



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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December 8-15, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon: "What is So Great About Glad Tidings?"

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. Take a moment and reflect upon a time or a season in your life that you would describe as "joy." What were the circumstances that led to that sweet memory for you?
2. One of the reasons that Mary offers her song of joy is because she recognizes that, despite her humble circumstances, God "sees" her. In fact, shockingly, God sees all the poor and others who struggle for life. Describe a time when you felt "unseen." Do you find encouragement, dare we say joy, in these verses as they offer a God who sees those who seek him and those who struggle within the circumstances of life?
3. Notice throughout the verses of Mary's Song the priority of humility. Joy, it seems, grows much better in the soil of humility than pride. Would you agree? Why do you think this is?

Monday, December 8: Read Luke 1:39-45

Our theme for Advent this year is "The Hidden Meaning of Christmas." Our continuing point is that increasingly, the message of Christmas sounds strange to secular messages and unchurched ears. Sadly, this week's theme of "joy" seems especially elusive in today's world filled with anxiety, despair, loneliness, and strife. Take a moment to reflect on the pure joy expressed by Mary and Elizabeth as they celebrate their wondrous pregnancies in today's reading. How does this compare to how most of the secular world is celebrating Christmas? The point is not to beat up on secular Christmas, but to celebrate the deeper wonder that is within these verses and the God these words describe. What could this look like in our remaining weeks of Advent?

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Discuss ways to more fully recognize, embrace, and reflect God's joy this Advent.*

Tuesday, December 9: Read Luke 1:46-56

Mary's Song, also known as the Magnificat, not only expresses joy; it highlights the beauty and wonder of a God who sees value and worth in the poor, the humble, the marginalized, the powerless, and the hurting. Mary's Song recognizes the incredible truth that God sees our hurt, heartbreak, and struggle and works in surprising and miraculous ways to bring life, healing, and joy. This is a message that can easily get lost in the loud, saccharine-sweet messaging that dominates most of our current Christmas messaging. Joy does not come through pretending everything's perfect or easily fixed by a click of an "order now" button or carefully filtered Instagram post. Joy comes when our whole self is seen, honored, and redeemed by an all-loving God who brings meaning, hope, and love to us and through us.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss where you've seen true beauty in God reaching someone in the midst of their pain. How does this beauty compare to our current secular definition of it?*

Wednesday, December 10: Read Matthew 11:2-11

One focus of last week's sermon and GPS was the person of John the Baptist, often considered one of the strangest characters in the Bible. In addition to his often difficult-to-hear messages (why is he yelling at me to repent during this "joyful" season?!), he was a strange-looking man to boot, even back then. Would we have seen the beauty and joy in John the Baptist if we had gone into the wilderness to meet him? What about today? Are we also looking only for messages and messengers "dressed in fine clothes"? What might we be missing if this is the case?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Intentionally look for God's joy, beauty, and love in the strange, uncomfortable, unpolished, and unexpected today. Reflect on what difference it made.*

Thursday, December 11: Read James 5:7-10

What if we look for joy and still can't find it? What if we still feel pain, see suffering, experience hardship, and lose our footing? Today's scripture gives us hope and strength when circumstances and feelings don't arrive on our own timetable. When we have hope, we can experience joy even in the midst of suffering. We can have a joy-filled Advent even when our circumstances haven't yet changed. We can live in the joyful hope of God's promises and the blessed assurance of God's immediate and eternal presence.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Catch yourself when you're attaching your definition of joy to your current circumstances and limited vision and offer up a quick prayer of hope and joy instead...even if you don't fully feel it yet.*

Friday, December 12: Read Isaiah 35:1-10

These verses from Isaiah are full of joy...all about things that had not yet happened. They recognize the reality of parched land, feeble hands, unsteady knees, fearful hearts, blind eyes, deaf ears, lame legs, burning sand, and ravenous beasts. Yet they also envision bursting blooms, gushing streams, and clear paths ahead. Are we able to hold both of these truths simultaneously? Could this be one of the most powerful hidden messages of Advent we can embrace and share with others?

- **Discipleship and Relationship Opportunity:** *Look for ways to share in someone's joy AND pain, and for ways to recognize and share God's presence in both.*

Saturday, December 13: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Isaiah 35:1

"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom."

Sunday, December 14: Let us prepare our hearts and minds with our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and loving God, we confess to you that all too often, we have lost our joy. We lose it because we forget who you are. We dismiss your ways for our ways. Forgive us for overlooking your grace in the cascade of messaging we encounter throughout this season. As we worship this day, raise your soft voice in our souls above the loud voices in our lives. As we listen to Elizabeth and Mary, raise our eyes and voices with them, to see the beauty of your style and ways, for this we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.