

"Watching Guide"

A weekly guide to preparing for the birthday of Christ by preparing for his return.

A weekly publication during Advent

December 18-December 24, 2011

Monday Dec 19



Read: Psalm 24: 7-10

Reflect: The Psalmist tells us to open the gates and let our Lord enter. Do you close your heart to the entry of God's presence?

Do:

Write Psalm 24:7 on some sticky notes and stick them to frequented doors in your house to remind you to be open to God.

With a child:

Make a paper heart and place your names on it. Then cut a little door in the center and talk about how we let Jesus in.

Tuesday Dec. 20



Read: Isaiah 7:13-14

Reflect:

How do I acknowledge that God is With Me (Immanuel) during the day?

Do:

Set aside 3 minutes twice daily to read a portion of John chapter 1 until completed.

With a child:

Wrap a small gift box (removable top) and call it the "Jesus Box." Write notes and stories and poems and place them in the box and under the Christmas tree as a gift to Jesus who is always "with us."

Wednesday Dec 21



Read: Luke 1:35-38

Reflect: How will you say yes to God today? Are you willing to take the risk?

Do:

Take a risk today that will help another person (you will know it when you encounter it).

With a Child:

Tell your child that the Bible word, "Amen" means a great big "Yes" in our language. Today whenever you would say "yes" substitute "Amen!"

Thursday Dec. 22



Read: Micah 5:2

Reflect:

What makes you feel small & powerless?

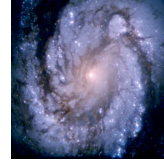
Do:

Help someone today who is lesser than you. It will make you feel large in Christ.

With a child:

Find online a drawing or painting of ancient Bethlehem and point out that it was a small and unimportant village...but Jesus made it the place of his birth! Jesus makes us important like Bethlehem.

Friday Dec. 23



Read:

John 1:1-5

Reflect:

How do you imagine the person of Jesus? A baby? A rabbi? God and Lord?

Do:

On a clear night, go out well after sunset and look at the stars of the sky and think of Jesus creating all of them.

With a child:

Go online and bring up a Hubble deep space picture and talk about how Jesus with the heavenly Father made it!

Saturday Dec 24



Be sure to worship wherever you may be tonight. May your worship of Jesus be a regular part of your spiritual life.

Do something different and come to worship on Christmas Morning.

Can you ever praise God too much?

The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling

clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.