

Monday
11/28/11

Nazareth

Nazareth was not a significant place before or during the life of Jesus. It was a small town of 100 to 400 people. But, it was from this town that God called a family to care for and train the Messiah, the Son of God.

READ: John 1:43-50

Think about a time when you were surprised by God's greatness from something you considered insignificant. How do you see God using what most people see as nothing good? How can God use you in Greenville, Ohio?

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

Wednesday
11/30/11

Home

Our hearts are constantly searching for home. It does not matter where you live or what kind of person you are, your heart longs to be with God.

READ: John 3:1-3

Why did Nicodemus come to Jesus? Why did he come at night? What did Nicodemus see in Jesus? How did Jesus respond to Nicodemus?

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

Tuesday
11/29/11

Living Water

Nazareth was built around a natural spring that produced cool, clean water bubbling up from the earth, referred to as "living water". I find it interesting that God chose such a place to reveal his plan of salvation. The Orthodox Church believes Gabriel visited Mary as she was drawing water from the natural spring in Nazareth. She was told at this place that she would give birth to the only one who can give living water!

READ: Jeremiah 2:13; John 4:13-14

What is the difference between living water and water found in a cistern? How can this description be compared to life with or without Christ?

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

Thursday
12/1/11

The Promise

Hundreds of years before Messiah came, God promised to send him. He would be a shepherd among the people—He rescues, heals and strengthens.

READ: Ezekiel 34:11-16

How do you see this passage fulfilled in Jesus? How do you see Jesus working this promise in your life?

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

**Friday
12/2/11**

Mary

We usually only talk about Mary one time per year, but her example is one we can follow every day.

READ: Luke 1:26-38

How old was Mary? What was her status in life? Why do you think God chose her to give birth to and raise the Messiah? How did she respond to Gabriel's words?

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

**Saturday and Sunday
12/3/11-12/4/11**

Invitation

This is no mistake. Read yesterday's passage again. Two times Gabriel tells Mary that she is favored by God. But, think about her life. God's call is difficult. We may be called to set aside our own plans. We may have to give up our hopes and dreams. God's call involves risk. We may have to go places we do not wish to go. The invitation of Advent involves your willingness to offer yourself wholly to God just as Mary did.

READ: Luke 1:26-38

How was God's call difficult for Mary? What did Mary have to set aside to answer God's call? Are you willing to give up a life of bliss to experience God's favor? Are you able to say, "I am the Lord's servant?"

RESPONSE:

Pray Daily Prayer

Personal GPS

Grow • Pray • Study

Use this prayer and study guide to grow each week more in love with God and others.



Advent:

Mary

November 26 & 27, 2011

Jeff Harper

As protestants, we have overreacted to the overemphasis Roman Catholics place upon Mary, the mother of the Messiah. So we downplay the role she lived in God's plan. The truth is, Mary provides an exemplary model of Christian living. Through her obedience, we learn what it means to offer ourselves wholly to God.

MY PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK:

DAILY PRAYER:

Here I am, Lord. Use me according to your will. Amen.