



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

December 16-21, 2025 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon: "The Holy Couple"

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. Most modern marriages are based on "mutual submission". That means that each one in the marriage or partnership kneels down to serve the other. Is this something that you do or seek to do in a marriage or other relationship?
2. Partnership is not just about denying oneself. It is also about encouraging the other. How do you do this with your spouse or significant other?
3. One of the lessons of the Trinity is that God is inherently relational and communal. We are created in God's image. What does this mean for us and the need for relationships in our life?

Monday, December 15: Read Luke 2:1-5

In most observances of Advent, we assign a week for Mary and a week for Joseph. We treat them separately. This year, we are going to look at them as a couple working through the challenges together to bring Jesus into the world and raise him. In a contemporary world that frames gender roles through extreme language and paradigms such as toxic masculinity, and radical feminism, perhaps there is within this mutual journey to Bethlehem a more gentle and healthier model of strength for all of us, married or single. And, perhaps there is a model for working together through all of our challenges, despite cultural differences. As we read the scripture passages this week, let us look for messages that can help us create holy and mutually beneficial partnerships that help heal one another and do the work of Kingdom-building on earth.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what messages you see for today's married couples, or those considering marriage in the future, in the marriage of Mary and Joseph.*

Tuesday, December 16: Read Matthew 1:18-25

Much has been made recently about “toxic masculinity” and what the role of men in society and relationships should be. It’s not hard to put ourselves in Joseph’s shoes when reading today’s verse, imagining the thoughts going through his head when learning of Mary’s pregnancy, then being visited by the angel and agreeing to take her as his wife and raise Jesus as his own, knowing full well that most of his contemporaries will never believe that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and will think Joseph was either unholy or cuckhold. What does Joseph’s response say about his own view of masculinity?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what message Joseph’s response to Mary’s pregnancy sends to us today as we wrestle with gender roles and the concept of masculinity.*

Wednesday, December 17: Read Genesis 2:18-25

The climax of the Genesis creation story is God creating Eve, thereby creating a holy partnership, for it is “not good for man to be alone.” Much has been said about the individualism of modern society, including declining marriage rates and a rising trend in commitment aversion in young people who see romantic relationships as complicated, drama-filled distractions in a world already stressful enough. Yet we also have seen a rise in loneliness – a phenomenon that does not require marriage or romance to cure, but is indicative of something broken in our world today.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Describe a time, in marriage or otherwise, where you found, in the words of Genesis that it was not good to be alone.*

Thursday, December 18: Read Romans 12:1-8

Today’s reading has often been read in the context of community and the church. Today, we read it through the lens of partnership and marriage. Romans 12:3 teaches us to look at ourselves with sober judgment and not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. The point is that this perspective enables us to move forward in humble service. What message do you see for marriage today? How do you do this?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Reflect on any conflicts you’ve had with a loved one or spouse recently. What messages of partnership, love, and healing do you see in today’s reading?*

Friday, December 19: Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

We end our readings this week with a passage that may be unfamiliar to some. While the third chapter of Ecclesiastes gets most of the publicity (look it up; you’ll recognize it), today’s passage says so much in so few words. It’s almost childlike in its description of the advantages of partnership and marriage. Why do you believe the writer needed to point out such obvious advantages of partnership? Do we need to do the same today?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Look up famous partnerships, both platonic and romantic, both personal and business-oriented. What made the partnerships so strong and effective? What is, and is not, reflected in this week’s scripture readings?*

Saturday, December 20: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”

Sunday, December 21: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, as we continue this season of Advent, we stop our busy schedule to seek you and your forgiveness. We have become consumed with ourselves and our needs. We are proud people who would rather do it ourselves. We believe we don’t need anyone. As we look at the partnership of Mary and Joseph, teach us to love, lift up, and serve one another, for we ask it in the name of their child and our Savior. Amen.