



Sunday School Study Plan

December 2024 with Dr. Dewayne Dickens and Mrs. Hazel Reed

Topic for December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

“Wondrous Results from Prayer & Faith: Jesus’ Appointed Birth”

(If we do not meet on a Sunday, please use that week for reflective questioning on the provided topic and scriptures.)

Week 1 (December 1): The Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

Guiding Questions:

1. What do you think was going through Mary’s mind when she received the news from Gabriel? (Luke 1:29, Matthew 1:19, Luke 1:38)
2. How does Mary's acceptance of God's plan challenge societal expectations of young women at the time? (Luke 1:30-33, Genesis 3:16, Galatians 3:28)
3. What role does faith play in Mary’s response? (Luke 1:37, Hebrews 11:1, Proverbs 3:5-6)
4. How can we relate to Mary’s situation when faced with unexpected challenges in our lives?
5. What does this passage teach us about God’s ability to work through ordinary people? (1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Isaiah 6:8)

Week 2 (December 8): The Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12)

Guiding Questions:

1. What motivated the Magi to travel such a long distance to see Jesus? (Numbers 24:17, Jeremiah 29:13, Psalm 119:105)
2. How did the Magi demonstrate faith in their journey? (Matthew 2:1-2, Hebrews 11:6, John 14:6)
3. What do the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh symbolize in relation to Jesus? (1 Timothy 6:15, Exodus 30:34, Mark 15:23)
4. In what ways can we “bring gifts” to Jesus in our own lives?
5. How can we discern God’s guidance in our own lives, similar to how the Magi followed the star? (James 1:5, Proverbs 15:22, 2 Corinthians 5:7)

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WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
 - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
 - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
 - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."



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Week 3 (December 15): The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)

Guiding Questions:

1. Why do you think God chose to reveal the birth of Jesus to shepherds? (John 10:11, Matthew 11:28-30, Luke 4:18)
2. How did the shepherds respond to the angel's message, and what can we learn from their reaction? (Luke 2:9-15, James 2:17, Psalm 126:3)
3. What significance do you see in the angels' message of peace and good news? (John 14:27, Philippians 4:4, Romans 10:15)
4. How does sharing our faith impact others, as the shepherds did after encountering Jesus?
5. What barriers might we face in responding to God's call, and how can we overcome them? (1 Peter 3:14, Hebrews 12:1, Galatians 6:2)

Week 4 (December 22): Simeon's Prophecy (Luke 2:25-35)

Guiding Questions:

1. What does Simeon's faithfulness teach us about waiting for God's promises? (Romans 5:3-4 and Hebrews 11:1)
2. How does Simeon's encounter with Jesus fulfill his lifelong hope? (Isaiah 49:6, Luke 12:51, Matthew 5:14)
3. In what ways can we cultivate a spirit of expectation in our own lives? (Colossians 4:2, Romans 15:4, Philippians 3:14)
4. What does Simeon's prophecy reveal about Jesus' mission and impact? (Isaiah 49:6, Luke 12:51, Matthew 5:14)
5. How can we actively recognize and celebrate God's work in our lives and communities?

Week 4 (December 29): Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)

Guiding Questions:

1. What does Anna's commitment to prayer and fasting reveal about her relationship with God? (Psalm 42:1-2, Matthew 6:16-18, Joel 2:12)
2. How does Anna's response to seeing Jesus exemplify a life of worship? (Psalm 95:1-2, Psalm 100:2, Romans 12:1)
3. In what ways can we share our faith experiences with others, as Anna did?
4. What challenges might prevent us from being as devoted as Anna was?
5. How can we encourage one another to remain faithful and hopeful in our spiritual journeys? (Proverbs 27:17, James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

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