



from Heaven

to Earth

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.

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.

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.

HIGHLIGHT ► EXPLAIN ► APPLY ► RESPOND

THE PROMISE OF A GREAT LIGHT

SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 9:1–7

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: ISAIAH 9:6

ISAIAH TOLD GOD'S PEOPLE THAT A SPECIAL LIGHT WAS COMING INTO THEIR DARK WORLD. THAT LIGHT WAS JESUS! EVEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN, GOD WANTED EVERYONE TO KNOW THAT HE HAD A RESCUE PLAN. JESUS WOULDN'T JUST BE A BABY—HE WOULD GROW UP TO LEAD, LOVE, AND BRING PEACE TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE AND SENT JESUS RIGHT ON TIME. SOMETIMES LIFE FEELS CONFUSING, STRESSFUL, OR EVEN A LITTLE SCARY. BUT ISAIAH'S MESSAGE REMINDS YOU THAT JESUS CAME TO SHINE LIGHT INTO EVERY HARD PLACE. HE CAME SO YOU COULD KNOW HIM, TRUST HIM, AND FOLLOW HIM. JESUS IS THE LIGHT THAT NEVER GOES OUT.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHERE DO YOU NEED JESUS' LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU THAT GOD PLANNED JESUS' BIRTH LONG BEFORE IT HAPPENED?

THE MESSIAH WHO COMES CLOSE

SCRIPTURE READING: MICAH 5:1–5

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: ISAIAH 9:6

MICAH SHARED A SURPRISING MESSAGE—GOD’S SON WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM, A TINY TOWN NOBODY THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT. BUT THAT WAS GOD’S POINT! JESUS WASN’T COMING TO IMPRESS PEOPLE. HE CAME TO BE CLOSE TO US. BETHLEHEM REMINDS US THAT GOD DOESN’T WAIT FOR US TO BE PERFECT. HE STEPS INTO OUR NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIVES. MICAH ALSO SAID THE MESSIAH WOULD BE LIKE A SHEPHERD WHO LEADS AND PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE. JESUS GUIDES US, HELPS US MAKE GOOD CHOICES, AND BRINGS PEACE WHEN LIFE FEELS STRESSFUL. CHRISTMAS IS A REMINDER THAT JESUS ISN’T FAR AWAY. HE CAME CLOSE SO YOU CAN KNOW HIM PERSONALLY.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY’S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CHOSE BETHLEHEM FOR JESUS’ BIRTH?
- WHAT’S ONE WAY JESUS LEADS OR HELPS YOU?

THE RIGHTEOUS BRANCH OF HOPE

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-8

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

JEREMIAH LIVED IN A TIME WHEN PEOPLE WERE DISCOURAGED AND LEADERS FAILED THEM. BUT GOD GAVE HIM A HOPEFUL MESSAGE: A PERFECT KING WAS COMING—JESUS! JEREMIAH CALLED HIM THE “RIGHTEOUS BRANCH,” MEANING JESUS WOULD GROW UP TO BRING JUSTICE, GOODNESS, AND SALVATION THAT NO ONE ELSE COULD OFFER. SOMETIMES THE WORLD FEELS UNFAIR OR DISAPPOINTING. BUT CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT JESUS IS THE KIND OF LEADER WHO NEVER LETS HIS PEOPLE DOWN. HE CAME TO BRING HOPE, RESCUE US FROM SIN, AND GUIDE US WITH WISDOM. JESUS IS THE KING WHO DOES WHAT IS RIGHT EVERY SINGLE TIME, AND HE INVITES YOU TO TRUST HIM WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY’S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS IS A PERFECT KING?
- WHERE DO YOU NEED JESUS’ HOPE RIGHT NOW?

THE KING WHO BRINGS PEACE

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

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

ZECHARIAH DESCRIBED THE MESSIAH AS A HUMBLE KING RIDING ON A DONKEY—NOT A WAR HORSE. THAT SHOWS US WHAT KIND OF KING JESUS IS. HE DIDN'T COME TO SCARE PEOPLE OR FIGHT BATTLES THE WAY HUMAN KINGS DO. HE CAME TO BRING PEACE, HOPE, AND HEALING. ZECHARIAH ALSO SAID GOD WOULD CALL HIS PEOPLE "PRISONERS OF HOPE." THAT MEANS NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE DON'T GIVE UP BECAUSE JESUS GIVES US REAL, LASTING HOPE. AT CHRISTMAS, WE REMEMBER THAT JESUS CAME TO CALM OUR FEARS AND FILL OUR HEARTS WITH PEACE THAT THE WORLD CAN'T TAKE AWAY.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT PART OF JESUS BEING A PEACEFUL KING STANDS OUT TO YOU?
- WHEN DO YOU NEED JESUS' PEACE THE MOST?

THE DAWN BEFORE THE MESSIAH

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

Scripture Memory: Isaiah 9:6

MALACHI SAID GOD WOULD SEND A MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH. AFTER MALACHI, GOD DIDN'T SPEAK TO HIS PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME. BUT THAT LONG WAIT DIDN'T MEAN GOD FORGOT THEM. IT MEANT GOD WAS PREPARING EVERYTHING FOR JESUS TO COME AT THE PERFECT MOMENT. MALACHI ALSO SAID THE MESSIAH WOULD BE LIKE A REFINER'S FIRE—SOMEONE WHO CLEANS AND SHAPES OUR HEARTS. JESUS CAME NOT ONLY TO SAVE US BUT TO HELP US GROW, CHANGE, AND LIVE IN A WAY THAT HONORS HIM. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT JESUS CAME TO MAKE OUR HEARTS MORE LIKE HIS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- HOW DOES WAITING FOR SOMETHING HELP YOU TRUST GOD MORE?
- WHAT IS ONE WAY JESUS IS GROWING OR SHAPING YOU RIGHT NOW?

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:14

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

THIS CAROL REMINDS US THAT GOD'S PEOPLE WERE WAITING A LONG TIME FOR JESUS TO COME. LIFE FELT DARK AND SCARY SOMETIMES, BUT GOD PROMISED TO SEND A SAVIOR WHO WOULD BRING LIGHT, HOPE, AND PEACE. WHEN JESUS WAS BORN, THAT PROMISE FINALLY CAME TRUE! HE CAME TO BE "EMMANUEL," WHICH MEANS "GOD WITH US." THAT MEANS HE IS WITH US IN EVERY HARD MOMENT, EVERY FEAR, AND EVERY JOY. SOMETIMES WE FEEL STRESSED OR WORRIED, EVEN AT CHRISTMAS. BUT THIS SONG REMINDS US THAT WE'RE NOT ALONE. JESUS CAME NEAR, AND HE STILL COMES CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS TODAY. WHEN WE TRUST HIM, HE BRINGS PEACE THAT'S BIGGER THAN ANYTHING WE FACE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHERE DO YOU NEED JESUS' PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS?
- HOW CAN YOU REMEMBER THAT JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH YOU?

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

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

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

THIS CAROL TELLS US TO NOT BE AFRAID, BECAUSE JESUS BRINGS “COMFORT AND JOY.” THE SHEPHERDS WERE JUST DOING THEIR NORMAL JOBS WHEN ANGELS SHOWED UP AND ANNOUNCED THE BEST NEWS EVER—JESUS WAS BORN! HE CAME TO SAVE US AND BRING HOPE INTO EVERY PART OF OUR LIVES. THAT’S WHY WE CAN HAVE REAL JOY, EVEN WHEN THINGS FEEL STRESSFUL OR CONFUSING. AS KIDS AND ADULTS, WE ALL HAVE MOMENTS WHEN LIFE FEELS HEAVY. BUT JESUS CAME SO WE WOULDN’T HAVE TO CARRY EVERYTHING ON OUR OWN. HIS JOY DOESN’T DEPEND ON THINGS GOING PERFECTLY—IT COMES FROM KNOWING HE IS OUR SAVIOR AND HE LOVES US DEEPLY.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY’S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL WORRIED, AND HOW CAN JESUS BRING YOU COMFORT?
- WHERE DO YOU NEED HIS JOY THE MOST THIS WEEK?

JOY OT THE WORLD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 98:1–9

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

THIS CAROL CELEBRATES THAT JESUS CAME TO BRING JOY TO THE WHOLE WORLD! PSALM 98 SAYS ALL CREATION SHOULD SING BECAUSE GOD HAS COME TO RESCUE US. WHEN THE ANGELS TOLD THE SHEPHERDS ABOUT JESUS' BIRTH, THEY CALLED IT "GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY." THAT JOY ISN'T JUST BEING HAPPY—IT'S THE DEEP CONFIDENCE THAT JESUS IS HERE, HE LOVES US, AND HE WILL NEVER FAIL US. WE OFTEN LOOK FOR JOY IN THINGS LIKE GIFTS, ACTIVITIES, OR FUN MOMENTS. THOSE ARE GREAT, BUT THEY DON'T LAST FOREVER. JESUS' JOY DOES. WHEN WE FOLLOW HIM AND TRUST HIM, HIS JOY GROWS IN OUR HEARTS, EVEN ON TOUGH DAYS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT HELPS YOU FEEL JESUS' JOY?
- HOW CAN YOU SHARE THAT JOY WITH OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS?

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 2:15–20;
MATTHEW 28:16–20

SCRIPTURE MEMORY: HABAKKUK 1:5

THIS CAROL REMINDS US TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS WITH OTHERS—JUST LIKE THE SHEPHERDS DID. AFTER THEY SAW BABY JESUS, THEY RAN TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT THEY HAD WITNESSED. THEY DIDN'T TRY TO BE FANCY OR PERFECT; THEY JUST SHARED WHAT THEY KNEW: THE SAVIOR HAD COME! JESUS STILL WANTS US TO SHARE HIS LOVE AND TRUTH WITH PEOPLE AROUND US. SOMETIMES TALKING ABOUT JESUS CAN FEEL SCARY. BUT GOD PROMISES TO BE WITH US AND GIVE US COURAGE. WHEN WE TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM, WE'RE HELPING SHINE HIS LIGHT IN THE WORLD. THAT'S WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT—SHARING THE HOPE JESUS BRINGS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHO COULD YOU TELL ABOUT JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS?
- WHAT HELPS YOU FEEL BRAVE WHEN TALKING ABOUT YOUR FAITH?

BIRTHDAY OF A KING

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Scripture Memory: Habakkuk 1:5

THIS CAROL HELPS US CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH AS THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR KING. ISAIAH SAID A SPECIAL CHILD WOULD COME WHO WOULD RULE WITH LOVE, JUSTICE, AND PEACE—AND THAT CHILD WAS JESUS! BUT HE DIDN'T COME LIKE A NORMAL KING. HE DIDN'T HAVE A CASTLE OR CROWDS. HE WAS BORN IN A SIMPLE STABLE, SHOWING THAT GOD'S LOVE REACHES EVERYONE. SOMETIMES WE FORGET HOW AMAZING THIS IS. THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE CHOSE A HUMBLE BEGINNING SO HE COULD BE CLOSE TO US. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US TO SLOW DOWN, APPRECIATE HIS LOVE, AND HONOR JESUS AS THE TRUE KING OF OUR HEARTS.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT DOES JESUS' HUMBLE BIRTH TEACH YOU ABOUT HIS CHARACTER?
- HOW CAN YOU HONOR JESUS AS YOUR KING THIS CHRISTMAS?

MARY AND THE ANGEL

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26–35, 38

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

MARY WAS A NORMAL GIRL WHEN AN ANGEL SUDDENLY SHOWED UP WITH HUGE NEWS—SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF JESUS! EVEN THOUGH SHE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, MARY TRUSTED GOD AND SAID YES. SHE TEACHES US THAT REAL FAITH MEANS BEING WILLING TO FOLLOW GOD EVEN WHEN IT FEELS BIG OR SCARY. GOD DIDN'T CHOOSE MARY BECAUSE SHE WAS PERFECT—HE CHOSE HER BECAUSE SHE WAS WILLING. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT GOD CAN USE ANYONE WHO LISTENS AND TRUSTS HIM.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT'S ONE WAY YOU CAN SHOW TRUST IN GOD THIS WEEK?
- WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CHOSE MARY?

JOSEPH AND THE DREAM

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

JOSEPH HAD A HARD CHOICE TO MAKE. EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE FELT CONFUSING UNTIL GOD SPOKE TO HIM IN A DREAM. THE ANGEL TOLD HIM NOT TO BE AFRAID AND EXPLAINED GOD'S PLAN. JOSEPH LISTENED AND OBEYED, EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T EASY. JOSEPH REMINDS US THAT FOLLOWING GOD SOMETIMES MEANS DOING THE RIGHT THING EVEN WHEN PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND. CHRISTMAS SHOWS US THAT GOD GUIDES US WHEN WE'RE UNSURE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN HAVE YOU NEEDED COURAGE TO DO THE RIGHT THING?
- HOW CAN YOU LISTEN FOR GOD'S DIRECTION?

MARY AND ELIZABETH

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39–56

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

MARY WENT TO VISIT HER COUSIN ELIZABETH, AND THE MOMENT SHE WALKED IN, ELIZABETH CELEBRATED WITH HER. GOD GAVE MARY SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT SHE WAS GOING THROUGH. THEIR TIME TOGETHER FILLED THEM WITH JOY AND REMINDED THEM OF GOD'S PROMISES. THEIR STORY TEACHES US HOW IMPORTANT GOOD FRIENDS AND ENCOURAGERS ARE. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US TO LIFT EACH OTHER UP AND CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN OUR LIVES.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHO ENCOURAGES YOU WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS OR UNSURE?
- HOW CAN YOU BE LIKE ELIZABETH TO SOMEONE THIS WEEK?

THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1–7

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

MARY AND JOSEPH HAD TO TRAVEL A LONG WAY TO BETHLEHEM, EVEN THOUGH MARY WAS ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY. THE TRIP WAS TOUGH, BUT THEY KEPT GOING BECAUSE THEY TRUSTED GOD. WHEN THEY FINALLY ARRIVED, THERE WASN'T EVEN A ROOM FOR THEM—SO JESUS WAS BORN IN A STABLE. THEIR JOURNEY REMINDS US THAT GOD IS STILL WITH US EVEN WHEN LIFE FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE OR CONFUSING. HE WORKS THROUGH EVERY STEP.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT HARD THING ARE YOU TRUSTING GOD WITH RIGHT NOW?
- HOW DOES THEIR JOURNEY ENCOURAGE YOU?

JESUS' BIRTH

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Scripture Memory: Luke 2:11

JESUS WAS BORN IN A QUIET, SIMPLE PLACE—NOT A PALACE—BECAUSE GOD WANTED EVERYONE TO FEEL WELCOME. THE SHEPHERDS WERE THE FIRST TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS, AND THEY RAN TO SEE JESUS FOR THEMSELVES. AFTER SEEING HIM, THEY COULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT WHAT GOD HAD DONE. CHRISTMAS SHOWS US THAT JESUS CAME FOR EVERYONE, AND HIS LOVE IS SOMETHING WORTH SHARING.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE
- WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS CAME IN SUCH A HUMBLE WAY?
- WHO COULD YOU TELL ABOUT JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS?

THE WISE MEN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

THE WISE MEN TRAVELED A LONG WAY BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED JESUS WAS THE TRUE KING. THEY FOLLOWED THE STAR EVEN WHEN THE JOURNEY WAS TOUGH. THEIR STORY REMINDS US THAT WHEN WE LOOK FOR JESUS WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS, WE ALWAYS FIND HIM. WHEN THEY FINALLY SAW JESUS, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JOY AND SHOWED RESPECT BY GIVING THEIR BEST GIFTS. WE MAY NOT BRING GOLD, BUT WE CAN GIVE JESUS OUR TRUST, OUR CHOICES, AND OUR OBEDIENCE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT HELPS YOU STAY FOCUSED ON JESUS WHEN LIFE GETS BUSY?
- WHAT "GIFT" CAN YOU GIVE JESUS THIS CHRISTMAS?

SIMEON AT THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:25–35

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

SIMEON WAITED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO SEE GOD'S PROMISED SAVIOR. EVEN THOUGH WAITING WAS HARD, HE TRUSTED THAT GOD WOULD KEEP HIS WORD. WHEN HE FINALLY SAW JESUS AT THE TEMPLE, HE KNEW GOD HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HIM. HIS STORY REMINDS US THAT GOD ALWAYS WORKS IN THE RIGHT TIME. SIMEON CELEBRATED BECAUSE JESUS CAME TO BRING LIGHT AND HOPE TO THE WORLD. AT CHRISTMAS, WE REMEMBER THAT JESUS CAME TO BRING THAT SAME HOPE TO US TODAY.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE WAITING ON GOD TO HELP YOU WITH?
- HOW DOES SIMEON'S TRUST ENCOURAGE YOU?

ANNA AT THE TEMPLE

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

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

ANNA SPENT HER DAYS PRAYING AND WORSHIPING GOD. BECAUSE SHE STAYED CLOSE TO HIM, SHE RECOGNIZED JESUS RIGHT AWAY WHEN HE CAME TO THE TEMPLE. HER STORY SHOWS US THAT SPENDING TIME WITH GOD HELPS US SEE HIM MORE CLEARLY. WHEN ANNA REALIZED WHO JESUS WAS, SHE TOLD EVERYONE THE GOOD NEWS. CHRISTMAS IS A GREAT TIME TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS—JUST LIKE ANNA DID.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT IS ONE WAY YOU CAN SPEND MORE TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK?
- WHO COULD YOU ENCOURAGE BY SHARING JESUS' LOVE?

THE FLIGHT TO EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13–23

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

AFTER JESUS WAS BORN, JOSEPH HAD TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY BY TAKING THEM TO EGYPT. GOD WARNED HIM IN A DREAM, AND JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD RIGHT AWAY. THIS SHOWS US THAT GOD SEES DANGER BEFORE WE DO AND KNOWS HOW TO GUIDE US. EVEN WHEN LIFE FEELS CONFUSING, GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING FOR OUR GOOD—JUST LIKE HE WAS FOR JESUS' FAMILY. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT GOD STAYS CLOSE, NO MATTER WHAT WE FACE.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHEN HAVE YOU FELT LIKE GOD WAS HELPING YOU THROUGH SOMETHING HARD?
- HOW CAN YOU TRUST GOD'S GUIDANCE MORE?

THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

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

Scripture Memory: Matthew 1:23

JESUS DIDN'T GROW UP IN A FANCY PLACE—HE GREW UP IN NAZARETH, A SMALL, ORDINARY TOWN. BUT EVEN IN A SIMPLE PLACE, JESUS GREW STRONG, WISE, AND FULL OF GOD'S GRACE. THIS SHOWS US THAT GOD CAN DO BIG THINGS IN SMALL PLACES. YOUR NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIFE—SCHOOL, HOME, FRIENDS—IS A PLACE WHERE GOD CAN GROW YOU TOO. YOU DON'T NEED A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR GOD TO WORK. HE'S WITH YOU EVERY SINGLE DAY.

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT YOU SAW IN TODAY'S PASSAGE THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR OWN LIFE?
- WHAT ORDINARY PLACE IN YOUR LIFE HELPS YOU GROW CLOSER TO GOD?
- HOW CAN YOU NOTICE GOD AT WORK IN YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINES?



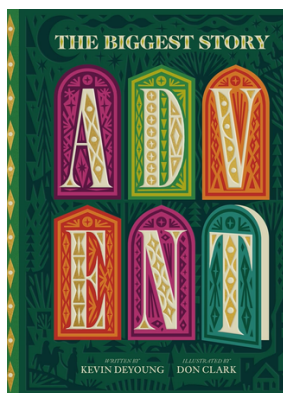
'TIS THE SEASON

DESIGNED TO FOLLOW THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT—HOPE, FAITH, JOY, AND PEACE—'TIS THE SEASON FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITY BOOK FEATURES AN ADVENT CALENDAR WITH LIFT-THE-FLAP WINDOWS THAT CAN BE USED YEAR AFTER YEAR. EACH OF THE FOUR WEEK-LONG SECTIONS INCLUDES A SHORT DEVOTION ON EACH THEME FOLLOWED BY REFLECTION QUESTIONS AND SIMPLE ACTION PROMPTS FOR EVERY AGE LEVEL. THE BOOK ALSO CONTAINS GAME IDEAS, RECIPES, HOLIDAY TIPS, FUN FACTS, AND ENCOURAGEMENT ON HOW TO LIVE OUT THE THEMES OF ADVENT AS AN INDIVIDUAL, WITH YOUR FAMILY, AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY.



A BETTER THAN ANYTHING CHRISTMAS

A BETTER THAN ANYTHING CHRISTMAS IS THE SECOND ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FOR FAMILIES FROM BARBARA REAOCH, AUTHOR OF THE VERY POPULAR A JESUS CHRISTMAS. THESE DAILY DEVOTIONS IN THE GOSPELS GIVE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF WHY JESUS CAME. IN THE LEAD-UP TO CHRISTMAS, FAMILIES WILL EXPLORE 25 REASONS WHY JESUS CAME, AND THEY WILL SEE THAT WHAT JESUS GIVES US IS BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE WE COULD WISH FOR.



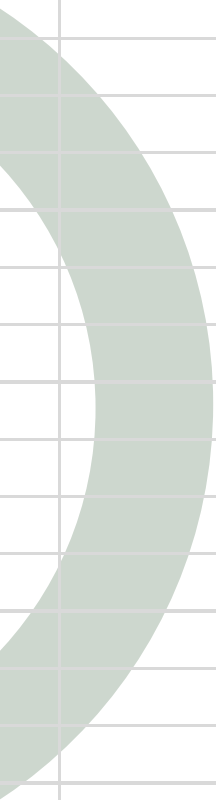
THE BIGGEST STORY ADVENT

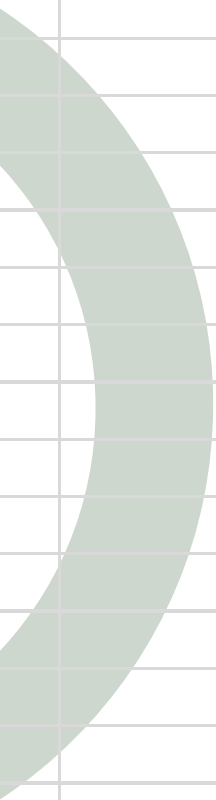
KIDS LOVE THE ANTICIPATION OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, OPENING ADVENT CALENDARS AND COUNTING DOWN TO DECEMBER 25TH. HOW CAN PARENTS BUILD ON THAT EXCITEMENT AND TEACH KIDS THAT JESUS'S BIRTH ISN'T JUST ONE STORY OF THE BIBLE BUT IS A CENTRAL PIECE OF GOD'S GLORIOUS PLAN TO REDEEM HIS PEOPLE? KEVIN DEYOUNG, PASTOR AND AUTHOR OF THE POPULAR BIGGEST STORY BIBLE STORYBOOK, HAS WRITTEN 25 BRAND NEW ADVENT DEVOTIONS FOR KIDS THAT START FROM THE BEGINNING OF SCRIPTURE AND FEATURE A DAILY SURPRISE. EACH READING OPENS WITH A FUN LIFT-THE-FLAP PAGE, WHICH KIDS OPEN TO REVEAL A BIBLE PASSAGE AND COLORFUL ILLUSTRATION. ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE, DEYOUNG RETELS A RELATED BIBLE STORY OR PROPHECY THAT FORETOLD JESUS'S COMING, AND SHARES A SIMPLE PRAYER TO RECITE.

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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