that no matter our age, season, or story, God can use us to point others to Christ.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What spiritual rhythm do you feel God inviting you to rebuild or prioritize?
- Who around you needs the hope you carry this Christmas?

THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13–23

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

Joseph's obedience in the middle of danger reminds us that God often guides through timely, practical instruction. The flight to Egypt shows that God protects His promises even when chaos surrounds His people. Christmas doesn't ignore hardship—Jesus was born into it. Yet God was actively working, even in the darkness, ensuring His salvation plan continued untouched. This story reassures us that God sees what we cannot. He led Jesus' family step by step until the danger passed. In the same way, God leads us through difficult seasons with wisdom, presence, and purpose. Christmas hope doesn't deny hardship; it declares that God is with us in every step of it.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- Where do you need to trust God's protective guidance right now?
- How has God led you through seasons you didn't fully understand at the time?

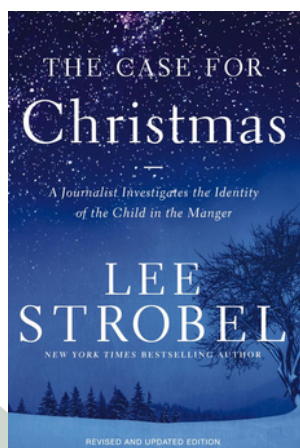
THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:19–23; Luke 39–40

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

Jesus' quiet years in Nazareth remind us that God often works powerfully in seasons that seem ordinary. After dramatic moments—angels, prophecies, danger, rescue—the family returned to a simple life. Yet Scripture says Jesus grew strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on Him. Christmas invites us to remember that spiritual growth happens not just in big moments but also in daily faithfulness. Nazareth was a humble place, far from the expectations of a king. Still, God chose it as the setting for His Son to grow. This reminds us that God does sacred work in the places we least expect. Christmas isn't just about celebration; it's about recognizing God's quiet, steady work in our everyday lives.

- What is one thing that you saw in today's passage that you can apply to your own life?
- What "ordinary" place or season might God be using to shape your faith?
- How can you be more aware of God's presence in your day-to-day routines?



The Case for Christmas

What can we know about the events of Christmas morning? And, most importantly, who was born that day? Some say the baby will grow up to be a great moral leader. Others say a social critic. Still others view Jesus as a profound philosopher, rabbi, feminist, prophet, and more. Many are convinced he was the divine Son of God. But who was he really--and how can we know for sure? Join Lee as he invites us to push past the distractions of the holiday season and come into the presence of the baby who was born to change us and rewrite our eternal destination.



The Gift of Jesus

In *The Gift of Jesus*, beloved pastor and teacher Dr. Charles Stanley takes you on a deeply personal and inspiring look at how God gave us Himself through the birth of Christ. When He sent Jesus, He closed the separation between us, showing Himself to be intimately involved in every detail that concerns us. This book will usher you into Jesus' presence, reveal His compassionate heart, and help you treasure the best parts of the Advent season.



Be of Good Cheer

Find peace for your heart and joy for your spirit amid the holiday hustle. Has being "merry and bright" and decking the halls left you feeling overwhelmed and exhausted? Set down your to-do list, grab a warm beverage, and cozy up with Be of Good Cheer for 40 days of Advent devotional reflections, Scripture readings, and prayers to bring you back to the beauty of the season. Each entry in this 40-day devotional invites you to reflect on one word that embodies the true meaning of Christmas. A corresponding Bible verse, a cheerful prayer, and beautiful Christmas photos guide your spirit, memories, and longings back to the heart of Christmas.

All these books and more are available online at www.fitbooks.com or by visiting the Ocoee FIT Books store at 9567 W Colonial Dr. Ocoee, FL 34761

Worship Playlists, PDF booklets, and others



GATHERING TIMES

Traditional Service
8:30 am

Life Groups
9:45 am

Contemporary Service
11 am

Wednesday Groups
6:30 pm



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