

## NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

### READINGS

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Genesis 22:15-18

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Luke 2:8-16

Matthew 2:1-12

John 1:1-14

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, & open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think & act according to your good will & may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

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### STUDY TEXT- John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, & without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, & the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, & the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, & the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, & his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh & lived among us, & we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace & truth.

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### LISTENING TO . . .

#### **GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do we know the Old Testament tells us about Jesus? *See Matthew 10:35-36 (Micah 7:6), 13:14-15 21:13, 42, 22:43-44, 26:31; Luke 4:16-21, 22:37, 24:25-27, 44-48; John 6:45, 12:35-43, 13:18, 15:25*
2. Is Jesus God's Plan A or B for salvation? *See Genesis 1:1-5, 18:1-3; John 1:1-4, 14, 8:12; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:8b-10*

#### **EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Which of today's readings was your favorite? What makes it so? How do you see yourself in that story?
4. How did you become a child of God (vv12-13)? Who has helped you grow & how? Praise God right now for those people who showed & told you about Jesus' birth. *See Small Catechism: Apostles' Creed II, Holy Baptism; available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org) John 3:1-8; Romans 6:1-11, 8:14-17, 9:8; 1 Corinthians, 4:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16b-18; Galatians 3:26, 4:4-7 Ephesians 1:5-14; 2 Timothy 1:5-7*

#### **NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How have people come to believe through you (v7)? *See Luke 9:23-27*  
Check out this funny story from the *Babylon Bee* website <https://bit.ly/3rhZdMG>
6. What about Lessons & Carols worship makes it a good opportunity to bring a friend?

*Series:*

No Sermon Today

*Feel free to jot down things that stand out to you in the readings*

*What connections do you find between the readings?*

*What will you read more about?*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The Word became flesh & lived among us,  
& we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace & truth. (*v14*).

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We have observed his star at its rising,  
& have come to worship him. (*Matthew 2:2*)

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