

**Grow,  
Pray,  
and  
Study Guide.**



**Prayers For The Week**

**Monday:** Holy God of Abraham, you provided for all of us by sending your son. Let me sing “Glory to God in the Highest” and let me share “on earth peace”. Amen.

**Tuesday:** Mary’s God, I want to praise you like Mary does. Her song is powerful. Let me sing “Glory to God in the Highest” and let me share “on earth peace”. Amen.

**Wednesday:** Messiah, help me to open hearts and minds of all I meet to your love. Let me sing “Glory to God in the Highest” and let me share “on earth peace”. Amen.

**Thursday:** Savior, give me courage to care for the lowest in our community. Let me help them to come home to you. Let me sing “Glory to God in the Highest” and let me share “on earth peace”. Amen.

**Friday:** Jesus, you blessed me in all things. I want to share that love with others. Let me sing “Glory to God in the Highest” and let me share “on earth peace”. Amen.

**December 24, 2017**

Notes: today I pray



**Bring a friend to Sunday School and worship on Sunday or Monday! Share our Christmas Eve schedule with a neighbor. Check in on Facebook when you are here.**

## Study Guide December 24, 2017

**Monday December 25th** (I took time to pray today )

**Read: Luke 1:26-38** Mary is tasked with raising the son of God. The presence of the savior reached out and touched even John, who was not yet born. John is like us. Jesus's presence impacted us before we were born. We just need to remember that he has.

**Question:** How would you have reacted if you were Elizabeth, knowing that her cousin carried the Messiah? Have you ever put yourself in the place of one of these people?

**Tuesday December 26th** (I took time to pray today )

**Read: Luke 1:47-55** This is Mary's song of praise. She acknowledges all of the good that God, her Savior, has done for those who fear him. She praises God for his blessings on her. Mary understands the responsibility that God has charged her with, raising the Messiah.

**Question:** How would you have handled Mary's responsibility? Knowing what would face a young, unmarried, pregnant girl, would you be singing God's praises?

**Wednesday December 27th** (I took time to pray today )

**Read: Luke 2:1-12** This is the story that we celebrate—the infant born without sin who saved us from ourselves. Is Bethlehem so very different from the hearts and minds of so many people? So many friends and neighbors keep themselves closed to Jesus.

**Question:** How can you open people's hearts to the Messiah? How do you welcome him into your heart?

**Thursday December 28th** (I took time to pray today )

**Read: Luke:2:13-20** There is great significance that the angels went to the shepherds first. The shepherds were among the poorest and they were the very first ones who received the good news of the Messiah.

**Question:** What message is God giving us by sending the angels to the shepherds? If God believes the poor are the most important, who are we to turn our backs on those in need?

**Friday December 29th** (I took time to pray today )

**Read: Romans 16:25-27** Paul invites us into the peace and love of the Christian faith. He invites us into the loving arms of Jesus by means of his words and teachings. He invites us home.

**Question:** Initially it was taught that the Messiah was only coming for Israel—but we were welcomed by God into the faith. Have you accepted the invitation? Have you joined the loving heart of the family of God?

*We celebrate the birth of the Messiah! We are called to join with Jesus in the transformation of the world. What do you do to share the Good News? Remember, it is your responsibility, just as it was Paul's and John's. Pray for our church, for transformation of our community and our world. Pray without ceasing. Pray in love!*

*If you have any questions or if there is something in your heart, please ask Pastor Bob, Donna T., Joe H., or Liz G. We are ready to serve.*