

December 23 | Sunday

Advent: God's Love Letter to Us

Read [John 1:1-14](#)



24 | Mon – Light vs. the dark | Read [John 1:1-9](#)

Ever been on vacation and toured a cave? At some point, the guide will often turn out the lights so you can experience what total darkness is like. Not pleasant. But all it takes is one flashlight to push back the darkness. This is what John is speaking of when he said the one following him would bring light to every human being. Is there any place in your life where you might need to experience the light of hope? That is what Jesus offers.

25 | Tue – Promise fulfilled | Read [Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6](#) / [Luke 2:1-7](#) / [John 1:14](#)

Hundreds of years before, the prophets had predicted Jesus' birth and his purpose for coming. John declares Jesus was the Word who existed before creation. Yet the idea of God putting on flesh and becoming one of them was not the way the Jewish people expected their deliverer to come. Has Jesus ever reveal himself to you in a way you didn't expect? Notice the last letters of the name *Jesus*. Truly he is the one Isaiah spoke of - *Immanuel* meaning 'God with us.'

26 | Wed – Jesus came to the poor and marginalized | Read [Luke 2:8-20](#)

Shepherding was not a highly-regarded profession, being on the edge of society. But it was to the local sheep-herders that God first announced Jesus had been born. They did not question what God had spoken but set out immediately to meet Him. They were not put off that their Savior was born in a such an unlikely place as a stable. Did being the first on the scene of this spectacular event reinforce God's high value of even lowly people like themselves?

27 | Thu – Jesus came to the rich and influential | Read [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

The Magi were highly educated, well-respected and very wealthy, yet they too were looking for a savior. Nearly two years had passed between their first glimpse of the star announcing the newborn king and the moment they knelt in his presence. Because they were astronomers, as well as wise, God spoke in the language they understood, guiding them with a star. You would most likely be considered wealthy by third-world standards. Does self-sufficiency ever dull a passion to know the Savior? To what lengths would you go to find Him?

28 | Fri – John and Jesus | Read [John 1:32-34](#)

Fast forward 30 years. Since John was related to Jesus and they were the same age, they probably saw each other at least once a year when Jesus' family came for the Passover in Jerusalem. Do you think John suspected Jesus was the Messiah? Most likely not because John's only clue to the Messiah's identity is found in v. 33-34. Can you think of a time when you obeyed what God called you to do without knowing the outcome? What happened?

29 | Sat – John steps aside | Read [John 3:27-30](#)

Fame is seductive. Someone passionate about making a difference can be so successful the world sits up and takes notice. Sadly this person may start believing the press and a subtle change of heart can occur. Not so with John. He knew his calling was temporary and stayed true to his purpose. Have you ever heard a well-known Christian, a gifted preacher, or famous theologian echo the words in verse 30? Only one whose focus is on the kingdom of God instead of self would do so. Do you face this temptation on a smaller scale at times?