



WEEKLY STUDY

Come and Adore - Week Two

We are in the season of Advent (latin for *arrival*). It's a season of 4 weeks that marks our waiting for the arrival of Jesus. God shows up through angels on a few occasions in the story leading up to Christmas. So while you wait for Christmas, may you also see God showing up every day.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for someone who is lonely and feeling like they have no hope this Advent season.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 1.26-38 (NIV)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

- Five promises about Jesus were made as God’s word came to Mary. 1) *He will be great.* 2) *He will be called the Son of the Most High.* 3) *He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.* 4) *He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.* 5) *His kingdom will never end.* It probably felt like too much to hear all at once! But Mary didn’t seem surprised by the announcement, only that it would come true through her. Do you find it easy to believe that God is up to big things? Why is it hard to believe that God might be doing big things through you?
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- **Prayer Prompt: for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Philippians 2.13)**
- *God, are you really including me in your plan to spread good news and offer salvation to this broken world? How can it be? I am your servant. May your word to me be fulfilled. Amen.*

TUESDAY: 1 Kings 21.17-19 (NIV)

Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ¹⁸ “Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ¹⁹ Say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”

- The word of the Lord came to Elijah. After the word of the Lord came to Elijah, he was then instructed to announce the word of the Lord to Ahab, king of Israel. When have you felt that the word of the Lord might be spoken to you? How do you know that that word might also be intended for someone else in your sphere of influence?
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- **Prayer Prompt: At that time you will be given what to say,²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matthew 10.19b-20)**
 - *God, you know that I do not have the words on my own. If someone around me needs to hear from you through me, you will have to speak through your Spirit. May your Spirit live in me. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 KINGS 6.11 (NIV)

The word of the LORD came to Solomon:¹² “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.¹³ And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

- The word of the Lord came to Solomon. The promises of God are not new. The promises being fulfilled through Solomon were first given to his father David. There is a strange kind of comfort that can come from knowing that God is not coming up with new material to reach you...rather, He is repeating the ancient truth that is still relevant for you today! Is there a promise that gave your ancestors hope to persevere? How do those promises speak to you today?
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- **Prayer Prompt: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41.10)**
- *Almighty God, your promises are everlasting. The scope of your redeeming work can make me feel very small—I am simply a small part of your plan. Yet your love for me lets me know that I am seen—I am important to you. Your promises are meant for me. Amen.*

THURSDAY: GENESIS 15.1-5 (NIV)

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

*“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”*

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

- The word of the Lord came to Abram. This word contained a vision for the future. Long after Abram walked the earth, his ancestors would cover it. Through a man who had no children, God would make a great nation! Would it be enough for you to know that things will get better for future generations—even though you yourself may not see it on earth? What hopes do you carry for future generations?
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- **Prayer Prompt: For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29.11)**
- *Lord God, Help me to love future generations of your people more than I love myself. I trust that you are working good that is better than anything I can imagine. Amen.*

FRIDAY: ZECHARIAH 4.8 (NIV)

Then the word of the Lord came to me: “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you.

- The word of the Lord came to Zechariah. Sometimes the word of the Lord comes and there is more confirmation to be seen. Isn’t it interesting that after the fact, Zechariah will know that the angel was from the Lord? The projection of future knowledge can impact our assurances today. What we know about the future (Jesus will come and make all things right. He will wipe away every tear) can give us strength to face our current reality. What pictures of the future help you to navigate difficult situations?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16.20)**
- *God, give me signs that your word will bear fruit even beyond my lifetime. I long for Jesus to come and make all things right. Amen.*

SATURDAY: JEREMIAH 1.4-12 (NIV)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”*

⁶ *“Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”*

⁷ *But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am too young.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.”* ⁸ *Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.*

⁹ *Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth.”* ¹⁰ *See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”*

¹¹ *The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you see, Jeremiah?”*

“I see the branch of an almond tree,” I replied.

¹² *The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”*

- The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. Sometimes God’s word to us is simply, “I know”. God knows us better than we know ourselves. God knew us before we were born. God gives us the voice we need even when we feel ill-equipped or unqualified. Have you ever experienced words coming from your mouth that didn’t seem like your own words? Has God ever given you “a word” for someone else?

- **Prayer Prompt:** *“I have put my words in your mouth.”* ¹⁰ *See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” (Jeremiah 1.9)*
- *God, fill my mouth with your words. Fill my mind with what you desire. Fill my heart with images of your Kingdom. Build and plant good things through me. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the 7 step framework from the last two weeks to study each of the examples of God's word coming to biblical characters. Which elements are true for each character? Did they stay true to the order below?

Mary

Elijah

Solomon

Abram

Zechariah

Jeremiah

Step 1-God Shows Up

Step 2-It is Specific

Step 3-Fear

Step 4-A Promise is Given

Step 5-Objection

Step 6-A Sign to Guarantee

Step 7-The Response