



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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December 1-7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: "A Light Has Dawned: Seeking the Hidden Meaning of Christmas"

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon: "Why is that Guy in the Strange Clothes Shouting?"

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for small groups and individual reflection:

1. One of the main points of the message this week is that some of the things we may be relying on just don't work for God. Name the "unreliable" things that John named. Name some other things in our lives that John could highlight today.
2. What is the purpose of John's garments and diet? What is the message here?
3. Read through the account of John. Imagine yourself in the scene. Would you have joined the crowds that went to see him? Why would you have gone? General interest? Or would he have sparked your spiritual interest and quest?
4. Why do you think John's harshest words were reserved for the religious leaders?

Monday, December 1: Read Matthew 3:1-12

As we continue our journey toward Christmas, it may seem odd that we focus this week on John the Baptist, the strange camel-hair-clothed, locust-eating wanderer whose strong and often confrontational messages center on repentance. This seems jarring against the peaceful, cozy image of the manger. Yet Advent is all about preparing ourselves for the coming of the Christ child, and when we are wrapped up in our own sin and self-absorption, we are not able to "prepare the way of the Lord." John's message of repentance, or "turning away" from sin and back to God, is an essential element of preparing for Christ's coming. Would you have been eager to hear this message in John's day? Are you ready to hear it now?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss your feelings about John the Baptist and his message of repentance being part of our celebration of Advent.*

Tuesday, December 2: Read 2 Kings 1:1-8

One of the great blessings of reading the entire Bible rather than only isolated stories and verses is to witness how God's love story with humankind unfolds throughout the ages. We are painfully slow learners, and God sends countless prophets, signs, and teachers to prepare our hearts and minds for the gifts we too often ignore. God sent John the Baptist to help prepare the way for Christ; the figure of Elijah helped prepare the way for John the Baptist. It's easy to see why many first-century Jews drew parallels between the two strange prophets, both in their tendencies to fearlessly speak unpopular truths to power and in their physical (hairy?) appearances. When has one person's message helped you later receive another one? Where do you see God in this?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Share times when God seemed to send one person into your life as a "prophet" of sorts to help you later receive an even more important message.*

Wednesday, December 3: Read Isaiah 11:1-10

The first four-and-a-half verses of today's reading fit nicely into our warm, comfortable celebration of this season: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse...the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him...with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth." Then comes verse 11:4b: "He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked." This isn't the story we want to hear! Or is it? For those of us living in a comfortable, developed 21st-century society, the idea of judgment may seem threatening. But what if we have been living under oppression, bigotry, violence, and exploitation, as has been the case for much of humanity throughout time and today? How would today's words, both comforting and judgmental, help prepare the way for Christ?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research what was going on in Israel and Judah during the time of Isaiah.*

Thursday, December 4: Read Romans 15:4-13

Jesus did not appear in a vacuum. Jesus was born into an ancient lineage of people who had spent thousands of years "wrestling" with God (the literal meaning of the word "Israel") and gaining hope, endurance, and chastisement through God's word. We Gentiles are beneficiaries of this incredible inheritance, and God's word in both the Old and New Testaments helps prepare our hearts and minds for God's revelation of love, grace, and salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. How often do we recognize the gifts of the Hebrew scriptures in helping us hear the gospel?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Make a resolution and create a plan to incorporate more Old Testament scripture reading into your life and discipleship journey.*

Friday, December 5: Read Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Today's psalm is one of both praise and petition, while it calls for both comfort and justice. What better reminder that different people and different times need different messages in order to receive the hope and blessings of Christ. How can we be a message of hope for others this Advent? How can we better hear and receive that message ourselves today?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Find one way to help prepare the way for others to see Christ.*

Saturday, December 6: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Romans 15:4

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

Sunday, December 7: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Lord, forgive our sins, the sins that we remember, and the sins we have forgotten. Forgive our many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when we have been stubborn in the face of correction. Forgive the times we have been proud of our achievements and those when we have failed to boast in Your works. Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others, and the leniency we have shown to ourselves. Forgive us for the pain we have caused others and the indulgence we have shown ourselves. Help us to become more like Your Son, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, for we ask these things in his name. Amen.

*Adapted from Prayer of Confession, Gold Country Baptist Church, 8-28-2002