



## 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](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

### December 22-28, 2025 | Christmas

#### Sermon Titles:

**"Courage and Christmas" - 7:30 pm and 11:00 pm Services December 24**

**"The Word Became Flesh..." - 10:00 am Service Sunday, December 28**

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. How does Christ draw courage out of you? How does the Christ child reveal any cowardly tendencies within you or, more generically, within us?
2. Throughout Advent and Christmas, we have been speaking about the light of Christmas. It comes home to us in John 1: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). As you prepare for a new year, do you see any potential dark spots out there waiting for you? Do you find encouragement in this claim about light that cannot be overcome?
3. Review the story of Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25. Note all the places Joseph had to exercise courage. Now do the same thing for Mary in Luke 1:26-38.

#### Monday, December 22: Read Titus 2:11-14

We enter the week for which we have been waiting all Advent Season. This week, on Christmas Eve, we have four services from which to choose at Reville, then we will gather on Sunday for a single service at 10 am. Our study this week will prepare us for all services and our special focus this year on the messages of courage and wonder found in Christmas. We are challenged this week to read the familiar passages with fresh eyes. We begin this week with what may be a less familiar passage, but one that fits perfectly within our last days of Advent: helping us see a time of waiting as "training" for the self-control, godliness, and courage we need to live as Christians and builders of God's kingdom. This is also a time of hope, where we have the courage to believe things will change, wrongs will be righted, and a new song will come to the Earth. Are we ready to believe this?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss what you believe to be the relationship between faith and courage. Do they have to go together? If not, why?*

**Tuesday, December 23: Read Isaiah 9:2-7**

Think of the times in your life when you were scared until someone turned the lights on. Maybe it was a parent turning on a nightlight in your childhood bedroom, or when the lights in an elevator turned back on after a brief, terrifying moment of absolute darkness. Today's famous scripture passage begins with the words, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Just hearing these words transports many of us to a Christmas Eve candlelight service and that sweet juxtaposition of peace and excitement that comes with it. Today, let us reflect on how the Christmas light gives us courage in our lives, and how we can more fully recognize and appreciate it in the year to come.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Create a way to remind yourself of the light of Christ throughout the year, and create one habit that reinforces your courage and faith when you see it.*

**Wednesday, December 24: CHRISTMAS EVE: Read Luke 2:1-20**

The familiar Christmas story from Luke is a story of love, hope, and light. It is also a story of courage. Mary and Joseph had to move forward courageously in accepting their role in bringing Jesus into the world, and then had to show courage in traveling to Bethlehem in their fragile family state. We also see the initial terror of the shepherds, followed by their courage in listening to the heavenly host, traveling to the manger, and being the first witnesses for Christ. As we gather together tonight, let us all find inspiration in the courage we witness in the Christmas story and pray for the light of Christ to give us the courage to accept our role as witnesses, move forward in our own journey with God, and boldly witness to the love, peace, and joy of Christ to the world.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Make a special intention to listen for messages of courage tonight.*

**Thursday, December 25: FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS: Read Matthew 2:1-23**

Joy to the World! Christ is born! We celebrate the good news of Christ's birth today in many ways, and the reading of the story of the Magi is a traditional part of our Christmas celebration. It's impossible to read this story, however, without noting the dark side of it all – the cowardice Herod shows in feeling threatened by the messianic prophecy, and the evil that came from that cowardice. Again, Joseph and Mary demonstrate courage and obedience, and successfully protect Jesus from Herod's horrific decree. As we celebrate Christmas today, let us also celebrate the courage of all those who came before us who carried the message of Christ to the world and allowed us to celebrate Christmas today. Let us pause to give thanks for our own family members who gave us Christ-centered traditions, preserving the meaning and holiness of Christmas. And let us thank Christ, who demonstrated the greatest love and courage of them all through his life, death, and resurrection for us all.

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Find a new way to show courage in how you love each other today, as Christ loved us.*

**Friday, December 26: SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS: Read John 1:1-18**

As we clean up from the events of yesterday, it is easy to overlook the wonder of the Christmas event, but John won't let us. The One through whom all creation was made came and "tabernacled" among us. When we receive him, as he is, we receive "grace upon grace." There is both wonder and power here for us as we prepare to enter a New Year. Being a Christmas people means being able to look at the world through renewed eyes, continually seeing wonder and glory beyond the flashy lights and commercialized hype of the "Christmas season," which, according to retailers, ended yesterday as soon as the last gift was unwrapped. How do we keep Christmas going?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research the 12 Days of Christmas. How can you incorporate this more?*

**Saturday, December 27: THIRD DAY OF CHRISTMAS: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Titus 2:11**

*"The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people."*

**Sunday, December 28: FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:** *God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt. Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful that our love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of your love. Give us the strength and courage to join you at the manger. Amen.*

~written by Laura Jaquith Bartlett