



*2021 ADVENT PRAYER GUIDE*

# WEEK ONE: 11/28-12/4

Luke 1:28-38 - The angel Gabriel comes to Mary and announces the birth of Jesus to her. He tells her that she will give birth to a son named Jesus, who will be both the Son of David and the Son of God. The most surprising thing about this announcement is that she will conceive and give birth as a virgin.

Look at Genesis 18:1-15

We've looked at this story in Genesis before, but this is the beginning of a theme that repeats itself all throughout the Old Testament, God giving life to the womb of a barren woman so that his promise would continue and the Savior would come. Think back about the life of Sarah and Abraham and their journey as they waited for God to fulfill his promise.

Verse 14 is repeated in Luke 1:37. How can the truth that nothing is too hard for God encourage your heart?

Reflect on what Sarah's story ultimately points forward to, the virgin conception and birth of Jesus. What is the significance of God doing it this way? Why does God do it this way? What hope does that give us?



# NOTES - WEEK ONE

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# WEEK TWO: 12/5-12/11

Luke 1:39-56 - Mary has just received news that she will carry Jesus our Messiah and that her aunt, Elizabeth, is also carrying a child in her old age. Mary quickly goes to visit Elizabeth to celebrate their news. Mary recites a song of celebration in verses 46-55.

Look at 1 Samuel 2:1-10. In 1 Samuel 2 we meet a woman named Hannah. Hannah was a woman who was unable to have children. She prayed that the Lord would grant her a child, and when He did, she dedicated that child to Him. We see Hannah sing a song to God in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.



# WEEK TWO: 12/5-12/11

What are the similarities between Mary's song in Luke 1:39-56 and Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10?

In what ways do we see Hannah declare the goodness of the Lord?

In what ways do we see Mary declare the goodness of the Lord?

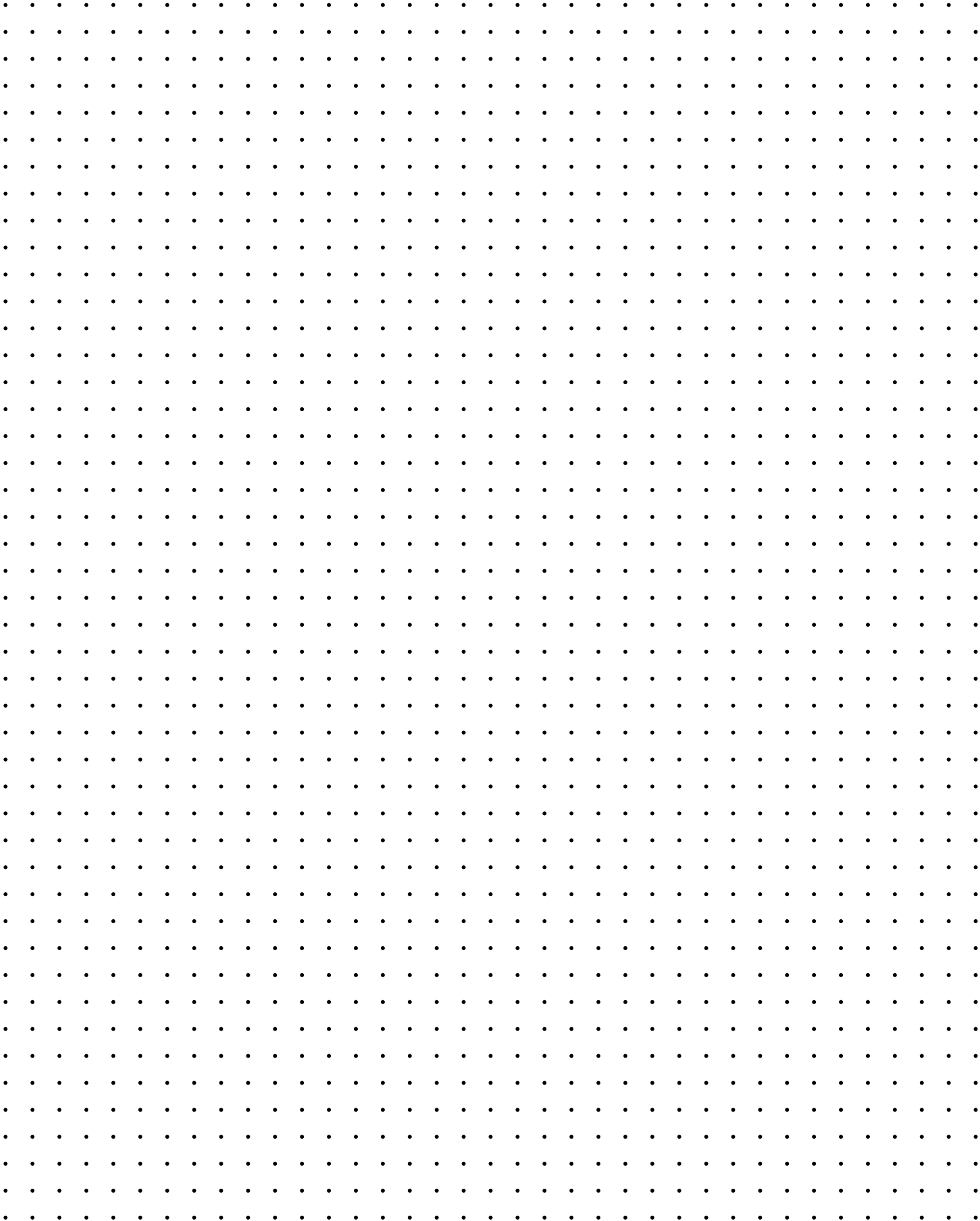
How does God plan to use Samuel in His plan to rescue and provide for His people?

How does God plan to use Jesus in His plan to rescue and provide for His people?

What does this parallel tell us about who Jesus will be?



# NOTES - WEEK TWO



# WEEK THREE: 12/12-12/18

Luke 1:57-80

After the birth of John the Baptist, Zechariah is able to speak again and he prophesies about the events that are taking place. Notice that Zechariah's prophecy is more about how God is fulfilling his promises in Jesus than it is about John the Baptist. John will serve as a forerunner to point people to Jesus.

How does Zechariah's prophecy describe Jesus? Use specific words listed in this Scripture.

How does Zechariah's prophecy describe the fulfillment of God's promises to his people? (Hint: Think about his promises to Abraham and David!)

Flip over to Isaiah 9:1-7. How does Isaiah's prophecy describe Jesus? What is similar to Zechariah's prophecy? What is different?

Now flip over to Isaiah 40:3-5. How does this speak about John the Baptist? Where do we see this in Zechariah's prophecy?

How is the work of John the Baptist different from the work accomplished by Jesus?



# NOTES - WEEK THREE

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# WEEK FOUR: 12/19-12/26

Luke 2:1-20 - Jesus is born! After his birth, an angel comes to some shepherds and announces Jesus' birth to them. The angel tells the shepherds that the child born will be a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord.

Now look at Micah 5:2-5. Micah was a prophet who served both Judah and Israel before the fall of Judah. Micah prophesies of the fall of Judah, but does not fail to provide hope for the future of God's people through the coming of a "ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (eternity)."



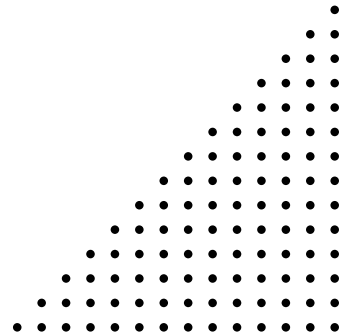
# WEEK FOUR: 12/19-12/26

Micah 5:2-5 tells the readers that they can expect a deliverer to come out of Bethlehem.

How many years had passed between Micah's prophecy and its fulfillment? How does this prophecy assure us of God's faithfulness to his promises?

How should we rightly respond to the faithfulness of God?

Now look at Isaiah 7:10-14. This passage in Luke is a direct fulfillment of the prophecy recorded in Isaiah 7:13. What does the fulfillment of this prophecy tell us about the nature of God?



# NOTES - WEEK FOUR

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## WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is a yearly season in the church's life. The word advent is a Latin word for appearing, or coming. It is a season to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and to prepare our hearts for his second. It is a special season to reflect on the significance of Jesus taking on our humanity to rescue us. The weekly readings are provided to help you meditate further on the texts that are preached on Sundays. What will be most helpful is to spend some devoted time in reading, meditation, and prayer over these passages each week to center our hearts on the good news of Jesus.