



ADVENT

Preparation - 12/8/19

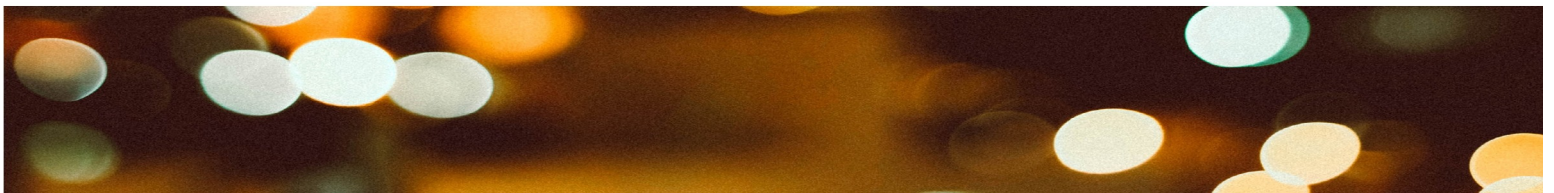
OVERVIEW

As Christmas approaches, we prepare for the holiday. For many that includes setting up the Christmas tree, stringing lights along the inside and outside of our homes or purchasing gifts for those we love and wrapping them for Christmas morning. We prepare ourselves for the family and friends that we only see around this holiday. What if we prepared ourselves regularly with the same effort for Jesus, our Savior? What could our time with Him look like if we were ready for Him.

Scripture (all scripture ESV, unless noted): John 19:20; Galatians 4:4; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:1-4; 1:14-15; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 5:9; Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

APPLICATION

- God gave the special gift of John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus' coming. What is a special gift you have received from someone?
- In your own story, how did God prepare the way for you to hear the gospel and understand it's truth? It may have been a message you heard as a child, an influential person in your life, or perhaps a tragedy that has occurred to point you to Jesus.
- Just like John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus, who in your life, right now, could you help prepare to receive Jesus? How is God asking you to play a part in their life?
- HOMEWORK: Continue the 25 day Advent Reading Plan (blueridge.org/advent).



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ADVENT | ANTICIPATION

This week we will read Scripture that reveals the great anticipation among the Jews of the Messiah's coming. What did they anticipate? A Messiah that would bring salvation to them. Why was their anticipation so great? Because they knew the best was yet to come.

But Jesus' coming wasn't the first time God's people experienced great anticipation. Throughout Scripture we see a pattern: God makes a promise to His people, God's people wait with anticipation, & God faithfully fulfills His promise.

Day 1 Savior

The Anticipation

God spoke to the Old Testament prophets & promised Israel a Savior, a Ruler, Immanuel (God with us), & described Jesus' birth in detail centuries before it happened.

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

Micah 5:2 NIV

The Fulfillment

God gave the long awaited Messiah, Jesus.

Luke 2:8-12 NLT

Day 2 Messiah

The Anticipation: God told Simeon that he would see the Messiah with his own eyes.

Luke 2:25-27 NLT

The Fulfillment: After waiting, Simeon recognized the baby Jesus as Messiah, & praised God for fulfilling His promises.

Luke 2:28-32 NLT

Day 3 Immanuel

The Anticipation

God would come as a man to dwell with His people.

Isaiah 7:14

The Fulfillment: God sent Jesus to dwell with man and bring salvation so we can forever dwell with God in Heaven.

Matthew 1:22-23

Day 4 Wonderful Counselor

The Anticipation: God promised to send a Counselor who would reign over man forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7

The Fulfillment: When Jesus returned to Heaven, He left the Holy Spirit to counsel us and show us the Father.

John 14: 25-26

Day 5 Peace

The Anticipation: God promised to rule over and provide eternal peace to His people.

Isaiah 9:7

The Fulfillment: Jesus said we would have trials and sorrows, but through the Holy Spirit, He gives His people His peace.

John 16:33

John 14: 27

Day 6 Christ's Second Coming

The Anticipation: Scripture tells us that Christ will return again to gather His people who are eagerly awaiting Him.

Hebrews 9:27-28

Matthew 24:44

This Fulfillment is yet to come...

Revelation 1:7-8

Day 7 Eternity

The Anticipation: There will be a day when those who are in Christ Jesus will live with Him forever in Heaven for all eternity. This Fulfillment is yet to come...

Revelation 21: 1-5a

ADVENT | PREPARATION

This week's verses show us how John the Baptist, "prepared the way of the Messiah." John's preparation of the Christ had everything to do with his heart. As you read, consider how God wants to change your heart.

Day 1 The Prophecy

Old Testament prophets described the messenger (John the Baptist) who would come before Christ.

Malachi 3:1
Isaiah 40:3-5

Day 2 Thanksgiving

The father of John the Baptist prepares for Christ by singing a song of thanksgiving.

Luke 1:76-80

Day 3 Identity

John the Baptist knew His identity: one who prepared the way for the Messiah.

John 1:19-26
Matthew 3:11-17

Day 4 Humility

John the Baptist had many followers, yet he maintained a posture of humility and servanthood.

John 1:24-27
John 3:27-31

Day 5 Repentance

John the Baptist's message of preparation was simple: Repentance - turn your heart back to God.

Matthew 3:1-2

Day 6 Recognition

John the Baptist recognized Jesus for who He was - the Savior who would take away the sin of the world.

John 1:29-34

Day 7 Baptism

John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by baptizing Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17

ADVENT | INCARNATION: GOD WITH US

Jesus was sent by God to earth in the form of a man; this is the Incarnation. Why was Jesus sent? To fulfill the covenant God made with man: to make a way of salvation so that God could dwell with man.

Day 1 Covenant

God made an agreement with man that He would make a way to be with them in close relationship, forever.

Ezekiel 37: 26-28

Day 2 Conception

God did the impossible; Mary conceived a child when she was still a virgin.

Luke 1:30-37

Day 3 Dwelt

Jesus created all things before the beginning of time. He allowed himself to become part of the creation to dwell with us.

John 1:1-5, 14

Day 4 Servant

Jesus, being God, humbled Himself for us. He served us while He lived on earth, and continues to serve us through the Holy Spirit today.

Philippians 2:5-8

Day 5 The Cross

Jesus took on the sins of the world so that we could have peace with God.

1 Peter 2: 22-25

Day 6 High Priest

Jesus is our great high priest, the one who stands before God on our behalf.

Hebrews 10:11-18

Day 7 Fulfilled in Heaven

In Heaven, we will fully know Jesus and spend all eternity with Him.

Isaiah 60:19-20

Revelation 21:1-3

ADVENT | CELEBRATE

This week we celebrate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Because He came, we will never be the same again.

Day 1 The Birth

| Matthew 1:18-25

Day 2 The Shepherds

| Luke 2:9-20

Day 3 The Wise Man

| Matthew 2:9-11

Day 4 Mary

| Luke 1:46-55