



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

Grow Pray Study for the week of December 21, 2025

Weekly Prayer

God of holy presence, we open our hearts to you. When our lives feel crowded with worry, grief, or unmet expectations, make sanctuary among us. Create room for hope in places we thought were too small, too broken, or too ordinary. Meet us in the uncertainty. Guide us when we cannot see the way forward, and make your hope take root in our hearts. Amen.

Monday, December 22

Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.
(Emmanuel means "God with us.")*

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

Observation

Joseph's story begins with disappointment and confusion. His plans for life unravel overnight. Yet God meets Joseph, not with answers to every question, but with a promise:

God is with you. And here, even amid the uncertainty, Joseph makes room for hope as he trusts in God's presence.

Application

Hope often requires letting go of the life we expected. Where are you being asked to make room for God in the middle of uncertainty or disrupted plans? Sanctuary is created when we choose faithfulness over fear.

Prayer

God of Emmanuel, help me trust you when life doesn't go as planned. Create room in my heart for hope when I feel unsure. Amen.

Tuesday, December 23

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1–3

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

Observation

Hope is not denial of reality—it is confidence that God is still at work beyond what we can see. Faith itself becomes a sanctuary, a place where we rest in God's promises even before outcomes change.

Application

What are you hoping for that feels fragile or distant? Rather than demanding proof, faith invites you to hold hope gently but firmly, trusting that God is shaping something new.

Prayer

God of unseen beginnings, strengthen my faith when hope feels thin. Help me trust you even when I cannot yet see the way forward. Amen.

Wednesday, December 24

Scripture: Luke 2:1–7

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have

her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Observation

There was no room in the inn, yet God still arrived. The Savior of the world is born not in comfort or status, but in vulnerability. Sanctuary is not about perfection—it's about presence. God can create sanctuary anywhere.

Application

In what humble or messy place in your life might God be choosing to dwell this Christmas Eve? You don't have to have everything figured out to make room for hope.

Prayer

Holy God, meet me in the ordinary and imperfect places of my life. Help me recognize your presence even when things feel small or incomplete. Amen.

Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Scripture: Luke 2:8–20

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Observation

The first to receive the good news are shepherds—people on the margins. Hope is not hoarded; it is announced and shared. God's sanctuary is wide enough for everyone.

Application

Who might need to hear good news from you today? And who, like the shepherds, is declaring the good news of God to you?

Prayer

God of great joy, help me share your hope generously. Open my heart to make room for others, just as you have made room for me. Amen.

Friday December 26**Scripture: John 1:1–14**

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.
The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.
The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.
But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.
The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

Observation

God does not remain distant. In Jesus, God moves into the neighborhood, pitching a tent among humanity. Hope becomes tangible, embodied, and near.

Application

Where do you need to remember that God is not far away, but fully present with you? Sanctuary is found in the nearness of God, who understands our lives from the inside.

Prayer

God who dwells with us, thank you for coming close. Help me recognize your presence in my daily life and welcome your hope anew. Amen.

Saturday December 27**Scripture: Psalm 146:5–7**

The person whose help is the God of Jacob—
the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God—
is truly happy!

God: the maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,

God: who is faithful forever,
who gives justice to people who are oppressed,
who gives bread to people who are starving!

The Lord: who frees prisoners.

Observation

Biblical hope is active. God lifts, feeds, frees, and brings justice. Hope is not passive optimism—it is trust in a God who is already at work restoring the world.

Application

How might hope shape your actions this coming week? Making room for hope means joining God in compassion, justice, and care for others.

Prayer

God of justice and mercy, anchor my hope in you. Send me out to create sanctuary and hope for others in tangible ways. Amen.