



# AWAKE AWAKE

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR ADVENT 2025





# AWAKE,

glad heart! Get up and sing!

It is the birth-day of thy King.

Awake! Awake!

The Sun doth shake

Light from his locks, and all the way

Breathing perfumes doth spice the day.

Awake! Awake! Hark how th' wood rings;

Winds whisper, and the busy springs

A concert make;

Awake! Awake!

From "Christ's Nativity,"  
Henry Vaughn (1621-1695)

Henry Vaughn's beautiful poem, like all things Christmas, stirs the senses. We see and feel the Sun (a picture of the Son), smell the perfume, hear the sounds of the woods, the wind and the springs. Vaughn continues his poem with thoughts that take flight and then soberly land on the reality of his own sin and need for the Savior who can make him clean and whole.

**Our Posture** As we take a posture of humility and penitence in this Advent season, we recall the longing, the waiting, for that first coming. And as we move toward celebration, we recognize our own longing and waiting for His second coming. Yet, amid our reflection, we are stirred by that call to "Awake!" because we know so many still do not know this Savior or His story. They do not know that they, too, can be a part of this story of stories.

**Our Participation** We must answer the call to awaken and then see that others are also awakened. Around the world, millions of least-reached people need Jesus and His message of forgiveness, redemption and love. There are also many fellow believers who minister to them in circumstances and situations that require strength, stamina and wisdom that only God can give. Our prayers and attention are needed. God has invited us to participate in His mission.

**Our Purpose** God has granted us a great Gift and great joy for this season. And He has given us all our senses to appreciate and savor the season. Such miracles—our sight, hearing, sense of smell, touch and taste! In addition to our physical senses, we also have a spiritual sense—our God-given ability to enjoy Him, to listen, discern, obey, and to care about others. So, we must "awake!" and attune all our senses to His will and way.

Frontier Fellowship partners with communities, churches and programs worldwide to help reach the least-reached with the story of God's love. We pray this small devotional can take you wider, deeper, and farther, serving as a reminder of what God is doing around the world and how you can be, or already are, a part of it.

This devotional focuses on Christmas and our God-given senses. It also features four weekly themes to remind us of the nature of Advent and its story of God with us, Immanuel. As you reflect on invocation, incarnation, indwelling, and the infinite with all your senses, may God richly bless you this holiday season!



WEEK 1

# INVOCATION

Invocation is the act of calling on God for help, blessing, guidance. An Advent invocation is a prayer that prepares our hearts and minds for Christ's coming. It is an invitation asking for His presence. It expresses our hope that He will bring light to our darkness.





# SEE

DAY ONE

***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2***

We call on You, God. Out of the darkness we see Your light shining.

There is that glimmer of light as the first star shines, the first match touches tinder in the fireplace, the first Advent candle is lit. When all else is dark, that first flicker seems to light the sky, the room, our hearts. We await You with renewed hope and can suddenly imagine the curiosity of the wise men who saw the star and the shepherds’ awe as angels filled the skies above them. What a sight to behold! And so many prophecies fulfilled.

The prophecies of Jesus’s birth continue to provide light today. During the Christmas season, a ministry friend in South Asia invites Hindus, Muslims and people from all walks of life to reflect on the birth of Jesus and the prophecies concerning His birth. These stories still captivate those who hear them, especially those who are hearing them for the first time.

Pray that the light of Christ will shine in the darkest corners just as it has throughout history and as it did on that first Christmas. And pray for those, like our friend in South Asia, as they share the Gospel with their least-reached communities in South Asia, home to nearly one quarter of the world’s population. May many see the Light as the Good News reaches wider, deeper and farther.

# TOUCH

DAY TWO

***“For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure.” 2 Corinthians 4:17***

We call on You, God. Reach out and touch us so we might know the weight of Your glory and its ability to overcome our burdens.

Christmas is a time for rejoicing, but for many it can also be a difficult time ... for those who have lost loved ones, for those who are lonely, dealing with illnesses, grief, fears, stress. Our “momentary afflictions” can feel like enormous burdens. We are weighed down by sorrow, by memories, by overwhelming responsibilities. Though not a physical weight, we feel its heavy touch.

The Apostle Paul, however, reminds us that whatever weight we carry now, whatever affliction or sorrow, can help prepare us for the “eternal weight of glory.” “Weight” here refers to value, worth. The value of God’s glory outweighs any trials we might face. And spending eternity with Him comes at the cost of the far greater trials Jesus endured. This story, the reality of Jesus’s birth, life, death and resurrection, gives us cause for great celebration, no matter what burdens we bear.

In the Sahel region of Africa, depending on the circumstances, Christians might need to celebrate Christmas discreetly. Christians, Muslims and Hindus have co-existed here for years. But persecution of Christians is sometimes a reality. It is reported, though, that religious extremism and restrictive government policies are actually causing some people to be more open to considering an alternative to Islam. You can pray for and give to the growing work in the Sahel so that many more might know and feel the weight of God’s glory.



# HEAR

DAY THREE

***“I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 89:1***

We call on You, God. We are remembering the prophecies and petitions of those who awaited the first coming. We are rejoicing in the fulfillment of those prophecies. But we who know Your Son, Immanuel—God with us—now add our cries and petitions on behalf of those who still do not know Him. May they also hear the Good News and come to know the One whose birth we celebrate.

For centuries, the Hebrew people heard the prophecies, the promises. Passed down from generation to generation. Proclaimed to the congregation. Sung and spoken. Written in God’s Holy Word. This is our hope and heritage, as well, as we tell the stories at this season. They are stories of waiting, longing, wonder, and now, prophecy fulfilled. They are songs of His steadfast love. Listen well! Cherish these stories, sing and tell of the wonders of our God. Share the Good News with your neighbors, your friends, your family.

Christmas is a unique time of openness for sharing the Gospel in many frontier regions of Asia. People love an opportunity to celebrate, whatever the occasion. Music offers a way to communicate where spoken words might not be as welcome. Malls play holiday music, including some with the true message of Christmas, and churches organize choirs, concerts and caroling events to minister to their communities. A festive mood prevails, fostering greater openness throughout much of the world.

What Christmas music might best convey the Good News in your context? How can you use Christmas season opportunities to share the Gospel with people in your community? How will they hear?



# SMELL

DAY FOUR

***“Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.” Psalm 141:2***

We call on You, God. May our prayers be a sweet aroma to you.

Throughout Scripture, incense is associated with prayer. As the scent and the smoke rose to the heavens, they created a picture of how God accepts and enjoys our communication with Him. Petition or praise, our prayers and obedience bring Him joy.

Can you think of scents that have special meaning for you at the holiday season? Is there a holiday recipe that reminds you of someone? Your grandma’s pastries, your dad’s turkey dressing, your sibling’s favorite cookies? When the aroma of that holiday treat reaches your nose, you instantly think of them. Use those opportunities to give thanks for the people who have blessed your life and to pray for the special people in your life today.

If you have ever smelled the rich and pungent aromas of Ethiopian spices, you know they are unforgettable! Ethiopian Christians celebrate Christmas with all their senses through music, dance, beautiful attire and special meals. Long-simmering stews and vibrant sauces make family and communal meals memorable.

Although the Ethiopian Church is considered one of the oldest in the world, many Ethiopians still need to hear the Good News. Frontier Fellowship partner Light of Hope Ministries Ethiopia (LOHME) led a multi-year, multi-partner Bible translation effort among the Arsi Oromo people. Millions of Arsi Oromo in Ethiopia and worldwide are now gaining access to Scripture and worship music in their dialect and musical style. LOHME is also active in pastoral training and church planting. Pray for their ministry’s sweet aroma to continue growing and spreading.





# SEE

DAY FIVE

***“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1***

We call on You, God. Help us see you and see each other. Help us hold on to faith and hope even when we cannot see. Help us hold tight to You.

The faith described in Hebrews goes far beyond wishful thinking or vague longings. This faith, because it is God-given, not conjured by human minds, is about “assurance” and “conviction.” This has been part of God’s promise from the beginning. We have seen it, even when we don’t see it.

As we wait through this and every Advent season, we do not wait in vain. We can trace the promises of God and the longings (and failings) of humankind throughout all of Scripture. Prophecies foretold, promises fulfilled. Our longings are met in the coming of Immanuel, God with us. Our failings are no longer our fate; our sin no longer our sentence. God sees us through the redemptive work of His Son.

Frontier Fellowship partner New Life South Asia (NLSA) is a grassroots church-planting movement that shares this Good News. With a vision for holistic community development and transformation, NLSA’s team is planting thousands of house churches in villages, towns and cities throughout the region. As part of their annual Christmas Outreach event, they are sending out church planters in pairs to share the Gospel. When people hear and respond to the Gospel, they are encouraged to tell their friends and families the Good News. Even with just a few simple stories, new Christians are making disciples.

If you’ve ever felt unqualified to share the Good News, step out in faith, with assurance and conviction, and see what God can do!

# TASTE

DAY SIX

***“Call me no longer Naomi [Sweetness], call me Mara [Bitter]....” Ruth 1:20***

We call on you, God! Help us set our own expectations aside and remember your plans are so much better.

Have you ever bitten into an orange expecting that sweet, juicy sensation, only to be disappointed by a bland or bitter fruit? Many of our disappointments are much more profound, requiring us to resist bitter hearts, not just a bitter taste.

Naomi was blunt about her disappointment and had given in to bitterness. She returned to her hometown of Bethlehem a grieving widow who had also lost both sons. But as her also-widowed daughter-in-law Ruth’s story unfolded, Naomi cast aside her bitterness and embraced God’s blessing on their family. We have the privilege of knowing much more of the story, as the promises and prophecies are fulfilled in the lineage of Ruth and Boaz, leading to King David and ultimately to King Jesus. God had a wonderful plan!

Women around the world need the encouragement found in the story of Ruth and Naomi and in God’s provision. Frontier Fellowship’s two Women’s Shelter partners (Mountain and City) faithfully care for vulnerable Central Asian women and children. Pray for Shelter workers and those to whom they minister, especially at this time of year. Pray that these at-risk women and children will find peace, comfort, and hope in the sweetness of God’s promises.

Across the world, we see wars, strife and unrest. In despair and disappointment, we cry, “How long, O Lord?” We are tempted to allow bitterness to rob us of the joys of the Christmas season. And we are prone to guilt when we do celebrate. But God lifts us up and points us to great joy. Savor the sweetness of His promises.



# HEAR

DAY SEVEN

***"Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard." Psalm 66:8***

We call on You, God. Just as Israel longed for the Savior's first coming, we long for His return.

Hear us, O God. We celebrate now with music that recalls that first coming. We find joy in the song of Mary, and also with musicians throughout the ages who have beautifully expressed Gospel longing, fulfillment, hope and rejoicing. Our spirits are lifted by lyrics that share the Good News and by the sounds of horns, harps, piano and cello. We find encouragement in Handel's *Messiah* and in a kindergarten's rendition of "Away in a Manger." It is hard to imagine the Advent season without music.

Listen, and you will hear the music of Christmas around the world. It is common to almost all of the Church, though varied in expression and performance. Missionaries who first shared the Gospel in some of the Sahel region taught the people songs, some translated into local dialects. Some groups still have only portions of Scripture translated into their language; even so, having heard that God's people are to "sing a new song," believers in the Sahel are now writing Christmas songs in their language and style.

In South Asia, the NOOR Network shares how people are incorporating folk dances and carols into their worship and celebrations during Christmas. Whole communities gather in festive, joyful fellowship. Such events provide excellent opportunities for sharing Good News.

Through Frontier Fellowship's partnerships, Christians in the US and on the frontier are making the most of the God-given opportunities to share the Gospel so many more can "sing a new song." Your prayers and gifts are greatly appreciated.





WEEK 2

# INCARNATION

Fully God, fully human—the incarnation is a mystery, a wonder, a gift beyond all gifts.

“He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

**Augustine of Hippo**







# SEE

DAY EIGHT

***“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. 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 (NIV)***

He was born to die so we could have life.

Born of the virgin Mary, Jesus came so He could die for us. Born of the Father, Jesus came so we could have life with Him. Nineteenth-century preacher Charles Spurgeon said, “When God stoops down to man, it must mean that man is to be lifted up to God. What joy there is in this!”

Joy indeed. We see it in the prophets foretelling, the angels forthtelling, the shepherds retelling. The shepherds saw it for themselves—angels filling the night sky and the newborn baby in the manger in Bethlehem. The glory and the joy. There is such a contrast between the bright light and bold pronouncement in the heavens and the gentle scene and hushed tones surrounding the newborn child in the shadows. His glory, full of grace and truth, is like that. It is as bright as the sun and as soft as candlelight, seen in miracles and in small deeds of kindness. It is part of the wonder of incarnation, God made man, come to earth. Casting aside the glories of heaven ... for His Father, for us.

God established the Church to bring Him glory and to reflect His grace, truth and love through our attitudes and behaviors. Frontier Fellowship is working with partners worldwide to reach the least-reached with God’s Good News. Church partners are reflecting God’s glory through their prayers, giving and going. And we are witnessing what God is doing!

# TOUCH

DAY NINE

***“... Being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” Philippians 2:7-8***

He was born for sacrifice.

For many of us, Christmas is a time for extra hugs, embracing lesser-seen loved ones, snuggling around a fire, maybe even dancing around the room holding hands with an excited toddler. We cherish the close connections, the loving touches.

The infant Jesus experienced his mother’s gentle embrace, and as a boy, he likely felt the touch of Joseph’s rough hands, guiding him gently and patiently in learning the carpenter’s trade. But from birth, he also experienced hunger, weariness, temptation and other feelings that are common to humankind. And then at the cross, Jesus experienced not only intense physical pain, but also the pain of separation from the Father. The relationship within the Trinity is a mystery to us. Still, we can picture what it is like to be separated from our immediate family, or unable to touch and hold our child. It gives us just a small sense of what was sacrificed for us.

Many around the world know more of life’s pains than its joys. Frontier Fellowship ministers alongside partners worldwide to help alleviate suffering, provide physical, emotional and spiritual support, and share the Good News of God who became man. Pray for Frontier Fellowship partner Kasr El Dobara Evangelical Church (KDEC) in Cairo. KDEC is in its second year of sponsoring a center for refugee women in another Middle Eastern nation. Pray that this will be a place of peace and hope for many. The women are taught vocational skills to become self-sustaining and are introduced to the One who sacrificed all and who sustains us all.



# SMELL

DAY TEN

***“They will be a burnt offering to the LORD, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD.” Leviticus 23:18b NIV***

He was born to humble circumstances.

Influenced by versions of the Christmas story we have heard from childhood, we might hold our noses regarding the smells of stables, shepherds, and animals. They seem like overpowering odors for both mother and child, particularly a child accustomed to the courts of heaven, not rural Israel!

But think again. The room where the Savior was born was more likely a part of a relative's home, not a remote stable. And the manger would have been clean and cushioned, much as we might prepare that makeshift dresser drawer bed for our little one when traveling. Perhaps the dominant scents were those of a rich stew and clean linen.

The sacrifices of God's people, made in obedience, also have an aroma that is “pleasing to the Lord.” God welcomed the Israelites' incense, made from earthy oils and herbs, as well as the burnt sacrifices and grain offerings. He welcomed the gifts of the Magi and Mary's costly gift of anointing oil.

God welcomes our gifts, too, and is also pleased by our generosity to others. In Bangladesh, Christians must exercise caution in their celebrations, but their generosity still prevails as they distribute blankets to those in need. Bangladesh is home to more than 170 million people and is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Frontier Fellowship's Bangladesh Initiative is exploring partnerships with trusted indigenous ministries and strategic projects that will enable people groups in Bangladesh to access the Gospel.



# TOUCH

DAY ELEVEN

***“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:12 NIV***

He was born to be fully human.

“Can I hold him?” is the cautious yet eager question asked when a new baby arrives. And for some reason, nothing stirs the heart more than seeing a big brother or sister, barely out of the toddler years themselves, carefully cradling their new sibling. Nothing stirs us more, except maybe seeing a first-time dad awkwardly hold that tiny bundle in his large hands. Or a great-grandmother rocking her tiny namesake. Touch is so crucial for bonding and comfort that pediatricians recommend that parents do “skin-on-skin” cuddling with their little one in those early days.

Surrounded by family in Bethlehem, it is likely that many had the opportunity to hold the infant Jesus. Imagine holding the Creator of the Universe! We know He was loved and well cared for in those early days. The swaddling cloths and manger were examples that his parents had considered his well-being, health and comfort.

Many children don't have the opportunity to experience a loving, caring family. Central Asian Youth Outreach (CAYO) is developing ministry leadership teams and sharing the Gospel with teens and young adults throughout Central Asia. Teams reach out to young people through sports programs, camps, discipleship programs and care for at-risk youth. Through collaboration with local churches, CAYO equips new leaders and creates opportunities for leaders to meet periodically for training and support to strengthen their ministries. Pray for the leaders of CAYO and the many least-reached young people. May they be encouraged and instilled with hope and the knowledge of God's love.





# HEAR

DAY TWELVE

***“And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”***

***Luke 2:18–19***

He was born to change everything.

Christmas can be a noisy season. We love the music, excited children’s voices, and sometimes even the crowded stores full of last-minute shoppers. But there is also the “noise” of a too-full schedule and the demands and distractions that often come with the joys of the holidays. We need time to stop, be quiet, listen and reflect.

After the wonderful noise of enthusiastic, awestruck shepherds, Mary tucked away their stories and took time to “ponder them in her heart.” Perhaps she reviewed them as she quietly nursed the baby while family chatted in the other room. She probably had many questions, but based on her reaction to the angel who had appeared to her and her actions that followed, she was apparently ready to obey and to accept whatever God decreed.

Mary’s pondering is a good reminder for us to listen. Whatever the distractions, take time to listen to God. Listen again to that great sermon your pastor just preached or that you heard online. Take time to ponder and truly reflect on what God has done and is doing. Take time to be quiet, to be grateful, to hear from God.

Secular Christmas celebrations are often elaborate and very popular in many major South Asian cities. Amid the noise, it can be the one time each year when Christ-followers can more openly share the Gospel, meet with neighbors, and give them resources that will help lead them to the God who hears us, knows us and desires to save us. Pray that these opportunities may be many.



# SEE

DAY THIRTEEN

***“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” Luke 2:30–32***

He was born to save.

God allowed Simeon to be in the right place at the right time to witness Immanuel, God with us. To see that baby, the eternal God in human form, and to know He had come to be our salvation—what an incredible gift! We, too, have the privilege of receiving that gift, though we have not seen Jesus as a baby or in any stage of human form. But we know that “light of revelation” and know His love.

So many Christmas memories are associated with light. The light of the Advent candles. Glowing Christmas trees in living room windows. Cities and shopping centers festooned with strings of lights. A cozy fireplace casting shadows as the flames flicker. During the rest of this Advent season, take a moment each day, whether on your own or in the midst of family and friends, to enjoy the light and to give thanks for the Light of the World who came to reveal God’s love and glory.

As you think about light, pray for Light of the Islands (LOTI), an Indonesian partner training field workers to share the Light of the World with least-reached Indonesians on many of the nation’s more than 900 inhabited islands. LOTI is one of the primary indigenous church-planting networks sharing the Good News of God’s Kingdom with Indonesians who have not heard of the One who saves.



# TASTE

DAY FOURTEEN

***“He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1:53***

He was born to satisfy.

This week, take time to read Mary’s song in Luke 1. These are the words of a young woman who was both obedient and well-educated in the things of God. Rather than dwelling on what people might think of her situation or worrying over her own future, she put it all in the perspective of God’s might and mercy through the ages. Mary had tasted the good things of God.

We, too, are fed by God’s might and mercy, from the food on our tables to the spiritual food for our minds and hearts. But Mary’s song also reflects what happens to the proud, the mighty, and the rich who do not turn to him. Sometimes it is hard to see this in our world, as it certainly would have been in Mary’s. But, like Mary, we have every reason to magnify and worship God, knowing his mercy will prevail.

Sharing food is a Christmas tradition in many parts of the world; it is also an invitation to be fed by Christ. That invitation can also be extended to those who don’t know Christ or have Christmas traditions. Food is a good starting point for relationships.

Frontier Fellowship partners in Egypt share gift baskets with impoverished members of their community. These include food, daily necessities and sometimes Bibles or audio recordings of the Gospel. Coptic Christians fast during the 40 days before Christmas, eating only vegetables and oils, then gather together on the 6th of January (Orthodox Christmas Eve) to worship, celebrate and eat together. How can you be an instrument of God’s desire to satisfy? What good things can you share?



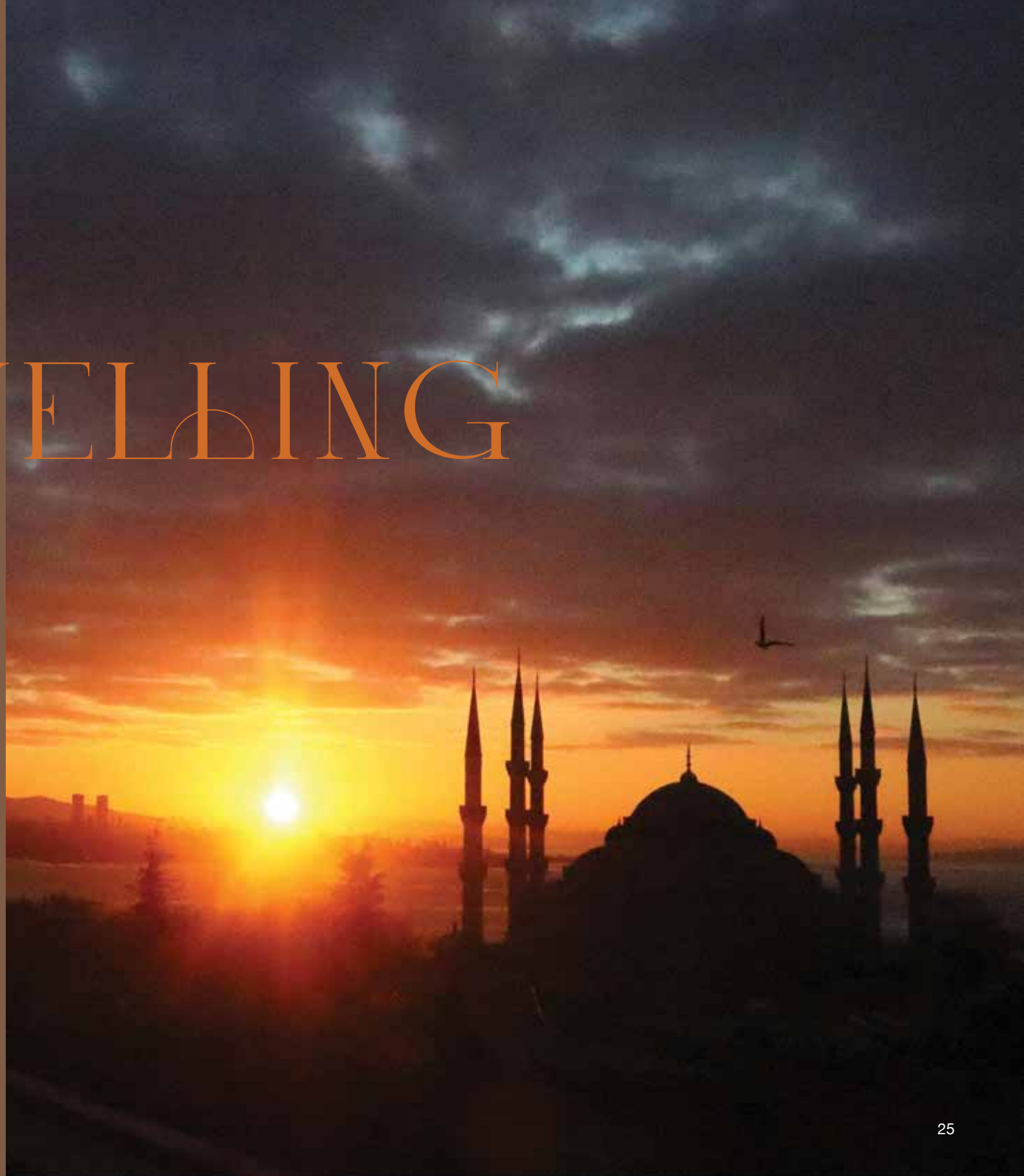


## WEEK 3

# INDWELLING

“Christ’s indwelling presence has freed us from exclusive orientation toward ourselves and opened us up in two directions: toward God, to receive the good things in faith, and toward our neighbor, to pass them on in love.”

**Miroslav Volf**





# TOUCH

DAY FIFTEEN

***“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

***1 Corinthians 15:56-57***

God’s covenant of grace means the victory is won and grace abounds—all the more reason to celebrate! We are no longer bound by sin or the law. Life’s circumstances do not always make our freedom apparent, and at times, neither does our own behavior, but such circumstances and behaviors do make clear our need for a Savior. We need his touch, forgiveness and embrace, love and peace.

The peace once hoped for in Sudan and South Sudan has not been realized. Turmoil and fighting continue, but two of Frontier Fellowship’s partners are among those seeking to bring the hope of Christ to the people of the Sudans.

Christ-followers working with Darfur Outreach are making God’s love evident to those longing for hope, peace, and a more stable future in Darfur—a region of western Sudan that has experienced much turmoil. This ministry encompasses two Bible schools providing education and leadership development programs that help train and equip women and men to share the Good News of Jesus among Sudan’s least-reached people groups.

The Sudanese / South Sudanese Refugee Ministry is meeting the needs of refugees fleeing famine and crisis who need care, shelter, supplies and love. New pastors are trained and sent out to refugee camps, and the Gospel is going with them—often into places previously unreached.

Pray for Sudanese believers who have found victory in Jesus. Pray for their well-being and ministry as they train and care for others. May the people of Sudan and South Sudan feel the touch of God’s love and know peace through Him.



# SEE

DAY SIXTEEN

***“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” James 1:17***

Whether we are anticipating giving or receiving, we become like children again, eager and joyful, when we see the colorful array of Christmas gifts under the tree. Bright wrappings and shiny ribbons attract our attention, no matter our age. But, unlike children, we also know most gifts bring only temporary satisfaction; few will last a lifetime or bring long-term joy. The children will outgrow the clothes and toys, the grandparents will wear out the slippers, mom will again need new tea towels, and dad will realize he needs a totally different tool.

Only God’s gifts are lasting and perfect. Only He knows and provides what we truly need now and for the future. The ultimate gift of His Son demonstrates His care, concern, unending generosity and grace.

We live in an uncertain and changing world. While many live in stability, all around the world refugees are struggling for survival.

Frontier Fellowship partners with several ministries serving refugees. Students are obtaining secondary school degrees through the Afghan Refugee Academy in South Asia, and Afghan refugee families are finding stability amidst tumultuous times. In refugee camps in South Asia, the Empowering Rohingya Women project helps at-risk women and girls from this marginalized people group. Through this project, they obtain much-needed care and supplies and hear the Good News. Pray that refugees and displaced peoples worldwide will find their home in Christ and know His love. And pray for those who minister to them, for their safety and for the right words to communicate about the gifts offered by our loving, unchanging God.





# TASTE

DAY SEVENTEEN

***“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” Psalm 119:103***

Even if we have heard the Christmas story a hundred times, hearing it again is still a thrill. Imagine hearing it for the first time! Or hearing it in a context that finally helps you relate the story to your reality. Or hearing it in your language for the first time instead of in another language that just doesn’t connect as well in your mind and heart.

Indopartners, one of Frontier Fellowship’s partners in Indonesia, has created hundreds of digital resources to build up the existing Indonesian church and equip them for ministry in this fourth-most-populous country in the world. The Christmas season offers special opportunities to reach even more people with the Good News.

Indopartners shares digital Gospel resources and writes Christmas stories from various perspectives. Some are based on celebrating the birth of Christ and make the connection between Jesus, the Light of the world, and the festive holiday lights common across the country at this time of year. Other stories use Mary’s perspective, connecting the Christmas story to the Indonesian celebration of mothers on December 22. They tell stories emphasizing Jesus as a special gift from God.

Pray for Indopartner workers and the churches that use their resources. Pray that many readers and listeners will respond and ask questions, curious to know more. And that many will choose to follow Jesus as they taste the sweetness of God’s Word.

Frontier Fellowship also has partners involved in Bible translation among least-reached people who still need God’s Word in their language. Pray that these projects will have a significant impact.



# HEAR

DAY EIGHTEEN

***“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.” Song of Solomon 2:10-13***

You might be in the midst of winter and enjoying its exceptional beauty or bemoaning cold winds and snow-covered sidewalks. Whatever your relationship with winter, we commonly look forward to spring. The Song of Solomon creates a beautiful picture of winter ending, flowers blooming, and a time of singing begun.

The symbolism and stereotypes of winter include dark days and even darker long nights fraught with fears and fading hopes. For many, it can be a difficult season. Some people even need special lighting to improve their mood and health in the winter. A boost from the Holy Spirit is needed to keep spirits raised! Thoughts of flowers blooming and voices raised in song also help keep hope alive.

Jesus, Light of the world, is bringing hope to many who live in a state of “winter.” Although Christmas is a widely-celebrated secular festival in some areas of the Middle East, Christians can still be in great danger. Christmas services are streamed and distributed in various ways so that the underground Church can participate with believers from their nation and language community who are dispersed across the globe, and so they can also participate with the Church worldwide. Jesus has already come to announce that “winter” is past. Believers everywhere can celebrate and join in the time of singing, whatever their immediate circumstances.

As you celebrate this year, take time to appreciate how the indwelling Spirit renews and restores us each day and pray for those who live in a “winter” context, still cut off from worshipping together.



# SMELL

DAY NINETEEN

***“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”***

**2 Corinthians 2:14-15**

No matter the time of year, the scent of cinnamon or sugar cookies might bring Christmas to mind. Or perhaps you have a different set of Christmas scent memories. Whatever our background, many of our favorite Christmas traditions are probably linked to aromas—and most of those aromas relate to food—although, the scent of pine trees, a fire in the fireplace, or candles (that usually smell like food!) might also stir up holiday memories.

Almost anywhere Christmas is celebrated, there is a trail of delicious aromas. But we might not think of the scent that comes from believers sharing the “aroma of Christ.” Some of those are food-related as well! In Egypt, believers share gift baskets of food with those in need, and Christian households make special cakes covered in sugar to share with neighbors, who then return the plates refilled with treats. In South Asia, Christians have a tradition of purchasing fresh-baked bun cakes (a lot of them!) and distributing them to their neighbors. In the Sahel, the odors of roasting ram or goat and a special rice dish are a part of the celebration.

But it is not just the food that carries the aroma. Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians says Christ-followers are the “aroma of Christ,” spreading His fragrance everywhere we go. We attract others to Jesus as we reflect Him in our attitudes, actions and expressions of love. How are you conveying His aroma today?



# TOUCH

DAY TWENTY

***“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7***

Think of the gifts God gives! Take time this week to appreciate the natural beauty around you—trees, birds, hills, fresh snow, a warm patch of sunshine. These are gifts from God. Take time to appreciate your family and friends. These, too, are gifts from God. But the gift of God Himself shines above them all—the Father who sent the Son, the Father and Son who sent the Spirit. Because we have received this gift, we can continue to grow and flourish, rooted in Him.

On the frontiers of faith, Frontier Fellowship partners help people from least-reached communities become rooted in the faith and assist others to receive training needed to share the Good News and see people grow in faith.

Tavriski Christian Institute’s (TCI) Impact program is strengthening the work of the Church in Central Asia, where there is a critical shortage of trained leaders. TCI is developing theologically grounded, spiritually mature Christian leaders equipped to pioneer new ministry pathways, train other leaders and share the Good News among least-reached peoples.

Synod of the Nile’s Pastoral, Outreach and Missions Council (POMC) helps train, equip and send Egyptian followers of Jesus to share the Good News with least-reached Arabic-speaking communities throughout the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

The relationships built through these training programs and the knowledge instilled prepare many to touch the lives of the least-reached, so they too can abound in thanksgiving and be rooted in Christ.





# HEAR

DAY TWENTY-ONE

***“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ (which means ‘God with us’).” Matthew 1:23 NIV***

God with us. Such a remarkable, miraculous phrase and title. As we move closer to Christmas, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the meaning of God being with us. We can reflect on the years of waiting, the prophecies and promises. We can, once again, enjoy the story of His birth. We can learn from his life and his example during his time on earth. And we can be stirred to new depths as we consider his crucifixion, suffering, sacrifice and joyous resurrection. And though He returned to the Father, God is still with us. The Spirit indwells those whom Christ has redeemed. What a huge story and message of hope to share with the world!

Many around the world struggle with fear, live under tension, and see violence every day. Whether they suffer physically, mentally, or emotionally, the message of “God with us” can still bring peace, healing, strength, and hope.

There is a deep need for well-trained, effective servant-leaders to help shepherd and disciple the Persian-speaking church, which is both growing at an immense rate and facing extreme persecution. Led by an interdenominational team of pastors, Bible teachers, theologians and counselors, Pars Theological Centre exists to train, resource, empower and mobilize such servant-leaders for the Persian-speaking world.

Iranian followers of Jesus are being shaped through Pars’s dedication to whole-person transformation. Through trauma counseling, mentorship and theological education, Pars Theological Centre is committed to seeing the Church thrive throughout the Persian-speaking world.

There is no greater news than “God with us.” So whatever else you hear, be encouraged and encourage others. And best of all, share this Good News!





## WEEK 4


# INFINITE

“God’s grace is not infinite. God is infinite, and God is gracious. We experience the grace of an infinite God, but grace is not infinite. God sets limits to His patience and forbearance. He warns us over and over again that someday the ax will fall and His judgment will be poured out.”

### RC Sproul

In these last days of Advent, we want to celebrate, but we also need to be sober in our understanding of the great need for sharing the Gospel, so that it can indeed be Good News to many more of the least-reached.





# SEE

DAY TWENTY-TWO

***“Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’” Isaiah 40:9 ESV***

Behold your God! Where do you see Him? In the mountains, the cities, your local downtown, your church, your home, your life? Evidence of God is everywhere. We see it in small things, like the delicate veins of a leaf or a baby’s smile. We see it in large things, like majestic mountains and the waves of the sea. The prophet Isaiah saw it in the future—God made known; God made man. Behold your God! We celebrate the incarnation Isaiah foretold and look forward to the infinite: Christ come and coming and eternal life with Him. What good news!

In South Asia, Frontier Fellowship partner NOOR goes all-out to bring good tidings at this season, helping the least-reached see and know God. NOOR workers go door-to-door sharing indigenous Christmas carols, bringing communities together and making the most of opportunities to share the Good News. NOOR also distributes about 10,000 Bibles and Gospel resources during the Christmas season, often positioning themselves near large Christmas displays and in areas where people are already gathering.

While we might not see God with our eyes, we see His handiwork in the natural world, and we see Him at work among and through his people. Where are you making God known? What opportunities are yours this Christmas season? Make the most of them and consider how you can go wider, deeper and farther to reach the least-reached in your community and beyond. How are people seeing God in your life?

# TOUCH

DAY TWENTY-THREE

***“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39***

Christmas is often a time for reunions with family and friends. What a joy to be within hugging distance, rather than just on a computer or phone screen. We are grateful for all the means of staying in touch in today’s high-tech world. But nothing is the same as in-person. We don’t take these moments for granted.

On the frontier among the least-reached, many people are separated from loved ones, families and their own homes. It is the reality of their lives amidst war, civil unrest or natural disasters. God’s Word offers a message of hope to all in distress—because of Jesus, when we are in Him, nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Frontier Fellowship fosters relationships with eleven missional partners across the Middle East, many serving refugee communities or training local leaders to reach displaced and often least-reached people. Churches in the US are partnering with these organizations through prayer, giving and even visiting and learning more while encouraging those who serve in these challenging situations. One Egyptian worker shared, “God is opening many doors, but we cannot do it alone. We need your encouragement and support; we need you to be with us.”

Frontier ministry is a ministry for the whole Church. We live in an amazing time, when God’s people across the globe can be connected and share this great Good News of God’s desire to redeem and restore.





# TASTE

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

***“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.” Psalm 34:8 ESV***

Once again, we are called to “taste and see.” Perhaps as you have done holiday grocery shopping, you’ve been to stores that offer samples. Usually, the attendant seeks to entice you with a new product or recipe using several of the store’s products. Some people just keep walking, perhaps so focused on their list that they don’t even notice. Some avoid the booth altogether, possibly fearing a sales pitch. Others eagerly approach, with no intention of purchasing the promoted products but every intention of getting a snack that might or might not tide them over until lunch. And then there are the truly curious, the ones who want to try that new product or recipe. If they like it, they look for where they can buy it. Smart stores keep a special shelf handy to the display.

Taste makes all the difference. “Tasting” and discovering that the Lord is good will lead to greater and deeper discovery of all He offers. Here in the Psalm, it is much-needed refuge. In other passages, God’s love, peace, hope and joy are the appeal. But it all springs from His saving grace.

As the old hymn says, “What a foretaste of glory divine!” As we move close to the celebration of Christmas, let’s not forget our Advent posture of anticipation and waiting in prayer because there are still thousands of least-reached people who have never had a taste, who have never heard the story of our great God’s redeeming love through His Son. Pray today that many will come to know him.



# HEAR

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

***“Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40:4-5***

This passage was written to an exiled people for their encouragement. It describes obstacles being removed and represents the spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. It tells us of God’s glory being revealed to everyone. There are many things to see in this passage, but read to the end of verse 5. Why are all these things happening? Isaiah says it is because “the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” His words have power! This beautiful passage tells of God’s sovereignty, power and authority.

Much was revealed in Jesus’s first coming, but it is at His second coming when all will see His glory revealed. Isaiah reminds us that this is for our redemption and God’s glory. He wants the whole world to see His glory. We long for that day and work and pray for His glory to be made known everywhere.

Isaiah was calling the people to repentance but also reminding them that restoration was God’s doing, God’s gift. And He would do it. God spoke comfort and hope to the remnants of Israel and Judah in exile, to those awaiting the Messiah, and to all of us awaiting His return.

Pray for the least-reached. We know God is faithful. On this Christmas Eve, praise him for all He has done and for all He will do in the future. Listen... listen to His Word: “For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.” And share it ... to make His glory known!





# ALL SENSES

DAY TWENTY-SIX

***“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18***

We are being transformed! Whatever our circumstances or context, if we are Christ-followers, we are being transformed to be more like Christ. That means all of our senses are redeemed and our spiritual sense heightened. During this Advent season, we have focused on our physical senses and their connections to Christmas traditions, family, and appreciation for all of God’s good gifts ... particularly the gift of His Son. But we also have a spiritual sense, a sensitivity toward God and His mission to redeem and restore, a sensitivity toward the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and a sensitivity toward Jesus and all He has done and is doing so that we might be transformed.

Paul speaks of having an unveiled face. Christ’s death and resurrection made it possible for us to enter God’s presence through His sacrifice, through Him. This is our amazing Christmas gift, and it continues into eternity.

Augustine of Hippo comments on this passage, “It is not the Old Testament that is done away with in Christ but the concealing veil, so that it may be understood through Christ.” As we consider all those least-reached who still need to hear the Gospel, we long for the day when many of them also behold the glory of the Lord. All our senses reinforce this desire and our hope in Him. We pray for that day, work for that day, and celebrate this Christmas Day, which gives us the opportunity to once again celebrate and share the Good News!



# “AWAKE! AWAKE!”

Henry Vaughn engages our senses in his Christmas poem and calls us to take notice.

And he takes notice of his own sinful state:

“I would I had in my best part  
Fit rooms for thee! Or that my heart  
Were so clean as  
Thy manger was!

But I am all filth and obscene;  
Yet if thou wilt, thou canst make clean.”

Like the poet, we, too, are unworthy.  
But because of Immanuel, we can be redeemed.  
And we can pray, work and live so that others  
can join us in the celebration!  
Awake! Awake!

## DEEPEN YOUR EXPERIENCE

### PRAY

Pray together for the frontier using these resources.  
[frontierfellowship.com/pray](https://frontierfellowship.com/pray)

### ENGAGE

Engage the world's least-reached peoples through resources for you + your church.  
[frontierfellowship.com/tools](https://frontierfellowship.com/tools)

### EMBARK

Embark on a vision trip with Frontier Fellowship.  
View open opportunities + learn more at  
[frontierfellowship.com/go](https://frontierfellowship.com/go)

### JOIN

Join our global partners as they carry the hope of Jesus to their communities this Christmas.  
[frontierfellowship.com/christmas](https://frontierfellowship.com/christmas)

### SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to our mailing list to hear more stories of God at work through our partners.  
[frontierfellowship.com/subscribe](https://frontierfellowship.com/subscribe)

All Scripture is from the NRSV unless otherwise noted.



Frontier Fellowship invites believing communities to engage people groups where the Good News of Jesus and His Kingdom is not yet known.





**FOR EVERY PEOPLE,** AN INDIGENOUS CHURCH  
**FOR EVERY CHURCH,** A MISSION VISION



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