

Advent Devotional
Christ Reached, So We Reach

An advent devotional to pray and reach the lost.
November 15 to January 1

Opening Guide

Christ Reached, So We Reach

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas when we remember why Jesus came: to save us. From November 15 through January 1, this devotional will help you see how Jesus came near to people in Scripture and pray for someone in your own life to come to know him. When we talk about reaching the lost, we mean loving and praying for people who don't yet know Jesus.

Our Advent devotional begins with Simeon in Luke 2:25-32.

Luke 2:25-32

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation
of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he
had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him
according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

Simeon was waiting for the consolation of Israel: the comfort and rescue God had promised his people. When he held Jesus, he recognized him as God's promised king, the Messiah. He saw that Jesus came for Israel and for the Gentiles, meaning people who aren't Jewish.

Anna gives us another picture of that hope. In Luke 2:36–38, she thanks God and tells others about Jesus as they wait for God to rescue his people.

Luke 2:36-38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her
husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the
temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to
speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Together, Simeon and Anna help us enter Advent with expectant hearts. The Savior they welcomed is the one we long for our friends and neighbors to know.

Advent at a Glance

As you read about Jesus, notice who in your life you want to pray for → Pray for them by name each day, asking God for a chance to listen, care, or talk about Jesus → Take one step to care for them, and if they're curious about Christianity, offer to go to Questioning Jesus together.

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The Advent Journey Ahead

This devotional moves from seeing how Jesus came near to people, to praying for people we know, to acting on those prayers. Start with the reading for today's date. Read the Bible passage and the Intro, choose a reflection question, then close with the day's prayer.

How to Use E.F.A.P.

E.F.A.P. gives you four ways to see Jesus in the passage. Start with one question; you don't have to answer them all.
Example: what Jesus shows us about how to live.
Fulfillment: how Jesus brings God's promises to pass.
Atonement: how Jesus takes our place and makes us right with God through his death.
Power: how the Holy Spirit helps us respond.

November 15–30: Reflect on Christ

We'll begin before Advent by looking at why Jesus came and how he treated people during his ministry. As you read about the people he noticed, welcomed, and called to follow him, ask God to help you notice someone in your own life who doesn't yet know Jesus. You can start writing down names now so you're ready to pray for them in December.

December 1–21: Pray by Name

For 21 days, pray by name for a few people you already see regularly, such as a neighbor, coworker, or friend. Ask God to help them know Jesus and give you a chance to listen, care, or talk about faith. Some of us pause at 11:02 as a daily reminder, but any time works. You can pray on your own, with a trusted friend, or with your Community Group, one of The Well's small groups.

December 22–January 1: Carry Prayer Forward

Christmas isn't the end of these prayers. Keep praying for the same people and ask God to show you one way to care for them. That might mean sharing a meal, following up on a conversation, or making time to listen. If a friend is curious about Christianity, you might offer to go with them to Questioning Jesus, The Well's seven-week spring class where people can explore the Christian faith and ask honest questions.

Advent Reading Calendar

Find today's date below. The color shows which of the three phases you're in. If you miss a day, pick up with today's reading and keep going.

Reflect on Christ Pray by name Carry prayer forward

November 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2

How This Devotional Ties into One Place

At The Well, we have an initiative called One Place. The idea is simple: choose one place where you already see the same people regularly, like your neighborhood, workplace, or a group of friends. Pray for people there who don't yet follow Jesus, make time for them, and share your faith when there's an opportunity. This Advent, we'll use the daily readings to help us pray for those people by name.

Where God Has Placed Us

In Acts 1–2, Jesus promises his followers that the Holy Spirit will give them power to tell others about him. When they gather for Pentecost, a Jewish festival, the Holy Spirit comes to them. The news about Jesus spreads from Jerusalem as his followers bring it to new communities.

Paul's time in Corinth puts a face on that calling. When he meets opposition, Jesus tells him to keep speaking and assures him that he is not alone (Acts 18:9–10). In Acts 17:26–27, Paul connects the times and places people live with the invitation to seek God. That gives us a reason to pay attention to the people God has put around us.

Watch: What is One Place?

Prayer, Presence, and Proclamation

Prayer. Pray for people in your One Place by name. Ask God for a chance to talk about Jesus, and thank him for the ways you already see him at work (Colossians 4:2–4).

Presence. Keep showing up in ways that fit the relationship. Take a walk with a neighbor, share lunch with a coworker, or check in after a hard week. Make time to listen and follow up on what they share.

Proclamation. When a natural opportunity comes, tell them what Jesus has done for you or explain the good news in your own words. Let their questions guide the conversation, and answer with grace (Colossians 4:5–6).

Your Next Step

Choose one place and write down a few names. During December 1–21, pray for those people after each reading. Choose one way to be present with someone this week. If you'd like someone to pray with you, share only what's appropriate.

Use the One Place Tracker or a notebook for your own prayer list. Use the Shared Prayer List on page 8 only for requests you choose to share.

Open the One Place dashboard

Add people to My Prayer List

How This Devotional Ties into Questioning Jesus

Questioning Jesus is a seven-week class at The Well for anyone curious about Christianity. It gives you a place to explore the Christian faith with a friend you've been praying for during Advent.

What to Expect

Each week, we share a meal, watch a short video, and talk about who Jesus is and what he taught. You don't need to know the Bible or agree with what you hear. You can ask questions, share your perspective, or just listen.

How do One Place and Questioning Jesus Connect?

As you pray for people in your One Place, pay attention to the questions that come up in ordinary conversations. If a friend wants to explore Christianity further, offer to go to the first week of Questioning Jesus together. Keep showing up for them whether or not they come.

Questioning Jesus Class: Seven-week schedule

March 30–May 11, 2027

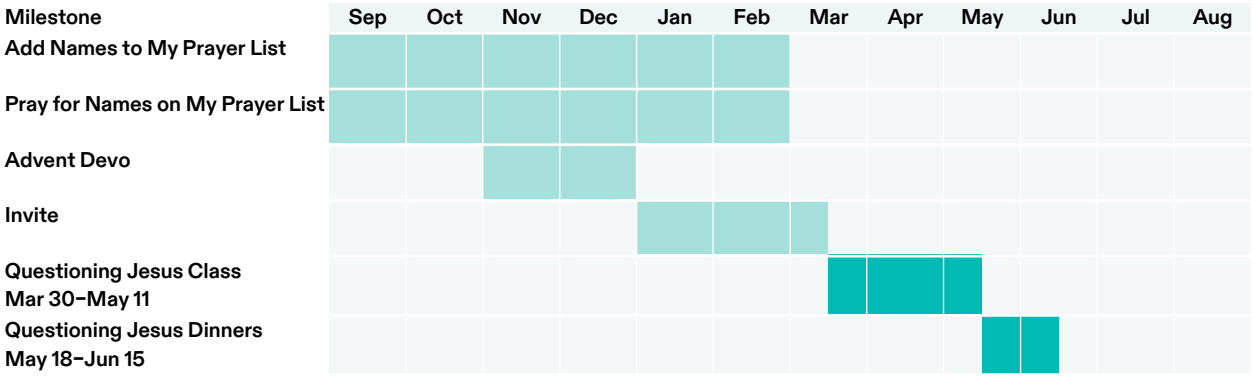
Weekly topics

March 30, 2027: Why Are We Here?
April 6, 2027: Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?
April 13, 2027: Why Do Bad Things Happen if God Is Good?
April 20, 2027: Is There an Ultimate Truth?
April 27, 2027: Is Being a Good Person Good Enough?
May 4, 2027: Who Is the Holy Spirit?
May 11, 2027: What Does It Mean to Be a Christian?

Watch: What is Questioning Jesus?

Questioning Jesus Launch Timeline

The class starts March 30, 2027. The dinners shown below take place after the seven-week class ends.



Your Next Step: Send invites

Head to Text Invitations to find invitation templates, copy text messages, and download invitation cards to share.

Go to Text Invitations

Shared Prayer List

As a church, our goal is to pray for at least 100 people by December 21. Keep your own list in the One Place Tracker or a notebook. Use this worksheet if you choose to pray with your Community Group or a trusted friend. Share only what's appropriate: you can use initials or ask for prayer without giving a name. Leave out sensitive details. It's fine to keep your whole list to yourself.

Name	Connection	What they've shared or asked about faith	Next faithful step

Part 1 / November 15–30

Reflect on Christ

Before Advent begins, look at why Jesus came and how he drew near to people others overlooked. As you read, ask God to help you notice someone in your own life who doesn't yet know Jesus. Write down their name as you prepare to pray in December.

Sat, Nov 15
Waiting for the Consolation

Luke 2:25-32

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation
of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he
had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him
according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation
31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

Intro

Simeon was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel. His waiting was not passive. It was holy longing for the promised Messiah. Reaching the lost begins here: before we speak, plan, invite, or host, we ask God to give us Simeon's longing for Christ and for salvation to be seen.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Simeon show a holy longing for Christ?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill Simeon's waiting?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Simeon's song point to salvation in Christ?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What longing is the Spirit awakening in you today? Today: Write down the names of three people you long to see come into the light of Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, make me a person who longs for Christ and longs for others to see his salvation.

Sun, Nov 16
A Light for the Nations

Luke 2:30-38

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce
through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her
husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the
temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to
speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 49:6

6 he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Intro

Simeon rejoices that his eyes have seen God's salvation, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel. Anna then speaks of Jesus to those waiting for redemption. Advent longing moves outward: Christ is not only comfort for us; he is light for the nations.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage show God's heart for the nations?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus become light for the Gentiles?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus bring outsiders near by grace?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Who is the Spirit placing on your heart today? Today: Pray for one neighbor, coworker, classmate, family member, or people group by name.

Prayer

Ask God to widen your longing beyond your own comfort to the salvation of outsiders, neighbors, and nations.

Mon, Nov 17
Light for People in Darkness

Isaiah 9:1-7

[1] But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. [3] You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. [4] For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. [5] For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. [6] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Intro

The promised child comes to people walking in darkness. Darkness is not only moral rebellion; it is confusion, grief, fear, and hopelessness. Jesus brings light strong enough for every kind of night.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage show Christ's compassion for people in darkness?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill Isaiah's promise of light?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus rescue us from darkness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where might the Spirit send you with hope today? Today: Send one simple check-in message with no agenda beyond care.

Prayer

Ask God to show you where someone near you is carrying darkness quietly.

Tue, Nov 18
Born Among the Ordinary

Luke 2:1-7

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Intro

The Son of God entered the world without earthly status. His first bed was not impressive. This humbles our witness. We do not need perfect conditions, polished words, or social power to join God's mission.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus model humility in his birth?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill God's promise through ordinary circumstances?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ's humility prepare him to save us?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where is the Spirit inviting ordinary faithfulness today? Today: Look for one ordinary setting where God may already be opening a door.

Prayer

Ask Jesus to free you from needing to look impressive.

Wed, Nov 19
Good News for Shepherds

Luke 2:8-20

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord
appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a
manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this
thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the
baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all
who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20
And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Intro

The first public announcement of Jesus' birth went to shepherds. God delights to send good news to people others overlook. If the gospel is truly good news, it must sound like grace to the weary, the ashamed, and the unseen.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does God show grace to overlooked people here?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the announcement of great joy?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the Savior's birth answer our deepest need?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Who might need encouragement from you today? Today: Encourage someone who may feel unseen.

Prayer

Ask God to soften your speech toward people you find easy to overlook.

Thu, Nov 20
Sought by Outsiders

Matthew 2:1-12

[1] Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem,
[2] saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” [3] When
Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; [4] and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the
people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. [5] They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the
prophet:

[6] “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who
will shepherd my people Israel.’”

[7] Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. [8] And he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and
worship him.” [9] After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before
them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. [11]
And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their
treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. [12] And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they
departed to their own country by another way.

Intro

The Magi remind us that God can awaken hunger in surprising people and through surprising paths. Some people are closer to seeking than we assume. Our task is to pay attention and be ready.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does God welcome seekers in this passage?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the nations' search for a king?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus receive people who come from far away?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What curiosity might the Spirit help you notice today? Today: Ask someone a gentle spiritual question, such as, 'Have you ever had much church background?'

Prayer

Ask God to reveal who around you may already be curious.

Fri, Nov 21
Jesus Identifies with Sinners

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. 14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to
be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all
righteousness.” Then he consented. 16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the
heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice
from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Intro

At his baptism, Jesus stands in the waters with sinners, though he has no sin of his own. He does not save from a distance. He identifies with those he came to rescue and points us toward a witness marked by humility.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus model humble nearness to sinners?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill righteousness for us?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus stand with sinners to save them?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where is the Spirit confronting pride in you today? Today: Listen to someone's story without correcting or rushing them.

Prayer

Confess any pride that keeps you distant from people who need grace.

Sat, Nov 22
Tempted Yet Faithful

Matthew 4:1-11

[1] Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. [2] And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. [3] And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” [4] But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

[5] Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple [6] and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

[7] Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” [8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. [9] And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” [10] Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

[11] Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Intro

Jesus faced temptation and remained faithful where we fail. He is not fragile in the face of human weakness. This gives us courage to pray for people who seem far from God and for ourselves when witness feels hard.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus model faithfulness under temptation?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus succeed where we fail?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ's obedience become hope for sinners?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where might the Spirit strengthen your endurance today? Today: Pray for someone whose story feels complicated or discouraging.

Prayer

Ask Jesus for endurance where you are tempted to withdraw.

Sun, Nov 23
Calling Fishermen

Matthew 4:18-22

[18] While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. [19] And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” [20] Immediately they left their nets and followed him. [21] And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. [22] Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Intro

Jesus calls ordinary workers into his mission. He does not wait until they know everything. He invites them to follow and learn as they go. Reaching the lost is not reserved for experts; it belongs to disciples.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus invite ordinary people into mission?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus create the workers he sends?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace qualify unprepared disciples?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What relationship might the Spirit be naming today? Today: Name one relationship where following Jesus may require a next step.

Prayer

Ask God to use your ordinary relationships and ordinary obedience.

Mon, Nov 24
The Doctor for the Sick

Mark 2:13-17

13 He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw
Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

15 And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were
many who followed him. 16 And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to
his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well
have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Intro

Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners because sick people need a physician. His holiness is not avoidance; it is healing presence. Churches that follow Jesus must learn how to be near without becoming self-righteous or careless.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus move toward spiritually sick people?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the role of the true physician?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus heal what sin has broken?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Who might the Spirit invite you to welcome today? Today: Consider who you could invite to coffee, lunch, dinner, or a simple conversation.

Prayer

Ask God for holiness that moves toward people in love.

Tue, Nov 25
A Woman at the Well

John 4:1-26

[1] Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John [2] (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), [3] he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. [4] And he had to pass through Samaria. [5] So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. [6] Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

[7] A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [8] (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) [9] The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) [10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." [11] The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? [12] Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." [13] Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, [14] but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

[16] Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." [17] The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; [18] for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." [19] The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. [20] Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." [21] Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. [22] You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." [25] The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." [26] Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Intro

Jesus meets a woman with truth and tenderness. He names thirst beneath behavior and offers living water. Evangelism is not winning an argument; it is helping people hear the invitation of Jesus.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus speak with truth to this woman?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus offer the living water she needs?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus cover shame with mercy?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What honest question could you ask today? Today: Practice asking one good question before offering advice.

Prayer

Ask Jesus to make you both honest and tender.

Wed, Nov 26
Compassion for Crowds

Matthew 9:35-38

[35] And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. [36] When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. [37] Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; [38] therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Intro

Jesus sees harassed and helpless people and responds with compassion. Then he tells his disciples to pray. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers come through prayer before strategy.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus see harassed people?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus answer the need for a shepherd?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus become the shepherd who saves?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where is the Spirit teaching you compassion today? Today: Pray for your community group by name as workers in the harvest.

Prayer

Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers in your church, including you.

Thu, Nov 27
Seeking the One

Luke 15:1-7

[1] Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. [2] And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

[3] So he told them this parable: [4] “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? [5] And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ [7] Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

Intro

Jesus tells of a shepherd who seeks the one lost sheep. Heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. The mission of God is personal. One name matters. One conversation matters. One invitation matters.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus value one lost person?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus become the shepherd who seeks?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus carry the lost home by grace?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Whose name is the Spirit asking you to carry today? Today: Put that person's name on your prayer list.

Prayer

Ask God to place one person clearly on your heart.

Fri, Nov 28
The Father Who Runs

Luke 15:11-32

11 And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of
property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he
had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent
everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the
citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and
no one gave him anything.

17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here
with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no
longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he
was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him,
‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his
servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened
calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began
to celebrate.

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one
of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the
fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and
entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet
you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your
property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine
is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

Intro

The father runs toward the returning son while the older brother struggles to rejoice. Reaching the lost requires the heart of the Father, not merely the correctness of the older brother.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does the father show costly mercy?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus reveal the Father's welcome?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace restore the undeserving child?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where is the Spirit challenging resentment today? Today: Examine whether resentment or fear has narrowed your compassion.

Prayer

Ask God to give you joy when grace reaches someone unexpected.

Sat, Nov 29
Zacchaeus in the Tree

Luke 19:1-10

[1] He entered Jericho and was passing through. [2] And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. [3] And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. [4] So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” [6] So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. [7] And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” [8] And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” [9] And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Intro

Jesus notices Zacchaeus, calls him by name, and enters his house. Salvation comes with personal attention and costly welcome. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, and he still loves to enter homes and lives.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus notice Zacchaeus personally?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus seek the lost in this story?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does salvation enter a guilty house?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What personal door might the Spirit open today? Today: Use someone's name warmly today and make space for conversation.

Prayer

Ask God for a personal door into someone's life.

Sun, Nov 30
Sent as Witnesses

Acts 1:6-11

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is
not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And
when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they
were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand
looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Intro

The risen Jesus sends his people as witnesses. We do not witness to ourselves, our church brand, or our moral strength. We bear witness to him: crucified, risen, reigning, and coming again.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus send his people as witnesses?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does the risen Christ complete the disciples' hope?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the cross become the message we witness to?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What simple testimony might the Spirit form in you today? Today: Write one sentence about why Jesus is good news to you.

Prayer

Ask the Spirit to make your life and words point to Jesus.

Part 2 / December 1–21

Pray by Name

Paul wrote Colossians 4:2–6 from prison. He asked the church to keep praying and to speak about Jesus clearly and graciously. For the next 21 days, pray for the same people by name. Thank God for what you see him doing and ask him for a natural chance to talk about Jesus.

Mon, Dec 1
Devoted to Prayer

Colossians 4:2-6

[2] Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. [3] At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—[4] that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

[5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Intro

For the next 21 days, we'll follow Paul's lead and pray for people we know. We ask God for chances to talk about Jesus and trust him with the response. Prayer comes first, whether or not an invitation to Questioning Jesus follows.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul model dependence in mission?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus anchor our prayers for open doors?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace free us from pressure in witness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What prayer habit is the Spirit forming today? Today: Choose three to five people to pray for through December 21. Write their names on your own list. Share a request with someone you trust only if you'd like them to pray with you.

Prayer

Lord, make me steady in prayer for the lost.

Tue, Dec 2
Watchful Prayer

Colossians 4:2

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 And I said, “O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father’s house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. 8 Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, 9 but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.’ 10 They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.”

Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Intro

Watchful prayer pays attention. It notices burdens, questions, patterns, and invitations. The people around us are not background scenery; they are souls made in God's image.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does watchfulness shape faithful prayer?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus teach us to notice people?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ's attention heal our indifference?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What need is the Spirit helping you notice today? Today: Write one thing you have noticed about each person on your list.

Prayer

Lord, help me notice what I usually miss.

Wed, Dec 3
Thankful Prayer

Colossians 4:2

[2] Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Philippians 1:3-6

[3] I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. [6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Intro

Thanksgiving protects prayer from anxiety. We can thank God before we see change because he is already merciful, patient, and active. Gratitude steadies the church for long obedience.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does thanksgiving steady gospel prayer?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus give us confidence before results appear?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace make gratitude possible?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What sign of grace can you thank God for today? Today: Tell your community group one reason you are hopeful.

Prayer

Thank God for every sign of grace in the people you are praying for.

Thu, Dec 4
Open Doors

Colossians 4:3

[3] At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

1 Corinthians 16:8-9

[8] But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, [9] for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Intro

An open door may be a question, a crisis, an invitation, a meal, a shared interest, or a moment of trust. We do not force doors open. We ask God to open them and make us ready to walk through.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul ask God for opportunity?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus open the way to God?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ's work give us access to the Father?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What door might the Spirit be opening today? Today: Ask God for one natural next conversation this week.

Prayer

Lord, open a real door for the message of Christ.

Fri, Dec 5
The Message of Christ

Colossians 4:3

3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

1 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Intro

Our hope is not that people become vaguely spiritual. Our hope is that they meet Christ. The gospel is the message of his life, death, resurrection, reign, forgiveness, and invitation.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul keep Christ at the center?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the gospel we proclaim?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ's death save sinners?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What gospel sentence could the Spirit clarify today? Today: Practice saying the gospel in simple, non-religious language.

Prayer

Lord, keep Jesus at the center of my concern.

Sat, Dec 6
Speak Clearly

Colossians 4:4

4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Acts 17:16-34

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he
reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be
there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to
say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And
they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you
bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." 21 Now all the Athenians and the
foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.
22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I
passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What
therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven
and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself
gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the
earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel
their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for
"'In him we live and move and have our being';
as even some of your own poets have said,
"'For we are indeed his offspring.'
29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and
imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he
has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given
assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." 33 So Paul
went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman
named Damaris and others with them.

Intro

Clear speech is not harsh speech. It is understandable speech. Paul asks for prayer to make the mystery of Christ plain. Love works hard to be clear enough for real people to understand.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul model clarity in witness?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus make God known clearly?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the cross clarify our need for grace?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What phrase might the Spirit simplify today? Today: Remove insider language from one sentence of your faith story.

Prayer

Lord, give me words that are simple, truthful, and kind.

Sun, Dec 7
Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Colossians 4:5

[5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

James 3:13-18

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. [14] But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. [15] This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. [16] For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. [17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Intro

Paul calls nonbelievers outsiders, not as an insult but as a description of location. Wisdom toward outsiders means patience, integrity, timing, curiosity, and gentleness. The way we walk matters.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does wisdom shape Christian witness?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus embody wisdom toward outsiders?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus redeem our foolishness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What wise step is the Spirit inviting today? Today: Ask whether your pace, tone, or habits make faith more approachable.

Prayer

Lord, make my life match my message.

Mon, Dec 8
Make the Most of the Time

Colossians 4:5

[5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Ephesians 5:15-20

[15] Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. [18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, [19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, [20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Intro

We often imagine witness as a big moment, but Paul points to time. Small moments can be received as gifts: the car ride, the break room, the sidewalk, the meal, the text thread. Even a simple 11:02 prayer rhythm can train us to pause and ask God for open doors.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul treat time as a gift?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus use ordinary moments for salvation?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace redeem wasted time?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What ordinary moment might the Spirit use today? Today: Set a daily reminder at 11:02 or another time that works for you. Use Colossians 4:2–6 to pray for the people on your list.

Prayer

Lord, help me receive ordinary moments as opportunities.

Tue, Dec 9
Gracious Speech

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Proverbs 15:1-4

1 A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly. 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. 4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Intro

Grace does not make speech weak. Grace makes speech hospitable to truth. People should experience our words as patient, careful, and human, even when we are speaking about serious things.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage call for gentle words?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus speak grace to sinners?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ forgive our careless words?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What conversation might the Spirit soften today? Today: Have one conversation where your main goal is to listen well.

Prayer

Lord, heal any sharpness, superiority, or fear in my speech.

Wed, Dec 10
Seasoned with Salt

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Matthew 5:13-16

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Intro

Salt preserves and awakens taste. Our words should carry a distinct flavor: hope without denial, conviction without contempt, honesty without cruelty, joy without shallowness.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus make his people distinct?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus preserve hope in the world?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ restore our witness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What word might the Spirit season with grace today? Today: Write down one phrase you want to avoid and one phrase you want to practice.

Prayer

Lord, make my words distinct with the flavor of Christ.

Thu, Dec 11
Answer Each Person

Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

1 Peter 3:13-16

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will
be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make
a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good
conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Intro

Paul does not say to memorize one answer for everyone. He says each person. Love pays attention to the person in front of us: their story, objections, wounds, hopes, and questions.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul honor each person?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus answer people personally?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace meet your personal need?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What question might the Spirit help you ask today? Today: Write one question you could ask each person on your prayer list.

Prayer

Lord, help me respond to people, not stereotypes.

Fri, Dec 12
Praying for Curiosity

John 1:35-39

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

Intro

Jesus welcomes the question, 'Where are you staying?' with an invitation to come and see. Curiosity is often one of the first signs of grace at work.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus welcome curiosity?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus become the answer seekers need?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus receive unsure people by grace?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Whose curiosity might the Spirit awaken today? Today: Pray by name for curiosity, not just agreement.

Prayer

Lord, awaken honest curiosity in the people we are praying for.

Sat, Dec 13
Praying for Trust

John 1:40-46

40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother
Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said,
"You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the
city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the
prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip
said to him, "Come and see."

Intro

Andrew brings his brother. Philip invites Nathanael. Trust often travels through relationship. Questioning Jesus Year Two is focused and highly relational because people are usually helped by an invitation that comes from someone who knows them, not from cold promotion.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does trust travel through relationship?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus prove himself trustworthy?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ heal broken trust?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What trust-building step is the Spirit inviting today? Today: Take one step that builds trust without rushing an invitation.

Prayer

Lord, make me a trustworthy presence.

Sun, Dec 14
Praying Through Barriers

Mark 10:46-52

46 And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son
of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son
of David, have mercy on me!” 48 And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have
mercy on me!” 49 And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is
calling you.” 50 And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for
you?” And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.” 52 And Jesus said to him, “Go your way; your faith has made
you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Intro

The crowd saw Bartimaeus as an interruption, but Jesus stopped. Some barriers are social, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual. Prayer teaches us to see obstacles without giving up.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus stop for Bartimaeus?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus overcome barriers to mercy?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ remove our deepest barrier?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What barrier should you pray over today? Today: Name one possible barrier for each person and pray over it gently.

Prayer

Lord, remove barriers that keep these people from hearing and receiving Christ.

Mon, Dec 15
Praying for Households

Acts 16:11-15

[11] So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, [12] and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. [13] And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. [14] One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. [15] And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Acts 16:25-34

[25] About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, [26] and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. [27] When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. [28] But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." [29] And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. [30] Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." [32] And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. [33] And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. [34] Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Intro

In Acts, the gospel often enters households and networks. Our prayers can include families, roommates, friends, teams, and workplaces. God loves to move through relational circles.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does the gospel move through households?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus bring salvation into homes?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace reach beyond one person?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Which household might the Spirit burden you for today? Today: Ask whether anyone on your list has a family member or friend also open to Questioning Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, let your grace spread through households and networks.

Tue, Dec 16
Community Group Prayer Night

Colossians 4:2-6

[2] Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. [3] At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—[4] that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

[5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Intro

Tonight or this week, slow down as a group. Share names. Pray with tenderness. Ask God for open doors, clear words, wise lives, and gracious speech. Carry one another's people as a shared burden, and help build the church-wide list of at least 100 named invitees.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does shared prayer strengthen mission?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus gather his people for witness?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace make us one praying body?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What name should your group carry today? Today: In group, pray for each person by first name and ask for one specific open door.

Prayer

Lord, make our community group a praying community for the lost.

Wed, Dec 17
Praying for Questioning Jesus

Acts 18:24-28

[24] Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. [25] He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. [26] He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. [27] And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, [28] for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Intro

Questioning Jesus can be a hospitable space where spiritually open people explore Christianity, ask honest questions, share a meal, listen, and reconsider. Pray that the March relaunch would be warm, clear, low-pressure, and full of the presence of God.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage encourage clear teaching?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus make the gospel understandable?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ welcome honest questions?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What Questioning Jesus need should you pray for today? Today: Write the names of people you may invite to Questioning Jesus and note what would make the invitation feel hospitable to them.

Prayer

Lord, prepare the Questioning Jesus leaders, hosts, helpers, tables, conversations, and invitations.

Thu, Dec 18
Praying for Courage to Invite

Acts 4:23-31

[23] When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. [24] And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, [25] who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,

“‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? [26] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’—

[27] for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, [28] to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. [29] And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, [30] while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” [31] And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Intro

The early church prayed for boldness, not comfort. An invitation can feel small, but it often requires courage. Boldness is not pressure; it is love willing to speak when trust has made the moment right.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does the church pray for boldness?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus give courage to his witnesses?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace free us from fear?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What invitation might the Spirit strengthen today? Today: Draft a simple invitation in your own words for one person you know personally.

Prayer

Lord, give me courage to make a clear, personal, and gracious invitation.

Fri, Dec 19
Praying for Gentleness

2 Timothy 2:24-26

[24] And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, [25] correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, [26] and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Intro

The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind. In a tense and suspicious world, gentleness is not optional decoration. It is part of faithful witness.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does gentleness shape the Lord's servant?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus show gentle strength?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ forgive our harshness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Where might the Spirit make you gentler today? Today: Ask a trusted believer to read your invitation and check its tone.

Prayer

Lord, make my invitation gentle, not anxious or pushy.

Sat, Dec 20
Praying for Salvation

Romans 10:9-17

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be
saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says,
“Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is
Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How
beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has
believed what he has heard from us?” 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Intro

At the center of our prayers is not attendance but salvation. We long for people to hear Christ, trust Christ, confess Christ, and belong to Christ. Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage honor the preached word?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus become the Lord we confess?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ save all who call on him?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Whose salvation should you plead for today? Today: Pray aloud for each name on your list.

Prayer

Lord, save the people we love. Give them ears to hear and hearts to trust Jesus.

Sun, Dec 21
A Church with Open Doors

Luke 2:25-32

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation
of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before
he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for
him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you
have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Colossians 4:2-6

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a
door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—4 that I may make it clear, which is how I
ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that
you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Intro

Simeon held the child and saw salvation prepared in the presence of all peoples. Advent sends us outward with hope. By today, we are asking God to have built in us a church-wide foundation of prayer and preparation for the March Questioning Jesus relaunch.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Simeon see salvation for all peoples?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus become light for the nations?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Christ prepare salvation for sinners?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What open-door step should continue today? Today: Choose your next faithful step: continue the 11:02 prayer rhythm, start a conversation, offer a meal, or prepare to invite someone to Questioning Jesus.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make our church a people of open doors, clear gospel words, wise lives, gracious speech, and hospitable welcome until many come home to you.

Part 3 / December 22–January 1

Carry Prayer Forward

Keep praying for the people you've named, and ask God to show you one way to care for them. You might share a meal or follow up on a conversation. If a friend is curious about Christianity, consider offering to go to Questioning Jesus together.

Mon, Dec 22
The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14-18

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Intro

Christmas tells us that God does not merely send information; he gives himself. The Word became flesh, full of grace and truth. Our witness must carry both: the grace that welcomes and the truth that names Jesus clearly.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus come near in this passage?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus reveal God's glory?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the incarnate Son save us?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). How might the Spirit make your words gracious today? Today: Pray for your words to sound like welcome, not pressure.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make our church full of grace and truth for people who are open to exploring Christianity.

Tue, Dec 23
Room for the Stranger

Hebrews 13:1-3

[1] Let brotherly love continue. [2] Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. [3] Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Luke 14:12-24

[12] He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. [13] But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, [14] and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

[15] When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” [16] But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. [17] And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ [18] But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ [19] And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ [20] And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ [21] So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ [22] And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ [23] And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. [24] For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Intro

Hospitality is more than hosting an event. It is the posture of making room. Questioning Jesus will need warm tables, clear welcome, patient listening, and people who know how to make outsiders feel less like outsiders.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does hospitality reflect God's welcome?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus make room for outsiders?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace turn strangers into family?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What hospitable step could you take today? Today: Consider one practical way you could help someone feel less alone at church or Questioning Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, teach us to create hospitable space in our homes, groups, gatherings, and Questioning Jesus tables.

Wed, Dec 24
Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2:8-14

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord
appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 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. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a
manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Intro

The angel announces good news of great joy for all the people. The gospel is serious, but it is not gloomy. It is joy strong enough to be shared with anxious, skeptical, wounded, and curious people.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does God announce joy to ordinary people?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the angel's good news?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the Savior answer our need for joy?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Who needs gospel joy from your prayers today? Today: Pray for the person on your list who most needs joy.

Prayer

Lord, restore joy in me so my witness is not driven by duty alone.

Thu, Dec 25
Christ Came to Save Us

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came
together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to
shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream,
saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She
will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the
Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25
but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Intro

He is named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins. Christmas is not sentiment; it is rescue. We reach the lost because we have been reached, loved, forgiven, and brought near by Christ.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Jesus' name reveal his mission?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus fulfill the promise of rescue?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does Jesus save his people from sin?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What gratitude might the Spirit deepen today? Today: Write a short thanksgiving prayer for your own salvation.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for saving you. Ask him to save the people you are carrying in prayer.

Fri, Dec 26
After the Celebration

Acts 2:42-47

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe
came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together
and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any
had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and
generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were
being saved.

Intro

The mission continues after the holiday feeling fades. The early church devoted themselves to ordinary practices, and the Lord added to their number. Faithfulness after the big moment matters.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does the early church practice devotion?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus continue his mission through the church?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace sustain ordinary faithfulness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What rhythm might the Spirit help you keep today? Today: Take time to pray by name, even if your schedule feels different.

Prayer

Lord, keep us steady after Christmas. Do not let our prayer for the lost fade.

Sat, Dec 27
A People of Witness

Acts 4:18-20

18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them,
"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have
seen and heard."

Intro

The apostles could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard. Witness is not a performance. It is truthful testimony from people who have encountered Jesus.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How do the apostles model testimony?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus give his people something to say?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does the gospel become our witness?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What testimony might the Spirit clarify today? Today: Write two sentences of your own testimony that a non-Christian could understand.

Prayer

Lord, help me speak simply about what I have seen and heard of your grace.

Sun, Dec 28
Personal Follow-Through

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

7 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 8 So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Intro

Paul describes ministry that is gentle, personal, and shared life. The Questioning Jesus invitation should not end with the ask. People need follow-through, care, and someone willing to keep walking with them.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul model gentle follow-through?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus stay near to his people?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace teach patient care?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Who might the Spirit ask you to follow up with today? Today: Choose one person to follow up with before the new year.

Prayer

Lord, make me willing to walk patiently with people before, during, and after Questioning Jesus.

Mon, Dec 29
Praying for Leaders and Tables

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

[1] Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, [2] and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. [3] But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. [4] And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. [5] May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Intro

Pray not only for invitees, but also for the people who will host, lead, serve, cook, greet, listen, and follow up. A hospitable Questioning Jesus environment is built by many quiet acts of love.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul ask prayer for gospel workers?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus prepare servants for his mission?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace support weak workers?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). Which Questioning Jesus servant should you pray for today? Today: Pray for one Questioning Jesus volunteer role by name or category.

Prayer

Lord, prepare Questioning Jesus leaders, hosts, helpers, Prayer Team members, and ministry partners for faithful welcome.

Tue, Dec 30
Discerning the Next Step

Proverbs 3:5-6

[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. [6] In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Colossians 4:5

[5] Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

Intro

Wisdom asks, 'What is the next faithful step?' For one person, it may be a meal. For another, a question. For another, a direct invitation. For another, patient prayer.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does wisdom depend on the Lord?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus guide the path of obedience?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace cover our uncertainty?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What next step might the Spirit make clear today? Today: Write one next step beside each name: pray, listen, meal, conversation, invitation, or follow-up.

Prayer

Lord, show me the next faithful step for each person on my list.

Wed, Dec 31
Looking Back with Thanks

Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents.

[1] When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. [2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” [3] The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

[4] Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! [5] Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! [6] He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Philippians 1:3-6

[3] I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. [6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Intro

As the year closes, thanksgiving helps us remember that God has been working before we noticed and beyond what we can measure. We entrust every hidden seed to him.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does this passage teach remembrance?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus prove God has done great things?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace turn tears into joy?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What thanksgiving should you name today? Today: Share one thanksgiving with your community group or prayer partner.

Prayer

Thank God for every open door, every name, every prayer, and every sign of spiritual openness.

Thu, Jan 1
Trusting God to Give the Growth

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos
watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8
He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers.
You are God's field, God's building.

Colossians 4:2-6

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a
door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—4 that I may make it clear, which is how I
ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that
you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Intro

A new year begins with dependence. We plant and water, but God gives the growth. This frees us from pressure and calls us into faithfulness: prayer, relationship, hospitality, clear invitation, and trust.

E.F.A.P.: Seeing Christ in the Passage

- Example (He Shows Us How). How does Paul model humble dependence?
- Fulfillment (He Does What We Cannot). How does Jesus make growth possible?
- Atonement (He Takes Our Place and Gives Us His Right Standing). How does grace free us from control?
- Power (He Gives Us His Power). What January commitment is the Spirit inviting today? Today: Choose your January commitment: continue 11:02 prayer, serve with Questioning Jesus, invite one person, or help your community group keep praying.

Prayer

Lord, give the growth. Make Questioning Jesus a hospitable space for spiritually open people to explore Christianity, and make our church faithful in prayer and love.

Simple Questioning Jesus Invitation Language

Start with what your friend has actually shared with you. Use your own words, explain what Questioning Jesus is, and make it easy to say no. These examples are starting points for inviting someone you know personally.

- For someone seeking belonging: I know this season has included a lot of transition. My church is hosting Questioning Jesus after spring break, and it is a relaxed dinner conversation for exploring Christianity and honest questions. Would you want to come with me one week?
- For someone looking for a safe place to land: I have heard you say church has felt hard to enter. Questioning Jesus is meant to be a low-pressure space where no one has to have everything figured out. Would you be open to trying the first night with me?
- For someone seeking healing or meaning: You have been carrying a lot, and I thought of you because Questioning Jesus gives people room to talk about life, faith, pain, and hope without pressure. Would you want to check it out together?
- For someone who comes around holidays or family moments: I know church is usually a Christmas or Easter thing for you. Questioning Jesus might be a good next step because it is more conversation than service. Would you want to come with me after spring break?

After the Invitation

- Keep praying by name, even if the first answer is no.
- Offer to go with them, sit with them, or help them know what to expect.
- Follow up personally after the first gathering.
- Ask what they thought, what questions they have, and whether they would like to keep coming.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank you that you sent your Son into the world not to abandon the lost, but to seek and save them. Make us devoted in prayer, watchful with thanksgiving, ready for open doors, clear in the message of Christ, wise toward outsiders, and gracious in every word. Use our ordinary lives, our community groups, our One Place initiative, the 11:02 prayer rhythm, and the March Questioning Jesus relaunch to create a hospitable space for people who are open to exploring Christianity. We trust you to give the growth. Amen.

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