

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL:
THE PLEA & THE PROMISE**
week of november 29th, 2020
LUKE 1:26-38 (NIV)

big idea of the week:

Leaders, this is to assist you in your facilitation. If your discussion veers off the rails, you can try to steer the conversation back to this theme.

Jesus is the fulfillment of our waiting for a savior.



OPEN **welcome:** Connect and check in with everyone briefly before the study starts.
opening prayer: Feel free to ask someone to open with prayer, asking God to speak to through his word.
purpose: To be changed by Jesus; submitting to the Holy Spirit, scripture, and each other for transformation.
guidelines: Please read, review, or discuss weekly. The group guidelines are listed on the last page.

STORY **setting the scene:** A brief context for the passage. See last page.
tell the story: Encourage people to engage with the storyteller rather than look at the handout.
rebuild the story: Review and retell the story together.
read the passage: Always close by reading the passage out loud.

HEAD **to help us examine what the word shows**
Leaders, edit/omit questions as needed for your group.
(spend about 15 minutes here)

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What truths do you observe about Jesus in this passage?
- What feelings or expectations do you imagine Mary felt in this interaction?

HEART **to help us wrestle with what we believe**
It's important to use "I" statements here.
(spend about 30 minutes here)

- Advent means "coming." How do you wait for something that is coming?
- How does who Jesus is transform your waiting?
- How has the Lord met you in moments of waiting, but believing?

HANDS **to help bring the truth into our everyday realities**
Try to avoid creating a checklist of things to do better.
(spend about 10 minutes here)

- How will you remember Jesus and wait on Him this week?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? How does who He is impact your life?

closing prayer: Lord, we long for you to come. Come, thou King of Nations and bring an end to all our suffering. Lord, bid every pain and sorrow cease and reign now as our Prince of Peace. We wait for you. Amen.

next week's passage: Luke 2:36-38

Ask for a volunteer to story the passage for next week.



ADVENT LEADER RESOURCES:

Leader, here are a few bonus resources to supplement your preparation or personal study.

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 3:14-15

What does God promise in the Garden?

2 Samuel 7:12 & Isaiah 7:14

What is prophesied about Jesus' birth?

Matthew 1:19-25

How did Joseph react to the news of Jesus' birth?

WATCH

"The Bible Project, The Messiah"

(<https://bibleproject.com/explore/the-messiah>)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 1:37 (ESV)

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

One way you can memorize Scripture is by writing out the verse on a notecard and putting it somewhere in your home, car or workplace

LITURGY

"A Liturgy To Mark The Start Of The Christmas Season"

Douglas Mckelvey from *"Every Moment Holy"*

[See PDF Attachment](#)

HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Thomas Helmore

[See Participant Guide](#)

FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS

"Come Let Us Adore Him"

An excerpt from Paul David Tripp:

"Ask your children what a promise is and get them to think about why we make promises. Define prophecy for your children (a prophecy is God's promise of what is to come). Talk to them about how many prophecies of Jesus's birth were made long before that first Christmas night. Help them understand that the fact that all these promises about Jesus came true means that we can trust all the promises God makes to us."



LEADER: As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season,
we would also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.

PEOPLE: **You came once for your people,
O Lord, and you will come for us again.**

Though there was no room at the inn
to receive you upon your first arrival,
**We would prepare you room
here in our hearts
and here in our home,
Lord Christ.**

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to mark
the memory of your redemptive movement into
our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees,
Our festive carols, our sumptuous feasts—
**By these small tokens we affirm
that something amazing has happened
in time and space—**
that God, on a particular night,
in a particular place, so many years ago,
was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights,
our giving of gifts, our parties with friends—
these have never been ends in themselves.
**They are but small ways in which we repeat
that sounding joy first proclaimed by angels
in the skies near Bethlehem.**

In view of such great tidings of love announced
to us, and to all people, how can we not be moved
to praise and celebration in this Christmas season?
**As we decorate our tree, and as we
feast and laugh and sing together,
we are rehearsing our coming joy!**
We are making ready to receive the one
who has already, with open arms, received us!

A LITURGY
TO MARK THE
START OF THE
**Christmas
Season**

**We would prepare you room
here in our hearts
and here in our home,
Lord Christ.**

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel,
even as we long for your return.
**O Prince of Peace, our elder brother,
return soon. We miss you so!**

Amen.

AND THE ANGEL SAID TO
THEM, "FEAR NOT, FOR
BEHOLD, I BRING YOU
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT
JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL
THE PEOPLE. FOR UNTO
YOU IS BORN THIS DAY
IN THE CITY OF DAVID A
SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST
THE LORD. AND THIS
WILL BE A SIGN FOR YOU:
YOU WILL FIND A BABY
WRAPPED IN SWADDLING
CLOTHS AND LYING IN A
MANGER."
LUKE 2:10-12

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

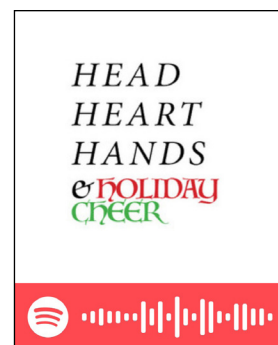
The Fall of Man marked the most catastrophic event that has ever taken place. Yet, tucked away in the chaos is a promise. A promise so grand. A promise so important. A promise that all that has been done by sin will be undone by a Savior. From the moment the promise leapt from the mouth of God and onto the pages of Scripture, God's people have been waiting. With every prophet, priest, king, and holy man who lived, came the question, "Could this be him. The one of whom God has spoken?" and each time it was met with sadness and disappointment, God's people have been crying for the Messiah coming for ages. Will God Answer? Could Mary really be carrying the son of God?

- Darrell Jones, Assistant Pastor, Midtown 12 South

NOTE FROM GROUPS TEAM

Welcome to Advent! We are providing 3H discussion guides for all 4 weeks of Advent whether your group will meet together or not. We invite you to study them personally, to share with your group, or to invite your family into a special season of waiting on our coming King.

And also... Look! Another gift under the tree! In the **Spotify app** simply **scan this QR code by using the camera icon in the search bar** or search **"Groups // Advent"** to listen to a **special playlist of Christmas music** made just for our Midtowners as we walk through this Advent series together!



NAPIER CHRISTMAS PARTNERSHIP

Love your Nashville neighbors and partner with Napier Families this Christmas!

Angel Tree is unable to provide the usual support to the Napier community this year. Midtown and the Napier Kitchen Table are stepping in to help serve families and children.

How it works:

1. As an individual, Small Group, or Home Church, sign up to
 - Option 1:** partner with one or more families in purchasing gifts/needs for the family (Need: 50 families)
 - Option 2:** purchase gift for a student or group of students in a classroom at Napier Elementary (Need: 60 students)
2. Receive family/student wish lists by Friday, November 20, and shop for gifts
3. Bundle your gifts together by family and return to Midtown December 6 - December 13

The Napier Kitchen Table will deliver bundled gifts to families by December 18.

Sign up at midtownfellowship.org/napierchristmas



O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL: week of november 29th, 2020 Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)



Hymn

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

O Come thou King of Nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace.



Setting the Scene

The story of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel is the second of four stories Luke uses to point to the birth of Christ. For the gospel writer Luke, the story of the Good News begins where, after 400 years of silence, the voice of God is heard again with the announcement, shortly before each is born, of Jesus and his forerunner John (the Baptist). Our story picks up after John's birth has been foretold.



Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

