

MONDAY 12.22.25 - Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[d] (which means "God with us"). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

When I say, "Are you a man or woman of God?" what comes to mind? What makes a person a man or woman of God? I think that Joseph gives a simple yet profound answer to this question. I think it all boils down to three things. First, listen to God. Then believe God. Finally, obey God. That is exactly what Joseph did. There was no precedent set that would guide Joseph's decision. What God was asking made no sense from a human perspective. The world would see his decision as foolish. Yet, Joseph listened to God, he believed God and he obeyed God. How about you? Are you willing to listen to God, believe what He is saying, and be obedient to what He is asking? Even if you don't understand. Even if it doesn't seem to make sense. Even if the world sees you as foolish. If so, I would venture to say that you, like Joseph, are a man or woman of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 12.23.25 - Hebrews 10:5-7

Hebrews 10 contains a quotation from Psalm 40—which is a Messianic Psalm. A Messianic Psalm is a psalm which predicts something of the person or work of the coming Messiah. Hebrews 10:5-7 are the words of Jesus.

It's His perspective on His First Coming. It's the Story of Christmas according to Jesus, and it informs us that Jesus came to earth as a man to pay for our sins. As C. S. Lewis writes, "The Son of God became man to enable men to become the sons of God."

This week you'll be celebrating Christmas and exchanging gifts with others. God offers the gift of eternal life to you, but you must accept this gift. The way you do that is by putting your trust in Jesus. If you've never done that before, receive God's free gift today! Place your trust completely in Christ alone for eternal life.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 12.24.25 - Ephesians 2:19-22

In the New Testament, the "household" refers to all those living under the same roof. It often includes more than the "nuclear family." It might include parents, children, grandparents, grown sons with their own wives and children, and aunts and uncles. In other words, it includes the "extended family." This is a great picture of the new family of God. It is united under one Father through the person of Jesus Christ and held together by the bond of the Holy Spirit.

Most families deal with some level of dysfunction, but the church family should strive to live together as loving brothers and sisters in Christ, regardless of the differences in our racial, social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. This kind of community life brings benefits to everyone. It provides us with a caring network of support, and it gives us a place for mutual accountability and spiritual growth.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 12.25.25 - Luke 2:8-12

Merry Christmas! May you have a joyfilled celebration of Christ's birth today!

Jesus came into this world as a baby born in Bethlehem. However, He didn't remain a child. He grew to manhood, and He voluntarily gave His life as a sacrifice for your sins. Jesus died so that you could have eternal life—so that you could gain entrance into heaven. Today you will exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends. You know that a gift must be received willingly. You can't force it on a person. In the same way, you willingly must receive the gift that God is offering to you, and you receive that gift by faith. Have you done that? Have you accepted God's free gift of sins forgiven and eternal life? If not, why not do that right now? Place your trust in God's Son who came to earth and paid the penalty for your sins on the cross.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 12.26.25 - Psalm 133

Our day is surely a day of disunity-division, sectarianism, and partisanship. Can our culture absorb any more brokenness? Remember when you were young, and the day had gone badly, and dad came home? He brought wellness with him, right followed him around. Or how your heart swells when our flag flies on a hilltop in the breeze. That is the fullness of watching a quarrelling couple make-up, or of embattled friends 'burying the hatchet'. More broadly, when revival comes to a church, a community, or to a nation. The oneness, the unity, is full and rich and deep.

This unity comes most sincerely from our God, whose spirit works in hearts to rekindle what was lost and dead and build fresh and new. This rekindling, this regeneration, is only of God and is better than anything man can create. The fruit of this regeneration within us is unity. "Oh how pleasant..."

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **WINTER QUARTER** – Sunday Mornings at 9:40
LOCATION: B8-10 – Gene Steinruck- began Dec. 7th.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE:
Matthew 1-13
For Christ followers, we have no greater example than what we see in the life of Jesus.
LOCATION: B11 – Dave Delcamp – began Dec. 7th.
BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE:
Limited Resources, Limitless God
God never intended for us to stand alone but to rely on Him. God is more than enough to help us live life to the fullest.
LOCATION: Rm 2 – Elizabeth Williams, Denise Whitefield, & Ali Farwell. Begins Jan. 4th – 9:40 am.
THE WAY OF WISDOM – Ladies Study of Proverbs.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

LADIES THURSDAY MORNING STUDY - HEAVEN,
When Faith Becomes Sight - begins Jan. 8th at 9am - Rm 2.
Led by: Brenda Peters, Brenda Ross, & Chris Knepley.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS - begins January 7th Meal starts at 6pm, Bible Study begins at 7pm. Bring your place setting for the meal. Sign up at the Information Table or Connect Card.
Studies Offered:
Everyday Revolutionary by J.D.Greear - Book of Daniel
Tame Your Thoughts by Max Lucado - Thought Management

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 1:1-14 **What If God Was One of Us?**

The Incarnation demonstrates ...

1. God's _____ To _____ Himself To _____
(1:1)

This is one of the great truths that sets Christianity apart from all other religions. Our God has not remained remote and unapproachable. He has come to us in person. The Infinite became an infant. The Eternal One became a little one—a tiny baby.

Do you want to know what God is like? Open the pages of the gospels and look at Jesus. Do you want to know what God says? Listen to the words of Jesus. Do you want to know how God acts? Notice what Jesus did.

2. God's _____ To _____ For Your _____
(1:14)

God not only became a man, but He also lived among man. He lived a sinless life among sinful men for over 30 years. However, He didn't do this simply to leave us with a moral example to follow. He was born to die. He came to give His life as a sacrifice for your sins.

3. God's _____ To _____ You His _____
(1:12)

God has a gift for you this morning—the gift of eternal life. Like any gift that is offered to you, you must receive it. So, the question is this: "Have you received God's free gift of eternal life?" If not, why don't you do so right now? Trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Place your faith in Him to forgive your sins, and He will give you the gift of eternal life.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ~ John 1:12

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



December 22 – December 26

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from, December 21st, "What If God Was One of Us?", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on December 28th, "From Alienation To Unification." with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever
Hebrews 13:8