

# ADVENT



Christmas Series Booklet  
November - December 2015

Advent is a time of expectantly waiting and preparing ourselves for the birth of Jesus. It is a **spiritual pilgrimage**. Practices associated with this time of the year are the Advent calendar, Advent wreath, decorating the Christmas tree, praying and daily devotions. These practices call us to a **personal encounter** with God. They encourage us to think about the second coming of Christ and the promise this brings (God's triumph). BMC wants to connect with you this Advent (at home, on holiday or in church) with a spiritual Advent series that includes family time each week and daily readings (personal bible study) in order to create a spiritual community connection over Advent and Christmas: a "mighty river of the spirit"! **Find your Advent Puppets at the back (colour in, staple and assemble).**

*<sup>38</sup> He/She who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*



**T**he nativity characters: Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Angels, the Magi and Jesus can all be linked to 6 spiritual streams that combined give us our Christian community life: "the mighty river of the spirit". These spiritual streams are all the teachings and experiences of the past, brought together in the prayer-filled, virtuous, spirit-empowered, compassionate, word-centered, and the sacramental life. No-one models these streams/dimensions better than Jesus Christ himself: **"If we want to see this river of life in its most complete form, it is to Jesus that we must turn" – Richard Foster.** Never has anyone spoken or lived like Jesus.

**"Jesus captivates our imaginations and wins our hearts because he was, and is, the very Son of God with the power and the life to transform and empower our lives. Jesus, alive and among his people today, calls to us exactly as he did those disciples so long ago, saying, "Follow me". The basic principle and pattern is the same, we follow Him in spirit. We are not the only ones from a different culture and age who have wanted to imitate the life of Christ. Others have sought to imitate the way of Christ and to**

*translate that way into their own settings and surroundings. We are helped immensely by looking at their efforts and learning their stories. We can learn from others who have gone before us.” Richard Foster – Streams of Living Water.*

This Advent sermon series will look at Richard Foster’s 6 traditions of Faith from his book **“Streams of living water” (Harper Collins, 1998)** using nativity characters (where as he uses many other biblical characters to explain the concept of the different streams in his book). He says “spirituality” is used very loosely today and defines it as **“self-acquired, self-advertised spirituality, a kind of vapour: thin, particled, almost invisible, shapeless, hard to grasp”**. This kind of spirituality does not make community. The spirituality he refers to is rooted in the Bible, concrete and graspable. Communities can live by it. It brings a balanced vision to our lives and faith. He does not refer to it as moorings or anchors, but as “streams of living water: dipping deeply and coming up refreshed”.

Foster says that we need to carefully consider how Jesus lived in this broken, painful world, as through his example we learn how to truly live empowered by Him who is with us always even to the end of the age. We learn how to live in Christlikeness – sharing Jesus’ vision, life, hope, feelings, and habits – TRULY LIVE our own spiritual pilgrimage.

We have used some of the biblical characters from Peter Hoytema’s advent series **“Six biblical characters, six traditions of faith”** ([www.reformedworship.com](http://www.reformedworship.com), 2002). Peter took the spiritual streams and wrote an article using the nativity scenes characters to tailor-make the teachings contained in Fosters book for Advent. We have changed a few of these characters, but the principles stay the same.

## 6 STREAMS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE:

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# SUGGESTIONS FOR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY:

By Rick Warren — Sep 30, 2015 ([www.rickwarren.org](http://www.rickwarren.org))



*Once you're convinced that a daily quiet time is necessary for spiritual growth, how do you go about having one? You may be motivated to do it but don't know how.*

*Someone has said, "If you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it!" To have a meaningful quiet time, you will need a plan or some kind of general outline to follow. The main rule is this: keep your plan simple.*

First, make sure you have a Bible in a contemporary translation, a notebook for writing down what the Lord shows you and for making a prayer list, and have access to worship songs in case you want to sing your praise (YouTube).

**Then, follow these three simple steps: Relax, request, and read.**

1. Wait on God (relax). Be still for a minute; don't come running into God's presence and start talking immediately. Follow God's admonition: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10a NIV). Be quiet for a short time to get into a reverent mood.

2. Pray briefly (request). This is not your prayer time, but a short opening prayer to ask God to cleanse your heart and guide you into the time together. You need to be in tune with the Author before you can understand his Book! Two good passages of Scripture to memorize are Psalm 139:23-24 and Psalm 119:18.

3. Read a section of Scripture (read). This is where your conversation with God begins. He speaks to you through his Word, and you speak with him in prayer. Read your Bible:

**Slowly.** Don't be in a hurry; don't try to read too large an amount; don't race through it.

**Repeatedly.** Read a passage over and over until you start to picture it in your mind.

**Without stopping.** Don't stop in the middle of a sentence to go off on a tangent and do a doctrinal study. Just read that section for the pure joy of it, allowing God to speak to you.

**Aloud but quietly.** Reading it aloud will improve your concentration. It will also help you understand what you are reading better because you will both see and hear what you are reading. Read softly enough, however, so that you won't disturb anyone.

**Systematically.** Don't use the "random dip" method — a passage here, a chapter there, what you like here, an interesting portion there. Read through the Bible as it was written — a book or letter at a time in an orderly method.



*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – 29 November*

## Mary – Contemplation The prayer-filled life



Nothing is more striking in Jesus' life than his intimacy with God. (John 5:19 & 30; John 14:10). Prayer is a recurring pattern in His life. Jesus taught the disciples to pray. We also need to live a prayer-filled life. In reflection and meditation our soul gazes upon the God who loves us. It is an intimate sharing of thought, prayer and attentiveness to who God is and what God is doing. The contemplative stream emphasizes that God is mindful of us and continues to invite us to play a role in the doing of His will in the world. Mary's character exemplifies the prayer-filled intimate relationship we have with God and that like her; we have to do God's will in this world. Prayer draws us into love for God reminding us that the Christian life is not a rule book but a love story. Do you yearn for a more intimate, deeper, richer experience of God – Pray!

### Daily Readings:



**Song for the week:** Andrea Bocelli and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir - The Lord's Prayer (YouTube).



Mary stayed close to God by praying to Him, God wants us to do the same. Choose a special time each day for this week – either when you wake up or when you go to bed at night – and pray to God. You can do this individually or as a family.



**29 November Luke 2:16-19**

*16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

Prayer: Dear God, help me to hold You in my heart and get closer to You every day: my Dad, the creator of the universe, my counselor and friend.



**30 November Luke 18:1**

*18 Then He spoke a parable to them that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

Prayer: God, please help me live a prayer-filled life every day.



**1 December Mark 14:36**

*36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."*

Prayer: Thank you God that no matter what happens in my life, all things are possible for you. You know what worries me even today, may Your will, not mine be done.



**2 December John 17:20**

*20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word."*

Prayer: Thank you God that I can know that you pray for me all the time!



**3 December Luke 1: 26-28**

*26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"*

Prayer: I am your favoured one – blessed! Thank you God for ALWAYS being with me!



**4 December Luke 1: 38**

*38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

Prayer: Like Mary, You know the plans you have for me Lord, help me to live according to your word.



**5 December Luke 1: 46-55**

*46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all*

generations will call me blessed.<sup>49</sup> For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.<sup>50</sup> And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.<sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, <sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever.”

Prayer: God, you are mighty, magnificent and Holy – yet you exalt me! I praise you Lord, my soul magnifies You!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 6 December

# Joseph – Charismatic The Spirit-empowered life



The Holy Spirit is the way in which we are brought to faith in God. He speaks life into our hearts and souls. Some of the characteristics of the Spirit are wisdom, discernment, miracles, and healing. These are special gifts from God and we need to celebrate them by using them to God’s glory. God chose Joseph to be the earthly father of Jesus. The Bible tells us that Joseph was a righteous man. His actions toward Mary, his fiancée, revealed he was a kind and sensitive man. When Mary told Joseph she was pregnant, he had every right to feel disgraced. He knew the child was not his own, and Mary’s apparent unfaithfulness carried a grave social stigma. But

Joseph chose a spirit empowered life - living out some of God’s characteristics. As a dad he spoke into Jesus’s life as Jesus influenced him. We need to use our gifts to speak life into others on His authority. Our characters need to stand out, look different than the rest. He wants us to be really excited about Jesus – so excited that we stop what we are doing and show and tell everyone about Jesus. A life filled with living waters: rivers of love and joy, of signs and wonders, rivers of peace and power. Do you want to live a spirit-empowered life? Jesus shows us the way.

### Daily Readings:



**Song for the week:** It is well with my soul – Chris Rice (YouTube).



God wants us to be the best that we can be. Is it hard for you not to fight with your brother or sister? Do you have a hard time listening to your mom or dad? Choose one thing that you find difficult to do and practice doing it right this week.



**6 December I Corinthians 1:4-9**

*<sup>4</sup>I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, <sup>7</sup>so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Prayer: Thank you God for Your Grace that I can be saved to the utmost and be called your son/daughter.*



**7 December 2 Samuel 7:3**

*<sup>3</sup>Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."*

*Prayer: Thank you God that you speak into my heart and life and that I can know that you are here with me just as you were in Bible times.*



**8 December Psalm 89:6-8**

*For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD? <sup>7</sup>God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him. <sup>8</sup>O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.*

*Prayer: You God are incomparable and wonderful. I hold You in great reverence our King!*



**9 December Psalm 89:15-1**

*Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance. <sup>16</sup>In Your name they rejoice all day long, and in Your righteousness they are exalted.*

*Prayer: Our Lord our God we skip and shout with joy at the sound of your name. We sing your praises all day long. You fill our lives with living water – rivers of joy, love and peace.*



**10 December Romans 16:25-27**

*<sup>25</sup> Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began<sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—<sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen*

*Prayer: Thank you God that you have made yourself know to me, You - the everlasting God. I am in awe of who You are! Thank you that you love me!*

**FRIDAY  
FRIDAY**

**11 December I Corinthians 12:4-11**

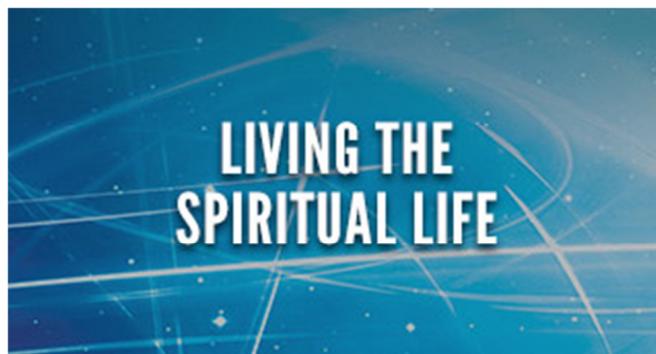
*<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

*Prayer: Thank you God for my special gifts – unique to me. Please help me to see an opportunity to help someone in need today. Let me be your hands and feet.*

**SATURDAY** **12 December Luke 2:8-20**

*<sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*

*Prayer: You have gifted me with wonderful gifts Lord - experiences that I need to share. Please help me to tell my story to others to Your glory!*



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 13 December:

# The Angels – Holiness The virtuous life



The world does not put a lot of emphasis on being holy. If they do, they understand it as being “holier than thou”. But this is not what living a virtuous life is about. We are called to be holy. Foster describes “holy” as the ability to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done with a pure heart. The angels are God’s special messengers in the Nativity story. They bring good news! They stand for pureness of heart and obedience to God and show us now to always praise God. Jesus will always be our example of a Holy life. You and I can experience this transformation as Jesus models it for us in the Bible! Jesus walked among people, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind and bringing good news to the oppressed. He calls us to a more consistent life, a more obedient life, and a more fruitful life. How do we do that? Get closer to God.

## Daily Readings:



**Song for the week:** [Oceans \(Feet May Fail\)](#) Hillsong United (YouTube).



Jesus was a little kid too! We can't live without sin as Jesus did, but we can try to do things differently. For this week when your parents ask you to do a job/task – try not to moan and groan or get upset. Try doing it with a glad heart. Think about God being with you – helping you to do the right thing.



### **13 December Isaiah 40:3-5**

*3The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; <sup>5</sup>the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

*Prayer: Dear God, I need to live a life that reveals Your glory so that others can see you in me. Help me today to be aware of your Holy presence in all that I do so that others can see You through me.*



### **14 December Isaiah 40:6-8**

*The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."*

*Prayer: There is a time and a place for everything. I am in one season today and tomorrow I will have the next. I am but a moment in time and yet, you love me with an everlasting love. How awesome is that God!*



### **15 December Isaiah 40: 10-11**

*Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young*

*Prayer: Thank you God that you are such a good Shepherd, that you gently lead me where I need to go.*



### **16 December Psalm 85:10-13**

*<sup>10</sup>Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. <sup>11</sup>Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. <sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good; and our land will yield its increase. <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.*

Prayer: Your light shows me the way Lord. Thank you that You give what is good and that we can follow in your footsteps.



**17 December 2 Peter 3:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Prayer: Thank you God that you want everyone to be saved, including me. Please forgive me for my sins and thank you for your immense patience with me in my quest to become more like you every day.

**FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY 18 December 2 Peter 3:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; <sup>15</sup> and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

Prayer: Thank you for your peace Lord, the peace that transcends all understanding. That I can know that I am forgiven, saved and your very special child.

**SATURDAY** **19 December Matthew 1: 20**

<sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Thank you God that you send dreams, people and circumstances to my life that show me You are present at all times. Please help me to see more of You in my day today.



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – 20 December

# The Shepherds - Social Justice

## The Compassionate Life



The compassionate life compels us to look beyond ourselves to the world and others. Many of us live sheltered lives and we fail to engage with the reality of human existence in the world. The world needs the Gospel. We need to feed the hungry and help the helpless. We need to be Christ's hope in this world. The shepherds were filled with joy and followed the star (Jesus) without question. They were

compelled to tell others of what they had seen and heard. God sees all his people gathered in His power, filled with His love, empowered to do His works. No more individualism and selfish hoarding – let's share what we have!

### Daily Readings:



**Song for the week:** He knows my name – Maranatha Singers (YouTube).



It will be Christmas soon and you will be getting a lot of new toys and clothes. Please take some time this week to choose some of your clothes and toys that you don't use anymore and donate them! **OR**

Send a card, letter or picture to someone who doesn't know Jesus was born and died for them. Share your excitement about God's precious gift.

**SUNDAY**

**20 December Isaiah 61:1**

*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound”.*

*Prayer: Thank you God that you have anointed me to do your work in this world. Please help me to be your hands and feet today.*



**21 December Isaiah 61:8-9**

*“For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed.”*

*Prayer: Thank you Lord that you are the author and director of my life! I have to listen to you only. Please help me hear your voice today.*

**Tuesday**

**22 December Psalm 86: 15**

*But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.*

*Prayer: I am so thankful for your grace and mercy Lord. Thank you for your truth and patience!*



**23 December Psalm 26: 5-6**

*Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup> He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

*Prayer: Thank you God, that we know that you multiply our efforts. We only have to bring what we have.*



**24 December I Thessalonians 5:16-19**

*<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies. <sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every form of evil.*

*Prayer: Christmas is nearly here! We praise you and give thanks that you came to earth to save us – me! I adore you my Lord Jesus!*



## Christmas Day – 25 December

Jesus Christ – Incarnational  
The Sacramental life  
Living in the present



Incarnation is at the heart of Jesus' story. The wonder, glory and majesty of Christmas are that at one point in history the great God of the universe took on a human form. We bow under this mystery. Jesus the divine cannot give us an example for our life – but Jesus the human can. There isn't much information on Jesus's growing up years but

we know he grew up with parents that taught him to live a life of single-minded devotion to God. Just like us, Jesus spent the majority of his life with his family, working, playing doing everyday things. Like him we can, in our everyday lives, express our love, joy, peace and the fruits of the spirit flowing from the divine well. Never has anyone lived like this. Jesus has the power to change our hearts, minds and hearts – we just have to follow Him!

### Daily Readings:



**Song for Christmas:** How he loves us – Kim Walker (YouTube).



**FRIDAY**  
**FRIDAY** 25 December | Thessalonians 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Prayer: God, Your majesty, Daddy! I love you so much! Thank you for coming in a human form so that we can have an example of how to live our lives. Please change my heart today

**SATURDAY** 26 December Luke 3:10-14

<sup>10</sup> So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?" <sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." <sup>14</sup> Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

Prayer: Thank you God that I have such clear instructions on how to live my life. YOU ARE LOVE and as long as we love You, and others as ourselves, we are following your great Commandment.

## First Sunday after Christmas – 27 December

The Magi  
The Evangelical Life  
Word - centred



Jesus came proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God and embodied it in his very person. And the good news is: all people can enter into a living and abundant life with God through Jesus by Grace. We become his disciples: we follow Him in all things, living as He would live whilst telling and showing the world what God is all about. Forster calls this stream the word-centered life. The Magi was lead to

Jerusalem by a star. God communicated to them through creation. Then they went to Jerusalem and they learned what the bible said (God's word). And then they met Jesus: the word made flesh – and they adored Him! The glory of creation and the truth of scripture bring us to where the Magi went: to Jesus! We need to get to know Jesus so well that we can have an evangelical life according to His word. Living out our adoration and the grace we have received!

## Daily Readings:



**Song for the week:** Amazing Grace – Celtic Woman (YouTube).



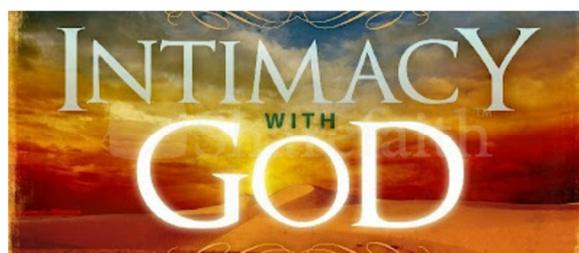
We can look at all of nature and our bodies and know that it takes an awesome God to make all these things. Go outside when it is dark and you can see the stars. Try to count them. Do you know if you could get in your car and drive to the nearest star without stopping it would take you seven million years to get there! Take a blanket and some snacks and go and lie on your back looking at the stars praising God for his awesome creation and greatness!



**27 December Psalm 148**

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! <sup>2</sup>Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! <sup>3</sup>Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! <sup>4</sup>Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created. <sup>6</sup>He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, You great sea creatures and all the depths; <sup>8</sup>Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills; Fruitful trees and all cedars; <sup>10</sup>Beasts and all cattle; Creeping things and flying fowl; <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples; Princes and all judges of the earth; <sup>12</sup>Both young men and maidens; Old men and children. <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup>And He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints— of the children of Israel, A people near to Him. Praise the LORD!*

*Prayer: Read this Psalm slowly again as a prayer of praise to our Lord!*





## **28 December Isaiah 61:10**

*I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*Prayer: Wow, I feel so special Lord! You cover me with your righteousness in celebration! I am in awe! I absolutely adore You!*



## **29 December Galatians 4:4-7**

*<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” <sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

*Prayer: We are saved because of your Son! What a gift to be called Your child! Please help me today to be your gift to others.*



## **30 December**

### **Isaiah 62:2-4**

*The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name.<sup>3</sup> you shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem. In the hand of your God.<sup>4</sup> You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah and your land Beulah; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.*

*Prayer: The creator of the universe made me and delights in me (a crown of glory in Your hand)! What a thought! Thank you God!*



## **31 December Matthew 2: 9-12**

*When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.*

Prayer: You lead us where we need to go. The journey might be difficult, but when we get there we worship you with all we have as it is always something that we could never have imagined in our wildest dreams! Help me to see “my star” that I need to follow in order to get to You!

# 2016

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**FRIDAY**

**FRIDAY** 1 January Hebrews 4:12

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

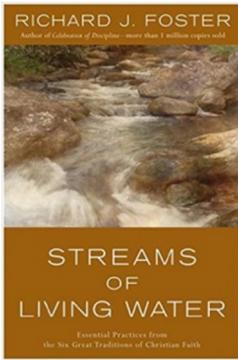
*Prayer: God you know the intensions of my heart. Help me today that my yes, be yes; my no, be no, and that I will do all I do with You in mind.*

**SATURDAY** 2 January Genesis 15:1

*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”*

*Prayer: Thank you God that we know that we can be armed with Your Word as we venture out into the world. We can go out with courage and in strength today and this New Year!*





## RESOURCES



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- Peter Hoytema, (September 2002). Six biblical characters, six traditions of faith: an Advent/Christmas series based on Richard Foster's Streams of Living water [www.reforemedworship.com](http://www.reforemedworship.com).
- [http://lifespringsresources.com/media/wysiwyg/Streams\\_of\\_Living\\_Water\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](http://lifespringsresources.com/media/wysiwyg/Streams_of_Living_Water_Resource_Guide.pdf).2007.
- Rick Warren — Sep 30, 2015 ([www.rickwarren.org](http://www.rickwarren.org))
- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) – October 2015
- [www.google.co.za](http://www.google.co.za) (images) – October 2015







WISE MAN

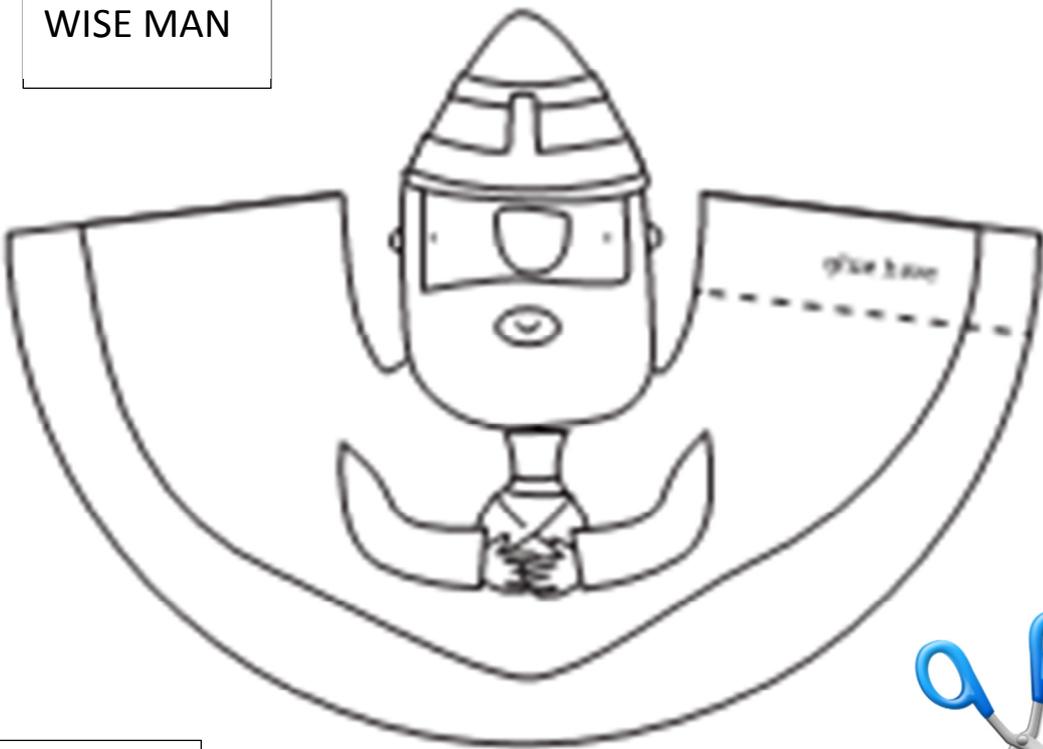


WISE MAN





WISE MAN



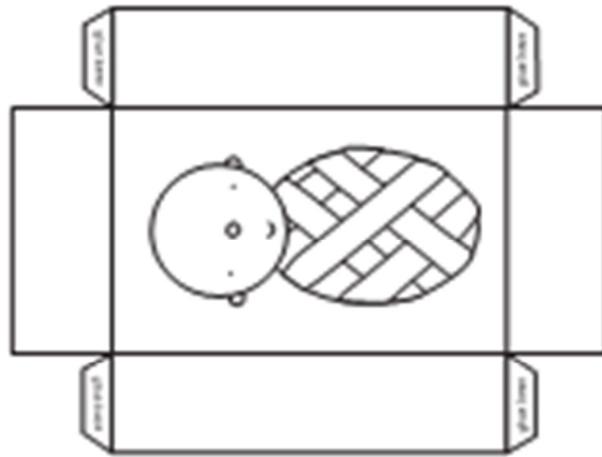
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