

THERE IS LIGHT.



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There is Light

In the midst of darkness, there is light.

Jesus said,

"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." (John 8:12)

The Christmas story tells of the coming of Jesus and the light and life he brings.

The Bible readings and reflections in this booklet are an invitation to experience for ourselves the joy, hope, and peace that Jesus still offers us today.

There is joy.

There is hope.

There is peace.

There is life.

There is light.



*The people who are now living in darkness
will see a great light.
They are now living in a very dark land.
But a light will shine on them.*

Isaiah 9:2

God Is Light In The Darkness

Day 1

We don't have to look far in our world to find darkness. Globally we see war, injustice and famine. In our lives we experience concerns about health, finances, relationships.

In the Bible, light symbolises the presence of God and the life he brings. Darkness speaks of things that threaten life, that are opposed to God and his life-giving purposes.

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah speaks of a moment when light enters the world in a new and powerful way. People would see this great light and it would transform their darkness.

This Christmas, where is the darkness in our lives? What would it look like for us to experience God's light and life in these places?

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

God Is With Us

Day 2

The Christmas story seems to be full of impossible things. How can a virgin give birth? How can a child be “Immanuel”, which means, “God with us”?

Yet the Bible says these seemingly impossible things both came true in the birth of Jesus. God comes near, God is seen, and heard, and touched. Jesus comes not as a temporary visitor for a day, but experiences life as a baby, a child, a young man. God living among us for 33 years.

The God who comes near in Jesus understands in a profound way the highs and lows of life, because he himself has lived a life on earth.

What difference would it make to us if we truly believed and experienced the reality of God, present with us in all the circumstances of life?

Certainty In An Uncertain World



Many people have attempted to write about the things that have taken place among us. Reports of these things were handed down to us. There were people who saw these things for themselves from the beginning. They saw them and then passed the word on. With this in mind, I myself have carefully looked into everything from the beginning. So I also decided to write down an orderly report of exactly what happened. I am doing this for you, most excellent Theophilus. I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true.

Luke 1:1-4

Day 3

Fake news is not a new thing. Luke, a key character in the New Testament, carefully documents the growth of the early church in the book of Acts. He begins his gospel about Jesus by assuring readers of the reliability of what he writes.

Luke's gospel is an account of the things that were believed about Jesus in the early church. Who Jesus was, what he did, and why he came.

Luke interviewed eye-witnesses, he makes a careful investigation and then writes this orderly account. His purpose is that, "you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught".

What things are we unsure of when it comes to Jesus? Why not pray and ask God to reveal the truth about Jesus afresh this Christmas.

God Hears Our Prayers

One day Zechariah's group was on duty. He was serving as a priest in God's temple. He happened to be chosen, in the usual way, to go into the temple of the Lord. There he was supposed to burn incense. The time came for this to be done. All who had gathered to worship were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah. The angel was standing at the right side of the incense altar. When Zechariah saw him, he was amazed and terrified. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. It will be a boy, and you must call him John..."

Luke 1:8-13

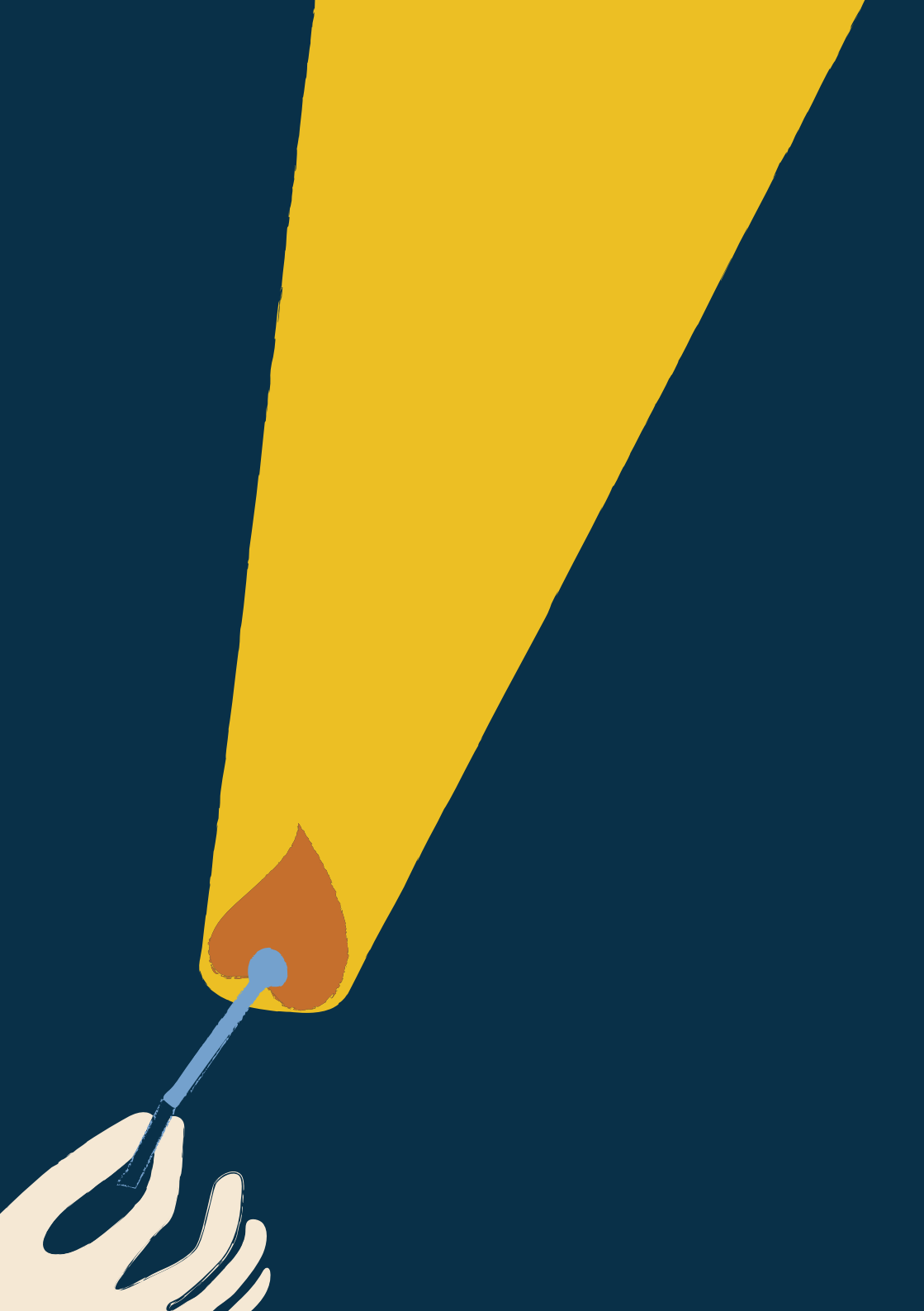
Day 4

Each of us has things we long for, circumstances we want to change, hopes and dreams for the future. Zechariah and Elizabeth longed for children, but they were unable to have any.

Though Zechariah is a priest, a devout follower of God, his first reaction to an encounter with God is fear. But the angel brings a message of comfort and hope, "Do not be afraid... your prayer has been heard".

Into the most painful things in our lives, God still comes near and speaks words of comfort and hope. Though heaven often seems silent, though God may seem absent, God comes near, and he hears our prayers.

What are we praying for this Christmas? Where, in our pain, do we need to hear God's words of comfort and hope?



God Shows Us Favour

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

The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I serve God. I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will have to be silent. You will not be able to speak until after John is born. That's because you did not believe my words. They will come true at the time God has chosen."

Luke 1:18-20

When his time of service was over, he returned home. After that, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She stayed at home for five months. "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days, he has been kind to me. He has taken away my shame among the people."

Luke 1: 23-25

Day 5

Can God make a difference in our circumstances? Zechariah and Elizabeth have been dealing with the painful issue of childlessness for a long time. Zechariah was a faithful follower of God and a professional priest. Yet when God promises Zechariah that he and Elizabeth will have a child, Zechariah struggles to believe.

When Elizabeth discovers she is pregnant, she is confident that God is the one who has brought this change, "The Lord has done this for me...he has shown his favour".

Are we struggling to believe this Christmas? What difference would it make to our circumstances if we believed in a God who shows his favour?

God Is With You

In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel greeted her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you."

Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be.

Luke 1:26-29

Day 6

Is God with us? Mary, likely still a teenager, is engaged to Joseph. She lived in Nazareth, an ordinary small rural town in northern Israel. We're told that Joseph can trace his family back to great king David. It's a small detail, but as is often the case with the Bible, it will take on great significance.

The angel announces God's favour and presence with Mary. But Mary is upset by what the angel says. Did Mary sense how disruptive God's Word would be in her life?

Do we believe that God is present and working in our lives, working through the seemingly small details of our lives?

God's Word Never Fails

"How can this happen?" Mary asked the angel. "I am a virgin."

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth will have a child even though she is old. People thought she could not have children. But she has been pregnant for six months now. That's because what God says will always come true."

"I serve the Lord," Mary answered. "May it happen to me just as you said it would." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:34-38

Day 7

What can God do to change our seemingly impossible circumstances?

The Christmas story emphasises the importance of God's Word. Twice, God promises people impossible things. Elizabeth and Zechariah will have a child though they are old. Mary will give birth to a son, even though she is a virgin.

God's words are not empty promises, but backed by his unlimited power, "what God says will always come true". Despite it seeming impossible, Mary receives and believes God's Word, "May it happen to me just as you said it would".

What words of life do we need God to speak over our impossible circumstances this Christmas? When we hear God speak, will we receive and believe his words?

God Has Blessed You

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in Judea's hill country. There she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby inside her jumped. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she called out, "God has blessed you more than other women. And blessed is the child you will have! But why is God so kind to me? Why has the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy. You are a woman God has blessed. You have believed that the Lord would keep his promises to you!"

Luke 1:39-45

Day 8

Think of all the good things in our lives. Where do they come from?

Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Spirit, speaks words of blessing over Mary and the child she bears. It must have been very important for Mary to hear these words. She is engaged, not yet married, and pregnant – but not by her fiancé Joseph. Yet Elizabeth is clear, "God has blessed you".

Also revealed to, and by, Elizabeth is the special identity of Mary's child: he is "Lord". There is much mystery here. But enough has been revealed. Elizabeth reminds Mary of the blessing that comes through believing.

Do we believe that God has blessed us? Could it be that there is a blessing for us as we believe that God is working amidst the most difficult things in our lives?

God Notices Us

Mary said,

*"My soul gives glory to the Lord.
My spirit delights in God my Saviour.
He has taken note of me
Even though I am not considered important.
From now on all people will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy.*

Luke 1:46-49

Day 9

It is easy to feel overlooked and unimportant in life.

Mary's testimony is that God noticed her, even though she was not considered important. God knew her, knew her circumstances, and was working in them. Mary's response is remarkable. Despite the disruption to her life, she worships God, giving him glory, delighting in him. She says, despite her circumstances, "The Mighty One has done great things for me".

Christmas is about a God who loved the world so much that he sent his son to save us. What difference would it make to our circumstances if we believed that God has noticed us and has done great things for us in Jesus?

God Is Kind To Us

The time came for Elizabeth to have her baby. She gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very kind to her. They shared her joy.

On the eighth day, they came to have the child circumcised. They were going to name him Zechariah, like his father. But his mother spoke up. "No!" she said. "He must be called John."

They said to her, "No one among your relatives has that name."

Then they motioned to his father. They wanted to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was amazed. Right away Zechariah could speak again. Right away he praised God.

Luke 1:57-64

Day 10

What has your experience been of kindness?

Elizabeth and Zechariah have a child in their own age. The seemingly impossible made possible. Their neighbours and relatives say, "The Lord has been very kind to her". Elizabeth obeys the instruction of the angel Gabriel and wants to name the child John – a break with the tradition of naming him after his father. Zechariah, whose doubt had cause him to be unable to speak, writes his agreement, signalling his faith and obedience in what God had said. The first words out his mouth when he gets his voice back are words of praise to God.

God is kind to us in our troubles and in our struggles. What would change in our lives if instead of doubting God, we trusted that what he says is true?

God Has Come To Save Us

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit. He prophesied,

*"Give praise to the Lord, the God of Israel!
He has come to his people and
purchased their freedom.
He has acted with great power
and has saved us..."*

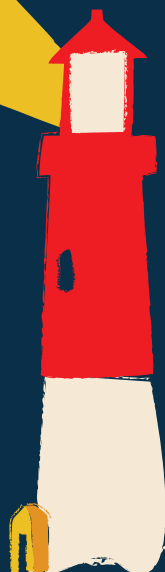
Luke 1:67-69

Day 11

We think a great deal about power. What we can do, what we can't. Who wouldn't want the power to be able to shape the future?

God uses his great power for our good, says Zechariah. God has come to bring us freedom and to save us. Zechariah is speaking about the part his son John will play in what God is doing, but his focus is particularly on the child at the heart of the Christmas story, Jesus.

Are our hearts open to the reality of God's great power this Christmas, and do we recognise the freedom and the salvation that Jesus offers?



God Is Tender, Caring And Kind

*"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.
You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare the way for him.
You will tell his people how they can be saved.
You will tell them that their sins can be forgiven.
All of that will happen because our God is tender and caring.
His kindness will bring the rising sun to us from heaven.
It will shine on those living in darkness
And in the shadow of death.
It will guide our feet on the path of peace."*

Luke 1:76-79

Day 12

This Christmas as we look at the world what hope do we have that there might be peace on earth?

John will announce the amazing truth that our sins can be forgiven. God is coming to deal with all the wrongs humanity have committed against God and each other.

Here is the great surprise at the heart of the human story: God's response to our turning away from him is to come to us and offer forgiveness. God is tender, caring and kind. In the coming of Jesus, a life-giving light has appeared that overcomes death and brings lasting peace.

Have we experienced God's tenderness, care and kindness? What difference would it make to our lives to know that God forgives us?

God Is At Work In Our Families

This is the written story of the family line of Jesus the Messiah. He is the son of David. He is also the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

Day 13

For some of us Christmas is a time to gather with our wider family.

Matthew begins his life story of Jesus by listing his ancestors. He starts by naming two hugely famous ancestors – David, Israel's greatest king, and Abraham the grandfather to Jacob, from whom all Israel was descended. But he will end with Mary and Joseph, two ordinary people.

God has been working out his purpose for the world for nearly two thousand years, from Abraham to Jesus, through ordinary people. Some great, some unknown, all flawed.

Do we believe even though we are ordinary flawed people, God is working in our lives and in our families?





An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel." The name Immanuel means "God with us."

Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:20-25

God Saves Us From Our Sins

Day 14

As we look at the world, what do we think it most needs this Christmas?

The Christmas story says our greatest need is to be saved from sin. The wrongs we have done and the wrongs done to us need to be dealt with. Two names revealed to Joseph speak of God's plan for achieving this. Jesus means, "God saves". Immanuel means, "God with us". God enters the world in Jesus, God comes to be with us, to save us from our sin.

Joseph had incredible faith. Trusting and believing what the angel told him, Joseph obeyed God's Word. Just like Mary, Joseph submits his life to God's plans and purposes.

How does what we need and long for in life compare to what God wants for us?

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

Luke 2:1-7



God's Timing Is Perfect

Day 15

Have you ever wished that God would work faster, or thought that it was too late for God to work?

The logistics for the birth of Jesus are terrible. Joseph and Mary endure a ninety mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Their promised baby arrives far from home. Accommodation is modest, with the new-born Jesus laid in an animal feeding trough.

Yet God's timing is perfect. The whole empire is on the move, with Mary and Joseph (descended from David, born 1,000 years before) registering in Bethlehem. The prophet Micah's words, spoken 700 years before, are fulfilled that the promised Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. These events span 1,000 years and Jesus turns up at just the right time.

Amidst the disruptions and uncertainties this Christmas, are we trusting God to act with perfect timing in our lives?

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God.

*They said,
"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!
And may peace be given to those he is pleased
with on earth!"*

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Luke 2:8-15



God Breaks Into Our Ordinary Days

Day 16

This Christmas, are we expecting anything to be different? Are we listening out for God's voice in the midst of our ordinary days?

The shepherds were ordinary working people, going about their ordinary day. Then the light of the glory of God illuminated the darkness of the night. Their fear at seeing an angel of the Lord is quickly replaced by excitement. Announced to them is the birth of a saviour, the Messiah Jesus. His coming is "good news. It will bring great joy to all the people". Their response? "Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about".

Are our hearts open to an encounter with God this Christmas? Will we journey afresh to see Jesus, and experience the light, excitement, good news and joy his coming brings?

God Wants Everyone To Hear

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:16-18

Day 17

This Christmas, what are people talking about?

The shepherds heard the angels message, they went to see for themselves, and found Jesus lying in a manger. The very sign the angel had given them to prove what had been said was true. When the shepherds had seen Jesus, "they told everyone". Told what the angel had said about Jesus, told that they had seen Jesus. There is an overwhelming response to this news, "all who heard it were amazed".

God wants everyone to hear about Jesus. What begins as a message from an angel is carried far by ordinary shepherds telling what they had seen and heard.

This Christmas, if we know Jesus, whom are we telling? If we haven't yet met Jesus, will we ask God to see and hear more about him?



God Wants Us To Treasure Jesus

But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

When the child was eight days old, he was circumcised. At the same time he was named Jesus. This was the name the angel had given him before his mother became pregnant.

Luke 2:19–21

Day 18

This Christmas, what do we treasure most?

What did Mary make of these unexpected visitors and their message from God? Luke tells us Mary, “thought about them over and over”. Mary could have been thinking about many things, eg; being far from home, her future with Joseph and the future of her son, but it is a measure of her faith that it is these things that occupy her mind. They were to her, “like a secret treasure in her heart”. To this faith, Mary adds obedience. They name their son Jesus, just as God instructed them.

Amidst the many pressing things in our lives, what place does Jesus have in our hearts and minds? As we head towards a new year, will our faith and obedience to God guide our path?

After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1b-2

The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

Matthew 2:9b-12

God Moves The Universe

Day 19

Do we believe in a God who can speak to us through all things?

The shepherds are not the only ones who come looking for Jesus. Wise men from the east make a longer journey from a distant country. Not for them an angelic appearance. Instead, their careful observance of the stars leads them to a clear sign. They somehow correctly interpret the rising of this star as announcing the birth of the King of the Jews. They follow the movement of the star until it stops over the very place where Jesus was. Seeing Jesus brings joy. God moves the universe to announce the birth of Jesus to the world.

This Christmas what might God be saying through the seasons and changes that are taking place in our lives?





In Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was a good and godly man. He was waiting for God's promise to Israel to come true. The Holy Spirit was with him. The Spirit had told Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. The Spirit led him into the temple courtyard. Then Jesus' parents brought the child in. They came to do for him what the Law required. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said,

*"Lord, you are the King over all.
Now let me, your servant, go in peace.
That is what you promised.
My eyes have seen your salvation.
You have prepared it in the sight of all nations.
It is a light to be given to the Gentiles.
It will be the glory of your people Israel."*

Luke 2:25-32

God Guides Us Through His Holy Spirit

Day 20

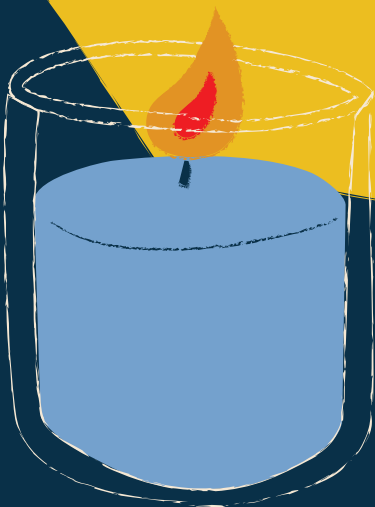
What are we trusting in for guidance through life?
How are we finding our way?

Shepherds guided by an angel. Wise men led by a star. God now speaks to Simeon through his Holy Spirit. Simeon is waiting in expectation, confident in hope that God will fulfil his promise to send the Messiah. Simeon is holding onto a particular promise: he would not die before seeing the Messiah. Simeon is led by the Spirit to the temple. He arrives on the very day, at the very moment Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple. Simeon not only gets to see the Messiah; he holds him in his arms. Worshipping God, Simeon exclaims, "My eyes have seen your salvation".

Will we invite God to speak to us through his Holy Spirit today?

There was also a prophet named Anna. She was the daughter of Penuel from the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. After getting married, she lived with her husband seven years. Then she was a widow until she was 84. She never left the temple. She worshipped night and day, praying and going without food. Anna came up to Jesus' family at that moment. She gave thanks to God. And she spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the time when Jerusalem would be set free.

Luke 2:36-38



God Is With Us In Loss

Day 21

What losses have we endured this year?

Anna is a prophet, gifted to hear God's voice and bring his words to his people. Her father Penue!l's name means, "face of God". Her tribal name, Asher, means "blessed". Her own name means "favour of God". Yet she is initially described in terms of loss, but is ultimately revealed as a picture of devotion to God: always in God's presence and talking with God. Anna encounters Jesus' family as they come into the temple. She is filled with thanksgiving. Once again, what is revealed about Jesus is not something she keeps to herself.

What would change in our lives if we believed that, in God's goodness, our lives need not be defined by our losses?



When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."

So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt."

Herod realised that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed.

Matthew 2:13-16

God's Purposes For Us Are Opposed

Day 22

The Bible says there is evil that is opposed to God's good purposes in our lives and in our world.

The baby announced by angels, whose birth brought joy to many has an opposite effect on Herod. Herod is threatened by the Wise Men's announcement that one has been born King of the Jews. Warned in a dream from God not to tell Herod where Jesus is, the Wise Men leave the country. Herod reacts with murderous anger.

Amidst the slaughter, God intervenes to protect his son Jesus, and his purposes for him. God warns Joseph and the family flees to Egypt, staying there until Herod dies.

Do we believe that God's purposes in our lives are opposed? Do we believe that God has overcome that opposition?

After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there. Joseph had been warned in a dream. So he went back to the land of Galilee instead. There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said that he would be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 2:19-23

God Overcomes All Our Fears

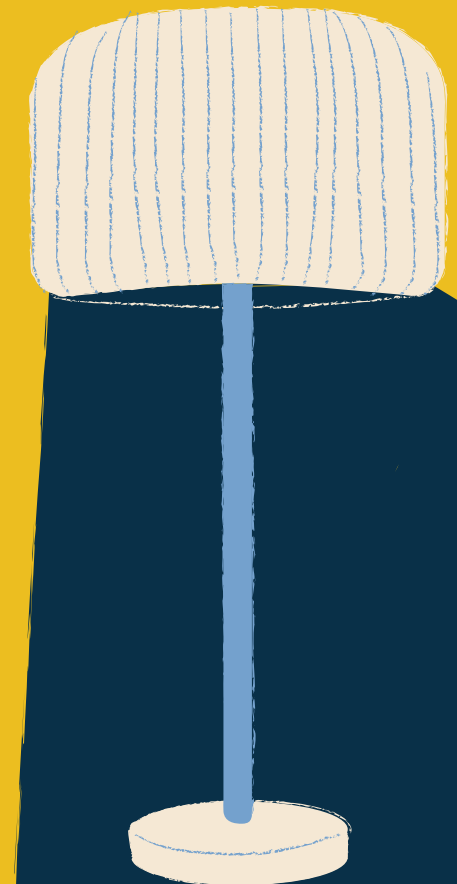
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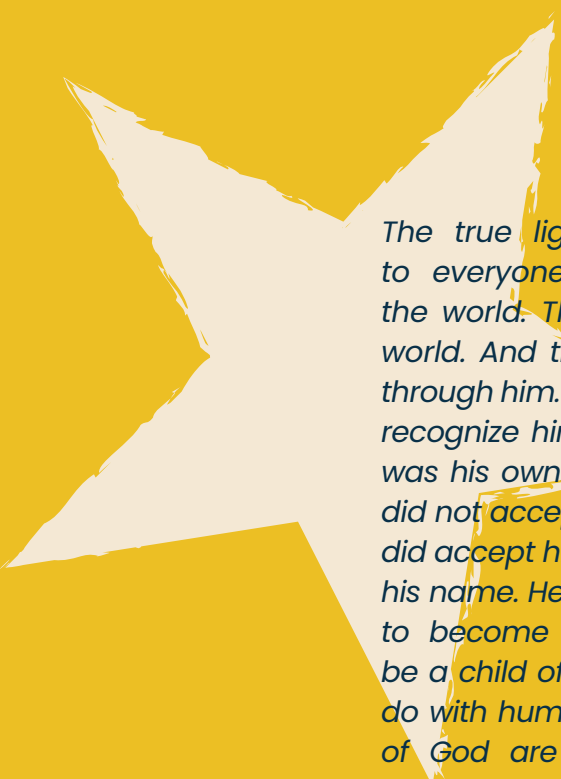
As we approach another New Year, what are our fears?

These are the third and fourth dreams in which God speaks to Joseph recorded by Matthew. A dream to tell him not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife. A dream to warn him Herod wants to kill Jesus, and to flee. A dream saying to return to Israel, because those wanting to kill Jesus are dead. Amidst his fears about Archelaus, Herod's son, a dream to settle in Galilee.

Mary and Joseph faced extreme circumstances. But in all the circumstances of danger and fear they faced, God speaks clearly to Joseph and guides him.

What difference would it make to the year ahead if we took our fears to God and asked him to speak clearly into them?





The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does.

The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.

John 1:9-14

God Gives Us New Life

Day 24

What gives us hope this Christmas Eve?

John begins his story of Jesus speaking of the difference Jesus makes. Jesus brings light. Jesus is not a human messenger bringing words from God. Jesus is The Word, God himself speaking to us. God came in Jesus to us, He “became a human being. He made his home with us”. Jesus comes to us, full of grace and truth. Jesus invites us to a new beginning, a new life from God made possible by the power of God. This is the good news of Christmas.

Will we approach the year ahead with hope because of Jesus, who in his grace offers us endless new beginnings?



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