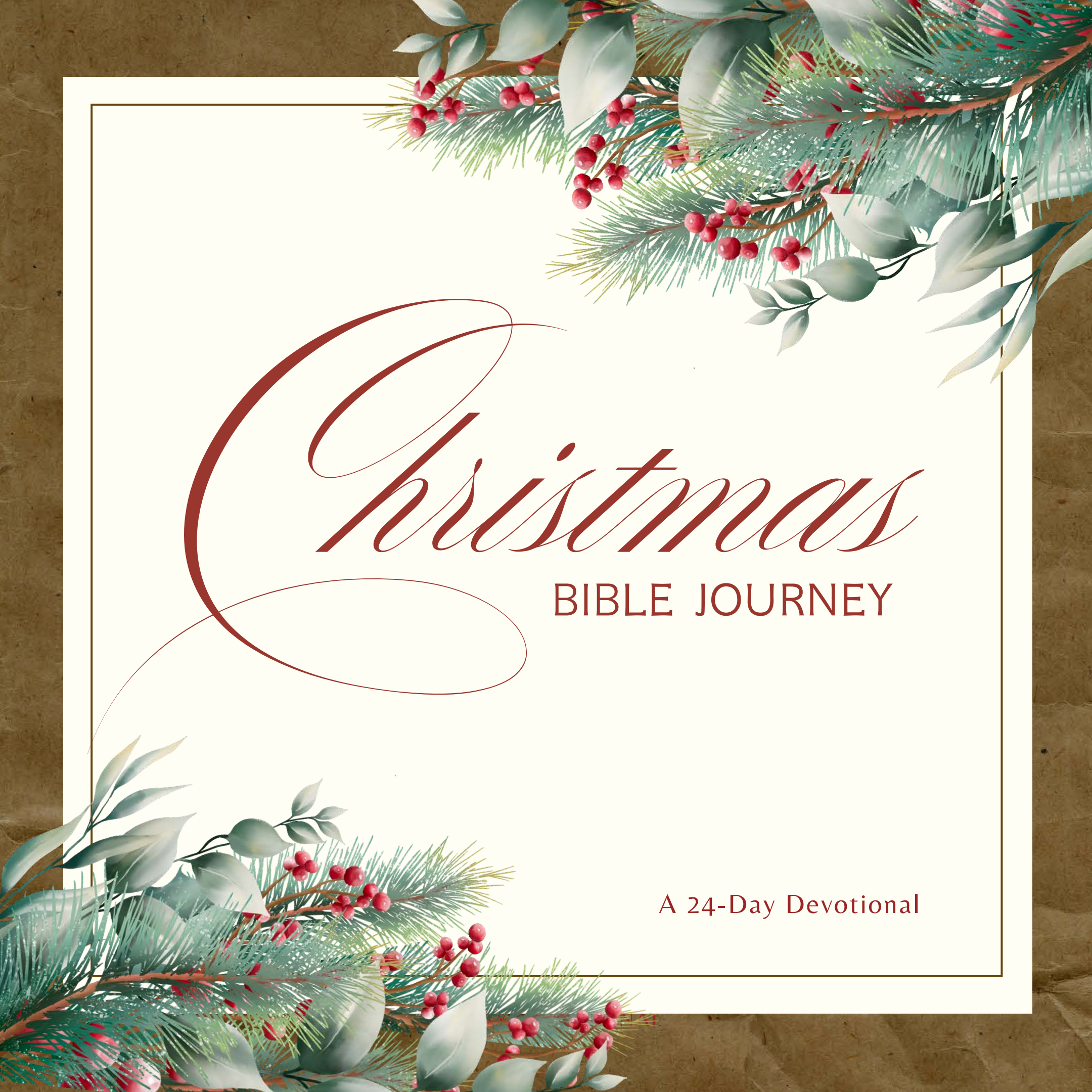




Christmas

BIBLE JOURNEY

A 24-Day Devotional

Welcome

To The Christmas Bible Journey

As we approach this blessed Christmas season, I am thrilled to invite you on a transformative journey - a 24-Day Christmas Bible Journey designed to deepen your understanding of the birth of Christ and the incredible love of God revealed through His Son.

Each day, we will reflect on passages from Scripture, meditate on the miraculous story of Jesus' coming, and consider how His birth continues to impact our lives today. This journey is not just about reading verses; it is about encountering the Savior, allowing His light to shine into our hearts, and preparing ourselves spiritually to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever received.

I encourage you to take time each day to pause, reflect, pray, and allow God's Word to speak to you personally. Whether you are walking through this journey alone or with your family, may it bring you closer to the heart of Christ, filling your season with hope, joy, and peace.

Let us embark together on this journey, opening our hearts to the wonder of Emmanuel—God with us. May this season of anticipation remind us of His faithfulness and renew our awe at the gift of His Son.

Pastor David Hermes,
Lead Pastor, Hope Valley Church





John 1:1-5



In the beginning was the Word... Before Bethlehem ever held a baby, before shepherds looked up at angels, before stars were placed into the sky, Jesus already existed. John tells us that He is the Word - God's full expression of truth, love, and life. He was not created; He is the Creator. He didn't just enter the story at Christmas; He wrote the story. When we reflect on Jesus as the eternal Word, Christmas becomes more than a celebration of a birth. It becomes a reminder that the Light who stepped into our darkness is the same God who spoke creation into being. The Child in the manger is the God who has always been and will always be.

John also tells us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Christmas gathers us around that Light. Darkness may try to press in - through worry, grief, uncertainty, or sin - but it has no authority over Him. Jesus doesn't just expose the darkness; He conquers it. This season we don't simply decorate; we declare. Every light hung in our homes echoes the Light that can never be extinguished. Let this Christmas be a time not only to remember His birth, but to welcome His light into every hidden place of our hearts. For the Light has come, and in Him, we find life.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, Eternal Word and true Light, shine into every dark place of our hearts and lives. Help us receive You fully this Christmas, that Your life and truth would overcome every shadow with hope.



Day 2:

Isaiah 9:2-7

*T*he people walking in darkness have seen a great light..." (Isaiah 9:2) Christmas reminds us that God does not wait for us to find our way to Him - He comes to us. Israel lived under oppression, fear, and spiritual confusion, and yet God promised a Light that would break through the thickest darkness. That Light is not merely a feeling of hope, but a Person. Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor who understands our struggles, the Mighty God who fights our battles, the Everlasting Father who never leaves us, and the Prince of Peace who calms every storm within us. In a world still filled with conflict and uncertainty, Christmas announces that deliverance has already begun through Christ.

Isaiah continues, "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." Earthly kingdoms rise and fall, leaders come and go, but the reign of Jesus will only grow stronger. Even when our circumstances feel unstable, His kingdom is advancing with justice and righteousness. Christmas is not just a memory - it is a declaration that Christ's authority is present and expanding today. As we celebrate His birth, we join His mission by welcoming His peace into our homes, His justice into our decisions, and His love into our relationships. The Child in the manger is our reigning King, and His light will never fade.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, our promised King and true Light, rule in our hearts and homes with Your peace, justice, and unending hope.

Day 3:

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse..." (Isaiah 11:1). Isaiah paints a picture of hope growing from what looks dead. Israel's royal line seemed cut down - broken, barren, and finished - but God promised new life from the stump. Jesus is that tender shoot, springing up where no one expected, bringing renewal where there seemed to be no future. Christmas reminds us that God specializes in restoring what looks hopeless. He brings life from broken places, purpose from disappointment, and beauty from what once appeared ruined. In Christ, we see that God's promises are not hindered by our circumstances; they are fulfilled in spite of them.

Isaiah continues by describing the Messiah's character: a Spirit-filled King who judges with righteousness, leads with wisdom, and brings peace that transforms creation itself. The wolf dwelling with the lamb is more than poetry - it's a promise that Christ's rule will heal the earth and reconcile hearts. His coming brings not only forgiveness but restoration, justice, and peace that reaches into every corner of life. This Christmas, we celebrate more than a Savior born - we celebrate a King whose reign makes all things new. As we wait for the fullness of His kingdom, we are called to live as people of that peace now, reflecting His wisdom, justice, and hope to the world around us.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, shoot of Jesse and Prince of Peace, grow
Your life and wisdom within us, bringing restoration,
hope, and reconciliation to every part of our lives.



Day 4:

Jeremiah 33:14-16



*T*he days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will fulfill the good promise I made to Israel" (Jeremiah 33:14). In the midst of brokenness, exile, and uncertainty, God reminded His people that He had not forgotten them. Christmas is the fulfillment of that promise - the arrival of Jesus, the Righteous Branch, who brings justice and salvation. He is God's assurance that His plans are trustworthy, His timing perfect, and His love unfailing. Just as God promised a righteous King to David's line, He fulfills that promise in Christ, giving hope to the hopeless and light to those walking in darkness. In Him, we see that God's promises are not just words - they are living reality.

Jeremiah goes on to say, "In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior." Christmas reminds us that salvation and safety are found not in human power, but in the One who reigns with perfect righteousness. Jesus brings peace that no government can secure, protection that no army can provide, and joy that no circumstance can steal. As we celebrate His birth, we are invited to trust in His faithfulness, rest in His salvation, and live with hope, knowing that the Savior who came as a child is the same One who rules with justice and love forever.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, our Righteous Savior, help us trust in Your promises, rest in Your salvation, and walk in the hope and peace You bring.



Day 5:

Luke 1:5-10

*I*n the days of King Herod... there was a priest named Zechariah" (Luke 1:5). In a time of routine, religious obligation, and seemingly ordinary life, God was about to do something extraordinary. Zechariah and Elizabeth had waited for years for God's promise of a child, yet they were faithful in their daily duties despite the silence. Christmas reminds us that God often works behind the scenes, quietly preparing hearts and circumstances for His miraculous plan. Even when life feels ordinary—or even disappointing—God is moving, and His timing is perfect. The birth of John the Baptist and the coming of Jesus show us that God's faithfulness can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

As the story unfolds, we see that God's plans bring joy, purpose, and redemption not just to individuals, but to the whole world. Zechariah's faithful service set the stage for the greatest arrival in history: the birth of Jesus, the Savior. Christmas is a celebration of God's patience and providence, reminding us that He sees our faithfulness and will fulfill His promises in His perfect time. Just as Zechariah witnessed God's promise come alive in his lifetime, we are called to trust, prepare, and live expectantly for the Lord who comes to bring light, hope, and salvation to all.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us remain faithful and patient in the ordinary moments of life, trusting that You are preparing the way for Your miraculous plans to unfold.

Day 6:

Luke 1:11-17

When an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar" (Luke 1:11). In this moment, God broke into Zechariah's ordinary priestly routine with an extraordinary promise: a child who would prepare the way for the Messiah. Christmas reminds us that God often works in ways that surprise us, calling ordinary people into His extraordinary purposes. Just as Zechariah was chosen to be the father of John the Baptist, each of us is invited to participate in God's unfolding plan, trusting that His purposes are greater than our understanding and His timing is perfect. The angel's message was not just for Zechariah - it points forward to the hope, redemption, and joy that Christ brings to the world.

The angel continued, "He will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous" (Luke 1:17). John's role was to prepare the hearts of people to receive Jesus, and in the same way, we are called to prepare our hearts to receive Him each Christmas. This season is a time to reflect, repent, and realign our lives with God's will, making space for the Savior to dwell within us. As we celebrate His birth, we remember that God's plans always bring restoration, guidance, and light to a world longing for hope, and that He invites us to participate in His redemptive story.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, prepare our hearts this Christmas to receive
You fully, and empower us to live as faithful
witnesses of Your hope and redemption.



Day 7:

Luke 1:18-25



Zechariah asked the angel, 'How can I be sure of this?' (Luke 1:18). In his doubt, Zechariah reminds us that even the faithful wrestle with uncertainty when God's promises seem impossible. Christmas is a season of awe because it shows us that God specializes in doing the impossible - bringing life, hope, and salvation where human understanding fails. Elizabeth's pregnancy was a miraculous sign of God's faithfulness, a reminder that nothing is too late or too difficult for Him. Just as Zechariah's skepticism met God's divine plan, our questions and doubts can lead us to deeper faith when we trust in His timing and purposes.

The angel assured Zechariah that his prayer had been heard and that Elizabeth would bear a son, John, who would prepare the way for the Messiah. This story illustrates that God's promises often come with both reassurance and a call to patience. Christmas invites us to wait with expectation, to see God move in His perfect timing, and to rejoice in the fulfillment of His promises. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that God's power transforms our doubts into wonder, our waiting into worship, and our ordinary lives into instruments of His extraordinary plan.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, strengthen our faith in Your promises, help us trust Your timing, and transform our doubts into awe and worship this Christmas.



Says:

Luke 1:26-38

*T*he angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth" (Luke 1:26). In this moment, God chose a young, humble woman to carry the Savior of the world. Mary's "yes" to God reminds us that Christmas is not only about a miraculous birth but about a willing heart that responds to God's call. Even in the face of uncertainty, fear, and societal expectation, Mary trusted God's plan. Her obedience teaches us that God's greatest work often begins in the ordinary, and that He can use anyone who is willing to say, "I am the Lord's servant; let it be to me according to your word."

Gabriel told Mary, "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). This is the heart of Christmas: the impossible becomes possible through God. The child she would bear, Jesus, would bring hope, peace, and salvation to a world living in darkness. Just as Mary's faith opened the door for God's plan to unfold, we too are invited to receive Jesus into our hearts and lives. Christmas is a reminder that God's power surpasses our understanding, His love exceeds our fears, and His promises are always trustworthy. As we reflect on the birth of Christ, we are called to respond with faith, obedience, and joyful expectation of all He will do in and through us.

Prayer Point:

Lord, give us hearts like Mary's - faithful, obedient, and trusting in Your power to accomplish the impossible this Christmas.

Day 9:

Matthew 1:18-21

*T*his is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about..." (Matthew 1:18). The story of Jesus' birth begins with an ordinary couple facing extraordinary circumstances. Mary and Joseph were confronted with a situation that could have brought shame, fear, and doubt, yet God's plan unfolded despite human uncertainty. Christmas reminds us that God's purposes often arrive in unexpected ways, and His timing is perfect. The angel's message to Joseph shows us that God's promises are sure and that His guidance brings peace, even when circumstances seem confusing or overwhelming. In the birth of Jesus, we see God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise of a Savior for the world.

The angel told Joseph, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This Christmas, we celebrate not only the miracle of birth but the purpose of Jesus' life: salvation for all who believe. The Child in the manger is the answer to humanity's deepest need, bringing hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation with God. As we reflect on His birth, we are reminded that God's plans are greater than our fears, and His love is steadfast and redeeming. Christmas invites us to trust, rejoice, and participate in the story of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to save us; help us trust Your plans, embrace Your purpose, and rejoice in the gift of Your salvation this Christmas.



Day 10: Matthew 1:22-25



All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet" (Matthew 1:22). The birth of Jesus is not just a story of a miraculous event - it is the fulfillment of God's promises spoken long before. Christmas reminds us that God's Word is trustworthy and His plans are perfect, even when they unfold in unexpected ways. Joseph's obedience to God's instructions shows us the importance of listening and responding to His guidance. In a world often filled with doubt and uncertainty, the story of Jesus' birth reassures us that God is faithful to fulfill what He has promised, bringing hope and salvation into the lives of those who trust Him.

Matthew continues, "She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. And he gave him the name Jesus" (Matthew 1:25). Naming the child "Jesus" - meaning "the Lord saves" - declares His purpose: to save His people from their sins. Christmas is the celebration of that salvation, God entering humanity in humility to bring redemption and peace. As we reflect on this miracle, we are reminded that God's faithfulness transforms ordinary lives into vessels of His extraordinary plan. This season calls us to rejoice in His promises, trust His guidance, and welcome Jesus into our hearts, knowing that He is the fulfillment of God's perfect plan for salvation.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, thank You for fulfilling Your promises and bringing salvation; help us trust Your guidance and receive You fully into our lives this Christmas.



Day 11:

Luke 1:39-45

After Mary received the extraordinary angelic report that she would be the mother of the Son of God, she went to visit her relative, Elizabeth, who was now pregnant despite her old age. The angel had told Mary that Elizabeth's pregnancy was confirmation of what God had promised to her.

Elizabeth confirmed the testimony of the angel, not only because she was pregnant, but also by her words to Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" God was confirming His promise to Mary, through the lives of others in her life.

As we celebrate Christmas, we have the privilege of being testimonies of what God has done through Jesus Christ. While we may not have the same miraculous experience that Elizabeth had, we can tell our friends, family, and neighbors of how blessed Mary was, and how her child would be a blessing to the world.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us to trust Your promises, rejoice in Your faithfulness, and encourage others as we celebrate the joy of Your coming this Christmas.

Day 12:

Luke 1:46-56

*M*y soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Luke 1:46-47). In her song of praise, Mary models a heart fully surrendered to God, recognizing His greatness and mercy. Christmas reminds us that God’s arrival in the world is not just a historical event, but a personal gift that invites our response of worship and gratitude. Mary’s song celebrates God’s faithfulness to fulfill His promises, His care for the humble, and His power to transform lives. As we reflect on her words, we are challenged to let our hearts overflow with joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus, the Savior who comes to bring hope and restoration to all.

Mary continues, celebrating God’s justice and mercy: “He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble” (Luke 1:52). Christmas reminds us that God’s kingdom operates differently from the world’s - He values the lowly, the faithful, and those who trust Him. In Jesus, God’s promises of salvation, mercy, and peace are fulfilled, overturning the power of sin and pride. As we meditate on Mary’s song, we are invited to join her in rejoicing, praising God for His faithfulness, and living in humble obedience, reflecting the joy and hope of Christ’s coming in every aspect of our lives.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, fill our hearts with joy and gratitude like Mary’s, and help us praise Your faithfulness while humbly reflecting the hope and mercy of Christ in our lives.



Day 13:

Luke 2:1-5



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree..." (Luke 2:1-2). The birth of Jesus took place during a time of political control, taxation, and uncertainty, yet God's plan moved forward perfectly despite human circumstances. Christmas reminds us that God's timing is flawless, and His purposes are not hindered by worldly challenges. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, obeying God's direction, showing us that faith often requires trust, patience, and willingness to step into the unknown. Even in the midst of life's ordinary routines or difficult journeys, God is at work, bringing about His miraculous plan of salvation for the world.

Luke continues, "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David" (Luke 2:4). This journey highlights God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises - Jesus, the promised Messiah, would be born in the lineage of David. Christmas reminds us that God's promises are sure, and He orchestrates even the smallest details to bring about His plans. As we reflect on Joseph and Mary's journey, we are encouraged to trust God's guidance, follow His directions faithfully, and rejoice that the Savior of the world came humbly into our midst to bring hope, peace, and salvation.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us trust Your guidance and timing, and give us faith to follow You faithfully, knowing You bring Your promises to fulfillment even in the ordinary and uncertain moments of life.



Day 14: Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son" (Luke 2:6-7). The Savior of the world entered the world not in a palace, but in humility - a simple manger, surrounded by the ordinary. Christmas reminds us that God's greatest work often comes in the most unexpected and humble circumstances. Jesus' birth shows that God's love does not depend on human grandeur or status; His presence transforms ordinary moments into sacred encounters. In the quiet of that stable, the light of the world came, bringing hope, peace, and salvation to all who would believe.

The humble circumstances of Jesus' birth also speak to God's accessibility and nearness. The Messiah did not arrive in isolation or luxury, but among people, in a way that all could approach Him. Christmas invites us to reflect on God's closeness and His desire to dwell with us. As we celebrate this miracle, we are reminded that God's greatness is revealed in humility, and His love is poured out for every person, regardless of their situation. The Child in the manger is our Savior, who meets us where we are and brings life, joy, and hope into our hearts.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself to come near to us; help us recognize Your presence in the ordinary and receive Your hope, peace, and salvation this Christmas.

Day 15:

Luke 2:8-12

*A*nd there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night” (Luke 2:8). God chose ordinary shepherds - humble, everyday people - to receive the first announcement of Jesus’ birth. Christmas reminds us that God’s message of hope is for everyone, regardless of status, wealth, or position. The shepherds’ lives were transformed when the angel of the Lord brought them good news of great joy: the Savior, Christ the Lord, had been born. This moment shows that God delights in including the lowly and ordinary in His extraordinary plan, inviting all to witness and participate in the miracle of salvation.

The angel said, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Christmas celebrates this ultimate gift: God Himself entering the world to bring hope, peace, and redemption. The shepherds’ response - running to see the child and sharing the news - encourages us to respond with faith, joy, and proclamation. As we reflect on this story, we are reminded that the good news of Jesus is not just for a select few, but for all who are willing to receive Him. God’s light shines into the darkness, and His salvation invites every heart to rejoice and witness the wonder of His love.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, open our hearts to receive the Good News of Jesus, and help us respond with joy, faith, and a willingness to share Your love with others this Christmas.



Day 16:

Luke 2:13-14



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests'" (Luke 2:13-14). The angelic announcement reveals the heart of Christmas: God's glory made known and His peace offered to humanity. While the world awaited a Messiah, heaven celebrated the fulfillment of God's promise. Christmas reminds us that God's plan of salvation is cause for worship and joy, inviting us to lift our hearts in praise for the gift of Jesus. His birth brings a peace that surpasses understanding, touching lives in ways that worldly solutions cannot.

This proclamation also highlights God's favor toward humanity. Peace on earth is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of God's saving work in our lives. Through Jesus, God bridges the gap between Himself and His creation, offering reconciliation, hope, and rest for our souls. As we reflect on this heavenly celebration, we are called to join in the song of the angels - worshiping God, sharing His peace, and living as recipients of His favor. Christmas is both a time to marvel at God's glory and a reminder that His peace is available to all who believe in His Son.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, fill our hearts with awe and gratitude for Your glory, and let the peace of Christ reign in our lives this Christmas.



Day II: Luke 2:15-18

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened'" (Luke 2:15). The shepherds' response to the angelic announcement reminds us that Christmas calls for action, not just admiration. Hearing the good news of Jesus' birth compelled them to leave their fields and seek the Savior. Christmas invites us to respond in the same way - with curiosity, faith, and urgency - to encounter Christ personally. True celebration of His birth moves us from hearing the story to experiencing His presence in our lives.

As the shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger, "they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17). Their joy could not be contained; it overflowed into testimony and praise. Christmas is a reminder that encountering Jesus transforms us and inspires us to share His love with others. Just as the shepherds proclaimed the good news, we are called to reflect His light in our families, communities, and beyond. The birth of Christ brings hope, peace, and salvation, and our response should be a life that celebrates and shares the miracle of God's gift to the world.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us respond to the good news of Jesus with faith, joy, and a heart eager to share Your love and salvation with others this Christmas.

Day 8:

Luke 2:19-20

*B*ut Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19). In the midst of the excitement and wonder surrounding Jesus’ birth, Mary’s response was one of quiet reflection and deep reverence. Christmas reminds us that beyond the celebrations and gifts, the heart of this season is about meditating on God’s miraculous work and the fulfillment of His promises. Like Mary, we are invited to treasure the story of Jesus’ birth, reflecting on the significance of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. It is in this contemplation that our faith is deepened, and our hearts are prepared to receive the Savior fully.

Luke continues, “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told” (Luke 2:20). Unlike Mary’s quiet meditation, the shepherds responded with exuberant praise and action, sharing the good news with all they encountered. Christmas calls for both reflection and celebration: to quietly treasure God’s work in our hearts and boldly proclaim His greatness in our lives. The birth of Jesus transforms ordinary people into witnesses of God’s glory, reminding us that encountering Christ brings both awe-filled wonder and joyful proclamation, shaping the way we live and share His love.

*Prayer
Point:*

Prayer: Lord, help us both treasure Your miraculous work in our hearts and boldly proclaim Your glory with joy and gratitude this Christmas.



Day 19: Micah 5:2-5



But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel" (Micah 5:2). God's promise through Micah reminds us that greatness often arises from the most unexpected places. The Savior of the world came from a small, humble town, demonstrating that God's plans are not limited by human expectations or worldly status. Christmas invites us to trust that God can accomplish His purposes through ordinary circumstances and ordinary people, bringing hope and salvation where it is least expected. The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem fulfills God's promise, showing His faithfulness and perfect timing in orchestrating history according to His plan.

Micah continues, "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God" (Micah 5:4). The Messiah would not only be born in humility but would also bring protection, guidance, and peace to His people. Christmas is a celebration of the Prince of Peace, the Good Shepherd, and the ruler whose reign is marked by justice and righteousness. As we reflect on His birth, we are reminded that Jesus brings security, hope, and restoration to our lives. This season calls us to rejoice in His coming, trust His leadership, and follow Him faithfully, knowing that the God who worked through a small town continues to work powerfully in our hearts today.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, our Good Shepherd and Prince of Peace, help us trust Your guidance, rest in Your protection, and follow You faithfully as we celebrate Your miraculous birth.



Day 2: Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem" (Matthew 2:1). Even from afar, these learned men recognized the significance of Jesus' birth and embarked on a journey to seek Him. Christmas reminds us that Jesus' arrival draws seekers from every nation and background, inviting all to encounter the Savior. The wise men teach us the importance of intentional pursuit - seeking Christ with dedication, curiosity, and humility - because finding Him transforms our hearts and lives. No matter how far we have wandered, God's light calls us to come and worship.

Matthew continues, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (Matthew 2:2). The wise men not only sought Jesus, but they came to honor and worship Him, acknowledging His kingship and divine purpose. Christmas is a time to recognize the authority of Christ in our lives, offering Him our devotion, gratitude, and praise. Just as the star guided the wise men, God's Word and Spirit guide us today, illuminating the path to Jesus. This season challenges us to pursue Him earnestly and respond with hearts of worship, bringing the treasures of our lives - faith, love, and obedience - to the King of kings.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, guide us like the wise men to seek You earnestly, and help us respond with hearts of worship and devotion this Christmas.

Day 21:

Matthew 2:3-6

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him" (Matthew 2:3). The news of Jesus' birth stirred fear in the hearts of the powerful, revealing that the arrival of God's kingdom often challenges worldly authority and human expectations. Christmas reminds us that Jesus came not to conform to worldly standards, but to bring salvation, peace, and righteousness. Even in a world filled with opposition or uncertainty, God's plan moves forward perfectly, and His promises cannot be thwarted. The contrast between Herod's fear and the faithful response of those seeking Jesus encourages us to align our hearts with God's purposes rather than worldly anxieties.

Matthew continues, "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel" (Matthew 2:5-6). The prophecy reminds us that God's ways often defy human expectations - He chooses the humble and unlikely to accomplish His extraordinary plans. Christmas celebrates God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, bringing forth a Savior from a small town to guide, protect, and redeem His people. As we reflect on this passage, we are encouraged to trust God's plan, celebrate His faithfulness, and seek His guidance, knowing that the humble birth of Jesus brought eternal hope and salvation for all.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us trust Your perfect plan and celebrate
Your faithfulness, rejoicing that You bring salvation
and hope through the humble birth of Jesus.



Day 22: Matthew 2:7-8



When Herod called the wise men secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared” (Matthew 2:7). Herod’s reaction to the news of Jesus’ birth shows how the coming of the Savior can provoke fear and scheming in those who oppose God’s kingdom. Christmas reminds us that Jesus’ arrival is both a gift of hope and a challenge to worldly powers and priorities. While some respond with fear or indifference, others respond with faith and awe. The story encourages us to examine our own hearts - do we approach Jesus with reverence, curiosity, and obedience, like the wise men, or with hesitation and fear?

Matthew continues, “Then he sent them to Bethlehem and said, ‘Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him’” (Matthew 2:8). Herod’s words reveal human deceit and self-interest, contrasting sharply with the genuine devotion that leads to worship of Christ. Christmas invites us to pursue Jesus with pure hearts, undistracted by selfish motives or worldly agendas. As we reflect on this passage, we are reminded to seek Christ earnestly, respond with humility, and offer our lives in sincere worship, celebrating the miraculous birth of the Savior who brings light and truth to the world.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, help us seek You with pure hearts and respond to
Your coming with sincere worship, reverence, and
devotion this Christmas.



Day 23: Matthew 2:9-12

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was" (Matthew 2:9). The journey of the wise men reminds us that seeking Jesus requires attention, perseverance, and willingness to follow God's guidance, even when the path is uncertain. Christmas calls us to move beyond mere curiosity about Jesus and take intentional steps to encounter Him personally. Just as the star led the wise men to the Savior, God's Spirit and Word guide us today, illuminating the way to worship, obedience, and deeper relationship with Christ.

Matthew continues, "When they saw the child, they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts" (Matthew 2:11). The wise men responded to the Savior with reverence, gratitude, and generous devotion. Christmas reminds us that our response to Jesus should go beyond admiration - it calls for heartfelt worship and offering of our lives, talents, and resources to honor Him. As we reflect on their example, we are encouraged to seek Jesus earnestly, bow in humility, and give generously, celebrating the miraculous birth of our King who brings hope, peace, and salvation to the world.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord, guide us to seek You faithfully, worship You wholeheartedly, and offer our lives generously in response to the gift of Your Son this Christmas.

Day 24:

John 1:14

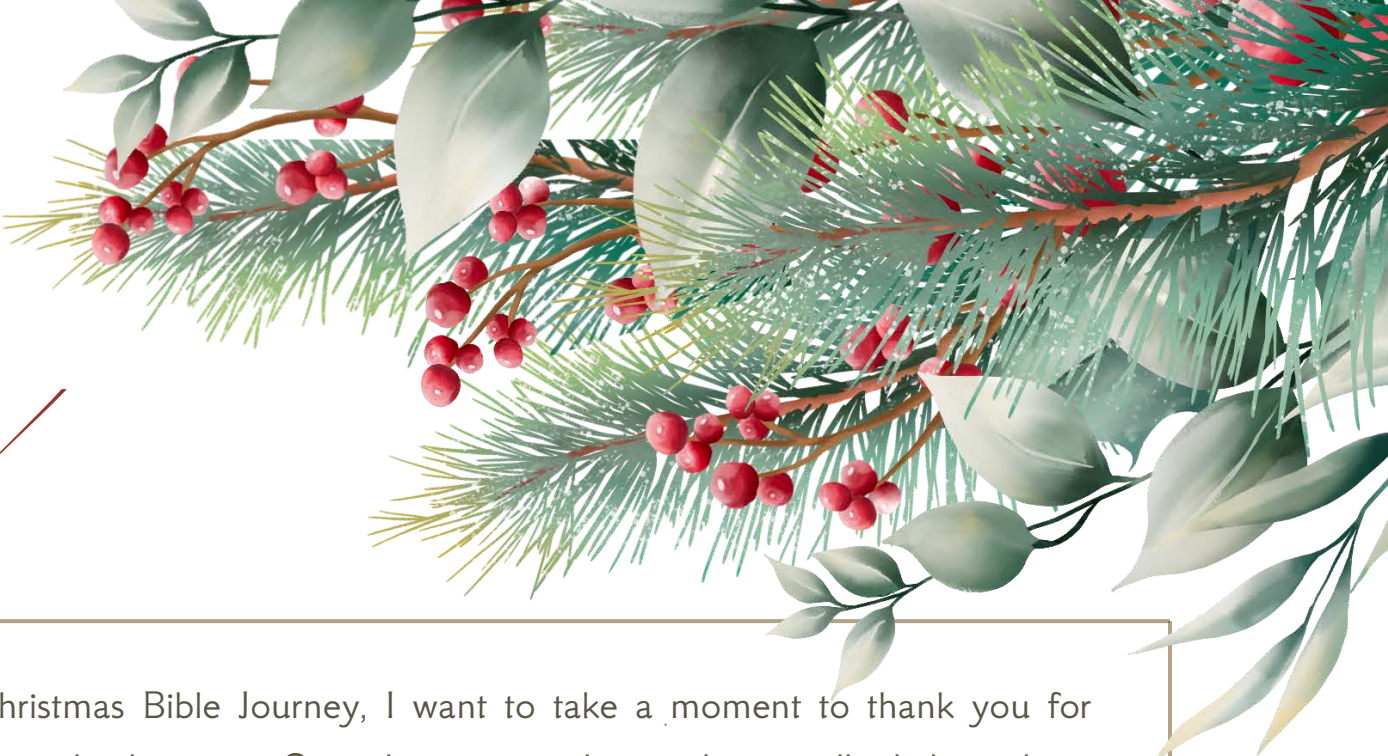
*T*he Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). Christmas is the celebration of God's ultimate act of love: taking on human form and entering our world as Jesus. This miraculous truth reminds us that God did not stay distant in heaven, but came close to meet us in our brokenness, struggles, and joys. The incarnation shows that God values relationship with us so deeply that He became one of us, experiencing life as we do, so that we might know Him personally. In the humble birth of Christ, we see God's glory revealed in love, humility, and compassion.

John continues, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Christmas invites us not only to celebrate Jesus' birth but also to reflect on the fullness of His character - grace that forgives, truth that guides, and glory that transforms. As we contemplate the Word made flesh, we are called to welcome Him into our hearts and lives, allowing His presence to guide our actions, transform our relationships, and deepen our faith. This season reminds us that Emmanuel, God with us, brings hope, peace, and salvation to all who believe.

*Prayer
Point:*

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, help us welcome You into our hearts, embrace Your grace and truth, and reflect Your love and glory in our lives this Christmas.





Thank you!

As we conclude our 24-Day Christmas Bible Journey, I want to take a moment to thank you for joining us on this special spiritual adventure. Over the past weeks, we have walked through Scripture, reflected on the miraculous birth of Jesus, and opened our hearts to the wonder and hope of Emmanuel - God with us. Your dedication to daily reflection, prayer, and meditation has been a beautiful testament to your desire to grow closer to Christ during this season.

Christmas is a time of joy, hope, and celebration, and I pray that this journey has deepened your understanding of God's incredible love, His faithfulness, and the transformative power of His Word.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may the lessons and reflections from these 24 days continue to guide your life, fill your home with peace, and inspire you to share His light with everyone around you.

Thank you for your participation, your faith, and your willingness to walk this journey together. May the joy of Christmas, the love of God, and the presence of Jesus Christ dwell richly in your hearts today and always.



 **HOPE VALLEY**

Thank you!

Thank you for joining us on a journey to Bethlehem. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

