

Creation and Fall

September 13, 2020  
Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Merciful God, you created people not as subjects to rule, but as partners in tending and enjoying this bountiful earth. Help us release our shame and guilt over what we have done wrong, accepting instead your mercy and forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

From the beginning of creation, God's primary focus was the nurture of humanity. Once fallen, God continued to love and care for people, healing their shame and forgiving their sin.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How do you experience shame? Are sin and shame connected? How does isolation deepen shame? How can community (or at least one trusted person) heal shame?

What does it mean to be a caretaker of this earth? How are we doing?

For the littles: What is your favorite animal? Plant? Toy? God created all these! God made people wise to help care for them.



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May the Creator create something marvelous in you.  
Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Identify three things that cause you shame. Choose one to work on this week. Spend time looking at the situation from every angle. What was your part? What makes the event shameful? What can you do differently next time? Share your experience with someone you trust. Then ask God to remove the shame.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Cain and Abel*, Genesis 4:1-16

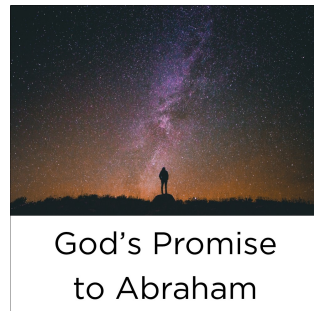
Tuesday: *Noah*, Genesis 6:11-22

Wednesday: *The Tower of Babel*, Genesis 11:1-9

Thursday: *God Calls Abram*, Genesis 12:1-9

Friday: *Abram Lies to Pharaoh about Sarai*, Genesis 12:10-13:1

Saturday: *Abram and Lot Part Ways*, Genesis 13:2-18



September 20, 2020  
Genesis 15:1-6

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Almighty God, you long for us to trust that you hold our lives safely in your hands. Reveal the surprises you have for us in your good time, and show us that your mercy never fails us, in Jesus' name. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." (Genesis 15:5)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Abram doubted that God would fulfill God's promise of descendants. But God reaffirmed God's promise, stating Abram's descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Often God's promises are grand, and they are fulfilled in surprising ways.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Tell of a time you were surprised. Was it a good surprise? Why or why not?

What of God's promises for your life do you hold most dear?

For the littles: Can you count the stars? God's love for you is greater than the stars!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you more abundantly than the stars in the sky. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go outside on a clear night and look at the stars. Find an app that helps you identify the constellations. Do some research to discover what people have believed about the stars over the centuries. What does a sky full of stars mean to you?



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Abraham's Sacrifice*, Genesis 22:1-19

Tuesday: *Isaac and Rebekah*, Genesis 24:1-67

Wednesday: *Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing*, Genesis 27:1-29

Thursday: *Jacob Marries Leah, then Rachel*, Genesis 29:9-30

Friday: *Jacob Wrestles an Angel*, Genesis 32:22-32

Saturday: *The Rape of Dinah*, Genesis 34:1-31



God Works through Joseph

September 27, 2020

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Compassionate God, you have the power to turn our most foolish acts into something of benefit. Use our lives for your highest good, in spite of our own intentions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." (Genesis 50:19-20)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Joseph finally came face to face with the brothers that had done him wrong many decades ago. Here he would face a great challenge—would he avenge himself or would he offer forgiveness and seek reconciliation?



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Who deserves your "I told you so!" Why? Will you offer an "I told you so" or an "I forgive you"?

What would you have done in Joseph's place? What was the outcome of Joseph's forgiveness for his brothers?

For the littles: Have you ever said, "I told you so!" Have you ever said, "I forgive you!" Which felt better? Why?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God meet your "I told you so" with "I forgive you." Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go to a local farmer's market. Buy more food than you need. Give it to individuals or families in your neighborhood who might have trouble accessing healthy foods.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Egyptian Midwives Save Hebrew Babies*, Exodus 1:1-22

Tuesday: *Birth and Youth of Moses*, Exodus 2:1-25

Wednesday: *God Calls Moses*, Exodus 3:1-15

Thursday: *Plagues 1-3*, Exodus 7:1-8:19

Friday: *Plagues 4-6*, Exodus 7:20-9:12

Saturday: *Plagues 7-9*, Exodus 9:13-10:29

# God's Story Our Story™



The Promise  
of Passover

October 4, 2020  
Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God of might, you protected and guided your chosen people out of danger into new life. So lead us into the places where we can live and grow as your faithful people, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten." (Exodus 13:3)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

When God decided to free the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, God did not do so quietly. God rained fire and death upon Egypt, passionately claiming God's people as God's own.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Is God stoic or passionate? Why do you think so?

Why are you worth God's fierce love? (You are, you know!)

For the littles: Do you think God is quiet and calm or wild and loud? Why do you think so? Could God be both?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God's fierce love for you burn in your soul. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Attend an open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Listen to the stories of people who were in bondage to addiction. Pay attention to how they became freed from the daily horrors of addiction. How are they still struggling to stay sober? Share something about yourself in the meeting to let them know you are there to learn.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Pillars of Cloud and Fire*, Exodus 13:17-22

Tuesday: *Crossing the Red Sea*, Exodus 14:1-31

Wednesday: *Songs of Moses and Miriam*, Exodus 15:1-21

Thursday: *Manna and Quail*, Exodus 16:1-36

Friday: *Jethro Advises Moses Concerning Leadership*, Exodus 18:1-27

Saturday: *The Ten Commandments*, Exodus 20:1-21



Golden Calf

October 11, 2020  
Exodus 32:1-14

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Merciful God, you do not punish us as our deeds deserve, but rather show compassion to your wayward people. May we in turn show grace to others, that love may abound, and all may know your mercy, through Jesus our savior. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ...they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"*  
(Exodus 32:7-8)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

The Hebrew people were alone and frightened in a new land. Their leader had disappeared up a mountain and hadn't been seen since. Their instinct was to return to the gods they knew—the gods of Egypt. When God's wrath burned hot for them, Moses reminded God that God needed to learn the ways of the people before the people could learn the ways of God.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What do you trust more than God? (It's ok if you do—it's a human thing.) How might you shift your perspective to place more of your trust in God?

What expensive item do you wish you had? How would it make you happier? Could you learn to be happiest without it?

For the littles: What's your favorite possession? God loves you even more than you love that!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God be enough. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Sell something you own that is valuable. Use some of that money to pay your bills. Give some away. Notice that how you distribute that money can say a lot about your values and priorities.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *God Calls Joshua*, Joshua 1:1-11

Tuesday: *Rahab Helps God's People*, Joshua 2:1-24, 6:1-27

Wednesday: *Deborah Helps Barak*, Judges 4:4-10

Thursday: *Gideon Tests God*, Judges 6:36-7:23

Friday: *Samson and Delilah*, Judges 16:1-31

Saturday: *Ruth and Naomi*, Ruth 1:1-22





God Answers  
Hannah

October 18, 2020  
1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God of justice, you love exalting the humble and showing mercy to sinners. Give us that same heart for the oppressed, that we might work for the betterment of all and the coming of your kingdom on earth, in Jesus' name. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."*

(1 Samuel 1:20)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Hannah was barren—a terrible state of unworthiness in her time. But her plea to God was answered. God gave her a child worthy of growing up in God's house. Her song of deliverance offered a word of hope to the hopeless.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Tell of a time you experienced or initiated a broken promise. How did it affect the relationship? Was the relationship ultimately mended? If so, how, and how long did it take?

Who are exploited or overlooked in your community? What could you do to make their lives better?

For the littles: What's awesome about babies? You were a baby once!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless the important people in your life. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Do some research on infertility—not the medical aspect, but the social/emotional toil it takes on a family. Learn how to be supportive. Learn what to say and what not to say to encourage those struggling with infertility.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *God Calls Samuel*, 1 Samuel 3:1-18

Tuesday: *The Ark of God Captured*, 1 Samuel 4:2-11, 6:2, 11-13

Wednesday: *Samuel Anoints Saul as King*, 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8, 10:17-27

Thursday: *Saul Rejected and David Anointed*, 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Friday: *David Defeats Goliath*, 1 Samuel 17:1-54

Saturday: *David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem*, 2 Samuel 6:1-23



God's Promise to David

October 25, 2020  
2 Samuel 7:1-17

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Eternal God, your true dwelling place is with your people. Make of us a holy temple where you may be praised and your will carried out for the sake of all, in Jesus' name. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. (2 Samuel 7:12-13)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**David wanted to build a house for God. Instead, God's permanence would exist through the house of David.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What are the benefits and drawbacks of having a permanent place of worship? How might your church building serve God?**

**Have you ever desired to do something for God, just to have God turn around and do something for you? In what ways can God's blessings for you become blessings for others?**

**For the littles: What is your favorite room where you live? Why? What do you think is God's favorite room? Why?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God bless every space you inhabit. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Sometimes less is more. Take one thing off your calendar each day this week. Spend the time resting, playing, or praying—whatever you need to do to rest and rejuvenate.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *David Commits Adultery and Murder*, 2 Samuel 11:1-26

Tuesday: *Nathan Condemns David and Solomon is Born*, 2 Samuel 12:1-25

Wednesday: *David Loses His Throne to Absalom*, 2 Samuel 15:1-17

Thursday: *David Regains the Throne*, 2 Samuel 19:9-15

Friday: *Solomon Becomes King*, 1 Kings 1: 1-53

Saturday: *David's Instruction to Solomon*, 1 Kings 2:1-12



God's Care for the Widow

November 1, 2020  
1 Kings 17:1-16 [17-24]

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Steadfast God, you do not wish for us to struggle through this life on our own. May we accept the people and the signs you send our way to help us on the path you have set out for us, and may we trust in the mercy of your Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*"For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth."* (1 Kings 17:14)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Elijah was a great prophet working to get God's fickle people to return to God. But he couldn't do it alone. God sent him to a poor widow whose gift of hospitality made all the difference.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

God instructed Elijah to help a widow from a foreign country. Instead, the widow helped him. What can we learn from people who come from different countries? Tell of a time help came to you from an unexpected place.

What have you been refraining from doing because it's hard to trust God? What can you do to demonstrate trust in God this week?

For the littles: What is your favorite flavor of cake? A widow made cake for Elijah, and God made sure the widow never ran out of ingredients!



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God provide for you from unexpected places. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Plant some bulbs that will grow in the spring. Over the winter, pray for the healing of our planet. In the spring, as your bulbs sprout and blossom, celebrate the planet's resilience.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Elijah Meets God*, 1 Kings 19:11-18, 2 Kings 9:30-37

Tuesday: *Elijah Ascends to Heaven and Elisha Succeeds Elijah*, 2 Kings 2:1-18

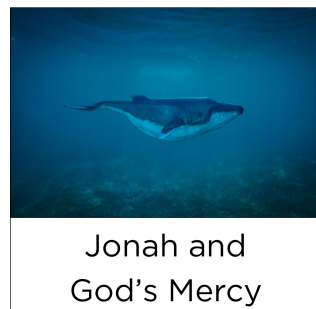
Wednesday: *Elisha Heals Naaman*, 2 Kings 5:1-19

Thursday: *Amos Prophecies Against Israel*, Amos 5:18-24

Friday: *Hosea Prophecies Against Israel*, Hosea 2:1-13

Saturday: *Micah Prophecies to Both Kingdoms*, Micah 6:1-8





November 8, 2020  
Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10 [4:1-11]

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Gracious God, you show abundant mercy even when we cannot see the purpose of it. Give us your heart for compassion and love for all of your children, regardless of who or where they may be, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.*

(Jonah 3:10)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**When God called on Jonah to proclaim destruction to his mortal enemies, Jonah tried to flee. But even in the deep, dark sea God found him and granted him a second chance. God went on to give a second chance to Nineveh, too. Everyone God encountered here was filled with the abundance of God's mercy.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**Tell of a time you were so wrapped up in your own drama that you were unable to see God's grace in the world.**

**What does it mean that God desires to save all people in all nations? How can you be an agent of God's work throughout the world?**

**For the littles: How would you keep yourself busy if you were stuck in the belly of a sea monster for 3 days?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God's blessings pour out of you onto all the people of the world. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Visit a local aquarium, farm, or zoo. Observe the animals. Consider what God sees in them that makes them valuable. Consider what God sees in you that makes you valuable.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Zephaniah Prophesies Against the Kingdoms*, Zephaniah 1:14-18

Tuesday: *Nahum Prophesies of God's Wrath*, Nahum 1:1-11

Wednesday: *Habakkuk Prophesies and Prays*, Habakkuk 3:1-19

Thursday: *God Calls Jeremiah*, Jeremiah 1:1-19

Friday: *Ezekiel Sees a Vision*, Ezekiel 1:1-28

Saturday: *The Valley of Dry Bones*, Ezekiel 37:1-14



God Calls Isaiah

November 15, 2020  
Isaiah 6:1-8

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Merciful God, you can make us clean in an instant. Grant us courage to leave the mistakes of our past behind, and to answer your call with willingness, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

***Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)***



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Isaiah had a vivid and supernatural vision of God, where Seraphs hovered around the throne of God singing God's praises. In a simple act of touching Isaiah's lips with a hot coal, God purified him for the work of a prophet.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**How do you get in your own way? What might God be able to accomplish in you if you were not operating out of fear or apathy?**

**Are there prophets among us today? What prophetic message do you think God sends today?**

**For the littles: What do you think angels look like?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God call, purify, and send you. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Watch your favorite TV or online news stories. Make a note of which voices speak prophetically. What are they saying? Do you agree? Why or why not?**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *The Peaceful Kingdom*, Isaiah 11:1-10

Tuesday: *Impending Judgment on the Earth*, Isaiah 24:1-23

Wednesday: *God's People Are Comforted*, Isaiah 40:1-31

Thursday: *A Hymn of Praise*, Isaiah 42:10-20

Friday: *The Suffering Servant*, Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Saturday: *A Promise of Abundant Life*, Isaiah 55:1-13



God Promises a New Covenant

November 22, 2020

Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; then 31:31-34

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God of wisdom, your word lives within us, within our very souls. Make us living scriptures by which the world can see your love clearly demonstrated and shared. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:31)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

When God's people turned violently away from God, the prophet Jeremiah was sent to set them straight. Although the king refused to receive God's word in a scroll, God promised that one day God's word would be written on the hearts of all people.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What are your top 5 values? What do these say about what is written on your heart?

Whose voice do you refuse to hear? Why? Would there be a benefit to listening? What might you learn?

For the littles: What are you most thankful for?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God write God's word on your heart. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Make a vision board. Cut out pictures and words from magazines that appeal to you. (You don't need a reason—if you like it, cut it out.) Then use a glue stick to glue them to a large poster board. This board will represent the images and words that show how you desire to show up in the world.



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Israel Is Like an Unfaithful Spouse*, Jeremiah 3:1-5, 4:1-4

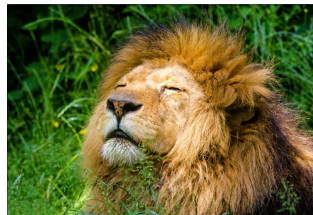
Tuesday: *Mourning for the People*, Jeremiah 8:18-9:3

Wednesday: *God Will Restore Israel*, Jeremiah 16:14-21

Thursday: *The Potter and the Clay*, Jeremiah 18:1-11

Friday: *Lamenting a Fallen City*, Lamentations 1:1-22

Saturday: *God Will Restore Israel and Judah*, Jeremiah 30:1-24



Daniel's Hope  
in God

November 29, 2020  
Daniel 6:6-27

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Protective God, you guarded over your faithful servant Daniel when his life was threatened, because he refused to dishonor you. Show us the power that the smallest acts of faith may have to influence the world for good, by the help of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. (Daniel 6:23b)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**When jealous advisors tricked the king into outlawing worship of God, Daniel remained loyal to God. After surviving the sentence of execution by lion, Daniel's courage turned an entire kingdom toward God.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**Tell of a time you felt like you were being thrown to the lions.**

**What did you do to cultivate resilience?**

**How have you made a difference in your world? Who benefited from your actions?**

**For the littles: If you could, would you rather have for a pet a lion, a hippo, or a monkey? Why?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God make big things out of your small actions. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Download a mindfulness app to your smartphone. Every time the mindfulness bell goes off, stop what you are doing and pray. Remember how Daniel's small act of prayer changed an entire nation.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream*, Daniel 2:1-49

Tuesday: *The Fiery Furnace*, Daniel 3:1-30

Wednesday: *Belshazzar's Feast*, Daniel 5:1-30

Thursday: *Visions of Four Beasts*, Daniel 7:1-28

Friday: *Seventy Weeks*, Daniel 9:20-27

Saturday: *The Resurrection of the Dead*, Daniel 12:1-13

# God's Story Our Story™



Joel: God's  
Promised Spirit

December 6, 2020  
Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Steadfast God, you never abandoned your people when they were at their lowest. Hold your promises before our eyes that they might shine brighter than any darkness which threatens to overcome us, for the sake of your son Jesus. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2:28)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Israel had strayed and was exiled. But God was not done with her yet. God promised the Holy Spirit, which would bring dreams and visions of a life far better than this.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What is the most tempting Christmas present you desire to buy for someone? What would happen if you spent that money on someone in need instead?**

**Do you think people have visions as in Joel's day? What might those visions look like today? What might they be trying to say?**

**For the littles: What is the wisest thing an older person has said to you?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God grant you visions of God's kingdom on earth. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Make a list of all the things you think you need to do to prepare for Christmas. Add to your list activities or events that give you the opportunity to love God, your neighbor, or yourself. For every love activity you add, remove something less important from your list. See how your holidays are transformed as love activities dominate your season.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *End of Babylonian Captivity*, Ezra 1:1-11

Tuesday: *Lament over the Ruined Country*, Joel 1:1-12

Wednesday: *Call to Repentance and God's Response*, Joel 1:13-20

Thursday: *Dedication of the Temple*, Ezra 6:13-22

Friday: *Ezra Restores Torah as Law*, Nehemiah 8:1-12

Saturday: *Dedication of Jerusalem's Wall*, Nehemiah 12:27-47



# God's Story Our Story™



Spirit of the  
Lord upon Me

December 13, 2020  
Isaiah 61:1-11

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Faithful God, you restore to your people all that has been lost. Renew our hopes for the future and our zeal for serving you as chosen and beloved children, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult 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 a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Although Israel had sinned and was exiled, God still promised a better future. One day God would adorn the people with salvation and righteousness.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What do you wear? What does your attire say about you? What do you want the world to know about you?**

**What binds you? What prevents you from being all that God has created you to be? What can you do this week to accept God's freedom from the burden of your bondage?**

**For the littles: Have you ever been to a wedding? What was your favorite part?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God free you to be who you were created to be. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Stick a bunch of dollar bills (you decide how many) in your wallet, pocket, or purse. Every time you pass a Salvation Army kettle, put in a dollar. If you shop online, donate a dollar to your favorite charity for every gift you purchase. As you do, remember every positive act you do for the world helps make it the new creation God desires.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *God Is Gracious*, Isaiah 63:7-14

Tuesday: *Prayer of Repentance*, Isaiah 63:15-64:12

Wednesday: *New Creation*, Isaiah 65:17-25

Thursday: *Edom's Betrayal and Israel's Restoration*, Obadiah 1:1-21

Friday: *Jerusalem's Victory*, Zechariah 12:1-13:1

Saturday: *The Coming Messenger*, Malachi 3:1-7

# God's Story Our Story™



Jesus' Birth  
Announced

December 20, 2020  
Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God of surprises, you blessed Mary and Elizabeth with the gift of holy children, and they faithfully embraced your calling. Give us peace and joy as we await your coming among us, in the form of a humble baby—our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:28)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

Without fanfare, an angel announced the coming of a baby to Mary. While she waited, she took the opportunity to seek out her support community and prepare for the child's arrival.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What has been the hardest thing you've ever had to wait for?

Was it worth the wait?

Does the anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth shape how to move through the Advent season? Why or why not?

For the littles: What's the hardest thing to wait for? Why?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant patience as you wait. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Put together a new baby care kit for expectant parents, those waiting on adoption, or those fostering children in your community. Be creative about what you include in the kit. How will your kit support the new parents? How will it support the kid? How will it lift up God's love for the family?



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Introduction to Luke*, Luke 1:1-4

Tuesday: *An Angel Tells Zechariah of John's Birth*, Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday: *Mary's Song*, Luke 1:46-56

Thursday: *Birth of Jesus (Christmas Eve)*, Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]

Friday: *Shepherds Visit (Christmas Day)*, Luke 2:8-20

Saturday: *Birth of John the Baptist*, Luke 1:57-66



Birth of Jesus

December 24, 2020  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**God incarnate, you come again to us on this blessed night, to take our form and living among us. Bring us with awe and wonder before your holy nativity and be born anew in our hearts. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**This Christmas story is likely the most familiar story in the Bible (thank you, Linus!). And yet, this story of Jesus' birth—the census, the inn, the angels, and the shepherds—has the capacity to capture our imaginations every time we hear it.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? What does it mean to your life? Why?**

**Why do you think God came as a baby instead of a fully grown adult?**

**For the littles: What's your favorite Christmas carol? Why?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God bless your Christmas with love. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Consider donating one of your Christmas gifts to someone in need. Or return it and donate the refund. How does giving to someone you don't know shape you?**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Friday: *Shepherds Visit (Christmas Day)*, Luke 2:8-20

Saturday: *Birth of John the Baptist*, Luke 1:57-66

# God's Story Our Story™



Shepherds Visit

December 25, 2020  
Luke 2:8-20

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Merciful God, We treasure the news of your arrival among us, as Mary treasured the wondrous things spoken about her son. Fill us with joy at our savior's birth as we proclaim your love made real on earth, in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

*So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. (Luke 2:16-18)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Amid the company of animals, the fanfare of angels, and the visit of shepherds, Mary treasured most the words that were spoken about her child.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What words hold the most power for you? What words hold the least? What influences how those words are perceived?**

**Shepherds were the first to hear of the birth of the king. They were working-class folk. Who are the working-class folk in your community? What messages do they receive?**

**For the littles: What would you say to the baby Jesus if you had visited with the shepherds?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God bless you with words of wisdom and kindness, and hope. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Research the foster care system in your community. Donate time or money to help kids who are in need.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Saturday: *Birth of John the Baptist*, Luke 1:57-66

# God's Story Our Story™



Simeon and Anna

December 27, 2020  
Luke 2:21-38

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**God of all ages, your servants Anna and Simeon recognized your salvation in the face of the infant Jesus. May we also see in him the pathway to forgiveness and the fulfillment of all your promises. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:38)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**The righteous man, Simeon, and the prophet, Anna, both recognized the fulfillment of God's promises in the baby, Jesus, when he was presented before the temple for circumcision on his eighth day after birth.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What do you think Anna and Simeon saw in Jesus that led them to believe he was the promised savior? What do you see in Jesus that leads you to believe the same?**

**Who are the elders in your community? How are they regarded?**

**For the littles: Do you have any babies in your life? (A sibling, maybe?) What do you like most about babies?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God bless the babies and the elders among you.**

**Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Invite to coffee someone much older than you, or much younger. Learn something about them, and share something about yourself.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: *Prophecy of Zechariah*, Luke 1:67-80

Tuesday: *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*, Luke 2:39-40

Wednesday: *Isaiah Brings an Answer to Hezekiah's Prayer*, 2 Kings 19:20-34

Thursday: *Purification of a Woman after Childbirth*, Leviticus 12:1-8

Friday: *The Law Concerning Dedication of Firstborns*, Exodus 13:1-16

Saturday: *Levites Become Substitutes for Firstborns*, Numbers 3:40-51



# God's Story Our Story™



Boy in the  
Temple

January 3, 2021  
Luke 2:41-52

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Loving God, you care for us as a parent cares for their children. May we also live your compassion and tend to those who rely upon us for care, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

***He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)***



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Mary and Joseph had no idea where Jesus went when he failed to follow the family's caravan home from Jerusalem. But Jesus was surprised that they hadn't guessed he was in his heavenly parent's house.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What kind of relationship best describes your relationship with God? How does your perspective shape how you interact with God?**

**When was the last time you learned something new? When did you teach something?**

**For the littles: What's your favorite thing to learn in school, daycare, or at home?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God bless your learning and your teaching. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Volunteer to teach in your church's Christian education or assist in a classroom at a local school. Become a reading buddy or tutor.**



**Go Deeper:** Visit [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions).

Monday: Psalm 2:7-8

Tuesday: *God's Servant*, Isaiah 42:1-9

Wednesday: *Laws Concerning Festivals*, Exodus 23:10-17

Thursday: Psalm 113

Friday: Psalm 96

Saturday: Psalm 123