

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.

STUDY TEXT- John 1:1-14

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

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 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).

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
& let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (*Colossians 3:15, 16*)

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