Week 3: Bethlehem Style – The Birth of Christ

Daily Devotional

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1**: **Deuteronomy 7:6-7**

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

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**Day 2: Philippians 2:7**

He made himself nothing by taking the very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202%3A7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399a)] of a servant, being made in human likeness.

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**Day 3: Isaiah 49:6**

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

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**Day 4: Psalm 17:6**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.

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**Day 5: Matthew 1:21**

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%201%3A21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23166a)]because he will save his people from their sins.”

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Discussion Questions:

1. How can we understand the idea that being "chosen" by God is not about favoritism, but about responsibility? What responsibility do we have as believers in sharing God’s blessings with others, as Israel was meant to do?

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2.  Read Isaiah 49:6. What does it mean for us today that Israel was chosen to be a light to the nations? In what ways are we called to reflect God’s character and holiness to the world around us?

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3. The sermon challenges us by saying, "YOU have been chosen by God." How does this impact how you live your life? Do you see yourself as part of God’s plan to be a light to others? What does that look like in your daily life?

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4. Pastor Bob emphasized Jesus’ humility by His birth in a manger. What does the humble circumstances of Jesus’ birth reveal about His nature? Read Philippians 2:7. We read that Jesus "emptied Himself" to become human. Why is it important that Jesus came in such a humble way? How can we model humility in our own lives?

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5. Pastor Bob said, “You can’t have the cross without the cradle.” How does Jesus’ birth in the manger point us toward His ultimate purpose of sacrifice on the cross? What does it mean for you personally that Jesus’ birth was tied directly to His mission of salvation?

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6. In light of the manger and the cross, how do you respond to the sacrificial love of Jesus? What is one way you can show that love to others this week?

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