

Advent Companion 2020

The season of Advent is a time of waiting and watching... commemorating the anticipation of the Israelites awaiting the Messiah and remembering the promise that Jesus will one day return to take us to himself. But it is also a time to be extra mindful that the Lord wishes to come and make a home in our hearts this day and every day.

As we enter into this beautiful season of Advent, we wanted to provide you with a resource to help you enter more fully into this period of preparation through spending a little bit of time each day in prayer and reflection. If you do not already have one, we encourage you to **get a journal or notebook** that you can use throughout the entire season of Advent. Each day we will provide you with a passage of scripture from the readings for that day and a few reflection questions – we encourage you to take 10 minutes writing your thoughts and responses in your journal, and to conclude with a written prayer. We pray that by doing this, your mind and heart will be better prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th.

Daily Reflections for the 1st Week of Advent

SUNDAY (11/29)

“Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways” (Isaiah 64:4).

- Am I mindful of the Lord in all my thoughts and actions?
- What do I need to do or change in order to more faithfully follow Jesus?

MONDAY (11/30)

“[Jesus] said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men’...and immediately they let their boat and their father and followed him” (Matthew 4:19,22).

- Where in my life is Jesus calling me to be a “fisher of men” and a witness to the good news of the Gospel?
- What might Jesus be asking me to let go of in order to follow him more closely?

TUESDAY (12/1)

“Turning to the disciples in private [Jesus] said, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it’” (Luke 10:23-24).

- How grateful am I for the gift and blessing of knowing the Lord and having a relationship with him?
- How can I more effectively share the joy of the Gospel in my daily life?

WEDNESDAY (12/2)

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us” (Isaiah 25:9).

- Consider your faith journey, where have you experienced the saving power of God?
- If you had 2 minutes to share the story of how you came to know Jesus in a personal way, what would you say?

THURSDAY (12/3)

“Jesus said, ‘Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock’” (Matthew 7:24-25)

- What am I doing to listen to Jesus’ words (prayer, scripture reading, etc.) and put them into action (virtue, obedience, etc.)?
- What areas of my life need to be set more firmly on the foundation of the Gospel (use of time, resources, speech, judgments, etc.)?

FRIDAY (12/4)

“Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I can do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘Let it be done for you according to your faith’” (Matthew 9:28-29).

- Where do I struggle in believing that Jesus has the power and the desire to do great things in my life?
- What is it that I want to ask the Lord for right now?

SATURDAY (12/5)

“Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give” (Matthew 10:8).

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “without cost you have received?” What have we received from the Lord?
- How have you responded to God’s gifts through service and generosity to others?