

## **Week-Long Devotional based on the Sermon 12/15/24: The Wonder of it All Part 3: The Joy of the Shepherds**

### **Day 1: The Power of Simple Words Scripture: Luke 2:10-11**

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’”

Reflect on the power of simple words in your life. Consider how a few words can bring hope, joy, and peace. Pray for the ability to speak life-giving words to those around you today.

### **Day 2: The Significance of Swaddling Clothes Scripture: Luke 2:12**

“This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Think about the humble beginnings of Jesus, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Reflect on how God often uses the simple and humble to accomplish His purposes. Ask God to help you see His work in the ordinary aspects of your life.

### **Day 3: The Shepherds’ Journey Scripture: Luke 2:8-9**

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.”

Consider the shepherds’ fear and their willingness to journey through the night to meet Jesus. Reflect on your own fears and how God calls you to move through them towards Him. Pray for courage to take steps closer to Christ, even in the darkness.

### **Day 4: Grief and Advent Scripture: Matthew 5:4**

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Acknowledge any grief you carry this Advent season. Reflect on how grief does not disqualify you from experiencing God’s presence. Pray for God’s comfort and for the ability to see His light in your darkest moments.

### **Day 5: God’s Perfect Timing Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1**

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

Reflect on the perfect timing of God’s kingdom, even when it seems delayed or extraordinary. Consider how God’s plan unfolds in your life and pray for patience and trust in His timing.

### **Day 6: The Unity of God’s People Scripture: Galatians 3:28**

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Reflect on how Jesus’ arrival unites people from all backgrounds into one body. Consider how you can contribute to unity within your community and church. Pray for a spirit of inclusivity and love.

### **Day 7: Bearing the Good News Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20**

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Reflect on your role in bearing the good news of Jesus with your life and words. Consider how you can share the hope and joy of Christ with others. Pray for opportunities to spread the message of God-with-us in your daily interactions. As you journey through this week, may you find peace, joy, and hope in the presence of Christ, and may you be a light to those around you.