



# SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

christmas at christ lincoln

# SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

*the journey*



## SIMPLY FORETOLD

PAGE 3



## SIMPLY PREPARE

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## SIMPLY UNCERTAIN

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## SIMPLY STILL

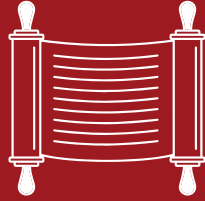
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## SIMPLY FOLLOW

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week one

# SIMPLY **FORETOLD**

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel."*

*-Isaiah 7:14*

# THE PROMISED ONE

*A CREATIVE STORY TOLD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH*

In the quiet of my chamber, bathed in the soft, flickering glow of a solitary candle, I sit with parchment and quill in hand. The weight of what is to come presses upon my heart, and my soul resonates with a profound sense of honor and excitement. For the Almighty has chosen me, Isaiah, to scribe the words that herald the coming of the Messiah, an event that will change the very course of history.

As I dip my quill into the inkwell, I am filled with a radiant anticipation that transcends the boundaries of human understanding. The ink flows like a river, carrying with it the divine revelation that has been imparted to me. I feel the very presence of the Holy One in this sacred act of writing.

In my vision, I see a star, brighter than all others, piercing the veil of night. It is a celestial proclamation, a sign from the heavens, that heralds the birth of the Promised One, the Savior of all. The words I inscribe are a reflection of this miraculous revelation, and they spill forth with joy and wonder. I am but a humble servant, and yet, I am chosen to be a vessel for this most sacred message. The honor bestowed upon me is beyond measure, for I am granted the privilege of witnessing and announcing the coming of the Messiah.

With each stroke of my quill, I am reminded of the generations to come who will read these words with awe and reverence. The excitement that courses through me is like a mighty river, unstoppable and overflowing. I am filled with gratitude for being a part of this divine plan, for having my eyes opened to the glorious future that awaits us all. The birth of Jesus, the Anointed One, is not only a promise but a gift of unimaginable love.

*Let us carry the anticipation and excitement in our hearts, knowing that the birth of Jesus is a testament to the boundless love and grace of the Almighty.*

## NOTES

A large area for notes, consisting of a grid of small red dots on a white background, with a red wavy border at the bottom.



### TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

#### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*The Evergreen Tree is a symbol of eternal life. It stays alive and green through the darkest, coldest winters. The widely accepted story is that Martin Luther was walking through the forest one night and looked up to see the stars shining through the tree branches. The beauty of the scene reminded him of Jesus, who left heaven and came to Earth at Christmas. To recreate this scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.*

# OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES

## FULFILLED

Luke 1:35

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

## ISAIAH 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.

## FULFILLED

Luke 4:28-29

*"All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove Him out of the town, and took Him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw Him off the cliff."*

## ISAIAH 53:3

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.

## FULFILLED

Matthew 11:4-6

*"Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not fall away on account of me.'"*

## ISAIAH 35:5-6

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

## FULFILLED

Luke 4:16-21

*"He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:*

*'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'*

*Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

## ISAIAH 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Isaiah 7:14 points to the manner in which Jesus would be born, and also to one of the names given to Christ: Immanuel, meaning God with us. This was pointing to both His human birth and His divine nature. **This was written over 700 years before Christ was born.***







week two  
**SIMPLY PREPARE**

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will  
prepare your way before you."*

*-Malachi 3:1*



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Malachi 3:1

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

### Isaiah 40:3-4

A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain."

### Matthew 11:10-15

"This is the one about whom it is written:

**'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'**

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

### Luke 1:5-25

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him:

**"Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And 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—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."**

Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days He has shown His favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

### Luke 1:39-45

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed:

**"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"**

# JOYFUL ANTICIPATION

A CREATIVE STORY TOLD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ELIZABETH, MOTHER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

As I, Elizabeth, approach the final three months of my pregnancy, I find myself in a state of joyful anticipation. The miracle of life is unfolding within me, and I can feel the presence of the Lord in every movement of my precious son, John. In these moments, I am reminded of the extraordinary journey that has brought me to this point. The angel's message, announcing that I, a woman of advanced age, would bear a child, was met with disbelief at first. But here I am, carrying a child who will go before the Messiah, preparing the way for His arrival. My heart is filled with wonder and gratitude, for I have been chosen for a divine purpose.

As I ready our home for the arrival of this special child, I cannot help but think of Mary, my beloved cousin. She, too, carries a child of destiny, a child who will be the Savior of the world. The news of her pregnancy, announced by the same angel who visited me, has brought an overwhelming sense of joy to our family. I am elated for Mary and Joseph, knowing the immense honor and responsibility they bear.

In our visits, Mary's eyes shimmer with a mix of trepidation and exultation. We share our experiences, the wonder of our miraculous pregnancies, and the anticipation of the births that will change the course of history. As I feel the movements of my son within me, I know that he, too, senses the presence of the unborn Messiah in Mary's womb. It is a bond that we cherish, a bond that transcends our own understanding.

The final months of my pregnancy are a testament to the miracles of God's grace. The Lord has granted me a child in my old age, a child whose destiny is intertwined with the coming of the Savior. As I prepare for the birth of John, I am also preparing my heart to welcome the Christ child into the world. The joy that Mary and Joseph bring into our lives is a reminder of the incredible love and purpose that God has for each of us.

*May we embrace the extraordinary gifts that God has bestowed upon us. Let our hearts be filled with joy as we prepare to welcome the Savior into our lives, recognizing that His birth brings hope, love, and redemption to all.*

## HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



### CHALLENGE

Reach out to a friend or family member and ask them about preparing for the birth of their first child. How did they prepare? How did they feel?

## TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

ADVENT CALENDAR



*The word Advent comes from the Latin language and means "the coming" or "coming forward." Advent is the time set aside to prepare both for His coming at Christmas and for His promised return. Long ago, many Christians felt that the importance of celebrating this incredible gift from God needed more than only one day. They believed that there should be a period of preparation beforehand to extend the reflection and reverence. This allowed them to focus on the deep meaning of the event and teach their children the enormous significance of Christmas.*

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ADVENT

## Arise, O Christian People

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1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -

day: Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
 best, Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed

sins a - way, To us by grace a - lone The  
 heav'n - ly guest, Make straight, make plain the way: The  
 soul shall lie, The heart sin - cere and right, That  
 Ad - vent - tide, From stall and man - ger low Come

truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.  
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

**REFLECT ON THE LYRICS OF THE HYMN.  
 HOW DO THEY IMPACT YOU TODAY?**

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**HOW IS GOD WORKING IN YOUR "DESERT"?**

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## DID YOU KNOW?

*Why did John live in the desert? Prophets used the isolation of the uninhabited desert to enhance their spiritual growth and to focus their message on God.*

*John the Baptist was foretold about three times in the Old Testament.*

*[Isaiah 40:3 + Malachi 3:1 + Malachi 4:5]*



## PRAYER PROMPT

*Reflect on the areas in your life where you need God's presence. Pray for patience as God works to prepare you for what He has planned for your future.*



## ADDITIONAL READING

*Matthew 3:1-12*

*Luke 1:57-80*

*Luke 3:1-22*

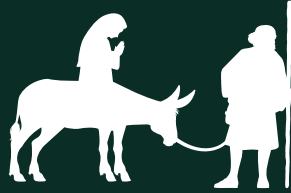
*John 1:19-34*



## MUSIC SUGGESTION

Light of the World  
 LAUREN DAIGLE

The Angel Gabriel from  
 Heaven Came  
 LSB 356



week three  
**SIMPLY UNCERTAIN**

*"Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.'"*

*- Luke 1:29-30*

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Matthew 1:18-25

This 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. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But 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. 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."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

## Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said,

**"Greetings, you who are highly favored!  
The Lord is with you."**

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

**"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.**

## Luke 1:42-45

In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

## Luke 1:46-55

### Mary's Song

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for He has been mindful  
of the humble state of His servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is His name.  
His mercy extends to those who fear Him,  
from generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with His arm;  
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."



## TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

*The Christmas lights originally hung in trees were candles. These candles were attached to the tree using wax or pins. The practice began in Germany during the 17th century. It was started in order to bring illumination to the ornaments that were placed on the tree. In 1882, Edward Johnson, a friend of Thomas Edison, was the first to put electric lights on a Christmas Tree.*

# UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

A CREATIVE STORY TOLD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS

In the quiet moments of this arduous journey to Bethlehem, I, Mary, find myself reflecting on the extraordinary path that has led me here. As I sway gently atop a donkey's back, the initial nervous thoughts and fear I felt upon discovering my pregnancy return to me like a stormy wave.

The weight of my unexpected blessing was overwhelming. I was but a young maiden, filled with fear and uncertainty. How could I, a humble servant, be chosen to carry the Son of God? Doubts and apprehensions raced through my mind as Joseph and I embarked on this journey.

The road to Bethlehem was long and fraught with chaos, a reflection of the tumultuous emotions that churned within me. Yet, as I felt the gentle nudging of the donkey beneath me and Joseph's protective presence at my side, I found solace in knowing that I was not alone. The radiant joy of being chosen for this divine purpose began to outshine my fears. It was an honor beyond measure, a testament to God's trust in my faith and strength.

The town of Bethlehem looms ahead, a place filled with uncertainty. It is here, amid the bustle of a crowded inn, that my heart will be asked to bear the greatest gift to humanity. Despite the chaos and the unknown, I carry within me a sense of purpose and unwavering hope, for I am carrying the Savior of the world.

*In this Advent and Christmas season, let us remember that even in the midst of life's chaos and uncertainty, we can find purpose and joy in our journey. Just as Mary found strength in God's plan, may we find our own resilience and faith to navigate the winding paths of our lives. The birth of Jesus is a testament that even in the most challenging circumstances, hope and joy can emerge.*

## WHAT ARE SOME UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?

A large dotted grid area for writing responses to the question above.



## DID YOU KNOW?

*A young, unmarried girl who became pregnant risked remaining unmarried her whole life or being forced into begging or prostitution in order to earn her living. Mary, with her story about becoming pregnant by the Holy Spirit, risked being considered crazy as well. Yet she chose to believe and submit to God.*



## PRAYER PROMPT

*Pray over a situation in your life in which you need to trust God to provide for you.*



## ADDITIONAL READING

- Proverbs 3:5-6*
- Jeremiah 29:11*
- Philippians 4:6-7*
- Matthew 1*
- Luke 2*
- 2 Samuel 7:1-16*

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## WHAT DOES GOD PROMISE IN HIS WORD WHEN LIFE IS UNCERTAIN?

Read Matthew 6:25-36.

Grid of dots for reflection.

## HOW CAN YOU LEAN INTO THESE PROMISES OF GOD TODAY?

Grid of dots for reflection.



### MUSIC SUGGESTION

You're Here // Francesca Battistelli  
The Night Will Soon Be Ending // LSB 337



### CHALLENGE

Reach out to someone you know who is going through an uncertain time. How can you serve them or encourage them?



week four  
**SIMPLY STILL**

*"Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."*

*-Psalm 46:10*











week five  
**SIMPLY FOLLOW**

*"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw  
His star in the east and have come to worship Him."*

*-Matthew 2:2*

# SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

**"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."**

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 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."

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. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## Luke 9:23-27

Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

## Psalms 119:105-112

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.  
I have taken an oath and confirmed it,  
that I will follow your righteous laws.  
I have suffered much;  
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.  
Accept, O Lord, the willing praise of my mouth,  
and teach me your laws.  
Though I constantly take my life in my hands,  
I will not forget your law.  
The wicked have set a snare for me,  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.  
Your statutes are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.  
My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
to the very end.

## Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



## TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

### GIVING GIFTS

*Gift-giving during Christmas is directly tied to the gifts the three wise men gave to Jesus upon His birth. Some families honor this by only giving three gifts to each recipient. However, gift-giving is also symbolic of the ultimate gift God gave the world — the gift of His Son and ultimately His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins.*

# A BEACON OF HOPE

*A CREATIVE STORY TOLD FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MATTHEW, DISCIPLE OF JESUS*

As I follow in the footsteps of Jesus, I am overwhelmed with a profound sense of joy. The privilege of walking beside Him, learning from His wisdom, and witnessing His divine works is a gift beyond measure. It is an honor that I never could have fathomed--for I, Matthew, am but a humble tax collector.

In the presence of Jesus, I have come to understand that His love knows no bounds. He reaches out to those that society often shuns, like myself, and offers us the chance for redemption. His love is a beacon of hope in a world filled with darkness, and it has transformed my heart in ways I could never have anticipated.

I remember the day He called me, saying, "Follow me," and without hesitation, I left my old life behind to follow Him. His presence is a source of boundless inspiration and comfort. In His teachings, I find profound truths that touch the very core of human existence. His miracles reveal His divine nature and power, leaving me in awe of His authority over creation.

But it's not just His words and deeds that speak to His love. It's the way He interacts with people, the compassion in His eyes when He heals the sick, the gentleness with which He welcomes the children, and the forgiveness He extends even to the greatest of sinners. His love is tangible, and it has transformed not only my life but the lives of countless others who have been blessed to encounter Him. Every day in His presence is a reminder of the boundless love and grace of our Lord. It is an honor to be close to Him, to be His disciple, and to learn from the very embodiment of divine love.

*As we journey through this Advent and Christmas season, may we all strive to experience the love of Christ in our lives and share it with those around us, just as Matthew had the honor of doing while walking alongside Jesus.*

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FULLY FOLLOW CHRIST? WHAT WOULD YOU GAIN? WHAT WOULD YOU LOSE?

A large grid of small dots, intended for writing reflections or answers to the questions above.



### CHALLENGE

Dedicate 1-2 hours to volunteering at a local charity or non-profit organization in the coming month. This hands-on challenge reinforces the act of following Christ by actively serving others.

# From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

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1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y.  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad - dling

news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!  
 Then with the shepherds let us go  
 To see what God for us has done  
 In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
 And see what in the manger lies,  
 Who is this child, so young and fair?  
 It is the Christ Child lying there.

**AFTER WALKING THROUGH THIS DEVOTIONAL, WHAT STEPS DO YOU NEED TO TAKE TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE?**

A grid of 10 rows and 20 columns of small dots for writing notes.



## DID YOU KNOW?

*The magi gave expensive gifts as worthy acknowledgment of a future king. Bible scholars have seen symbols of Christ's identity and what He would accomplish in the gifts. Gold was a gift for royalty, pointing to His role as King; Frankincense, a gift for a prophet; Myrrh a spice for a person who was going to die, symbolizing Jesus as our priest, who becomes the sacrifice on our behalf.*



## PRAYER PROMPT

*Pray that God opens doors that we are meant to go through, and pray for patience when we meet a closed door, as we follow the path He has laid for us.*



## ADDITIONAL READING

Romans 5

Acts 2:14-47



## MUSIC SUGGESTION

Go Tell It [This Is Amazing Grace]  
 LIFE.CHURCH WORSHIP



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

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