

# FIRST things FIRST

## Daily Devotionals

**December 15-21, 2025**

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

### **Monday, Dec. 15**      **When God Changes Our Plans**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 29:11-14 and Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph had his life mapped out. Marry Mary, start a home, build a family. Then everything changed. God's plan entered his life in a way he never expected. Jeremiah speaks to people who also saw their plans fall apart. They were in exile, far from home and far from what they wanted. Yet God still said, *"I know the plans I have for you..."* Sometimes life takes a sudden turn we didn't ask for. And like Joseph, we find ourselves asking, "God, what are you doing?" The good news is this: God's plans are always rooted in His love.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me trust that Your plans are good, even when they surprise me.

### **Tuesday, Dec. 16**      **The Power of Quiet Obedience**

**Scripture:** Psalm 37:3-7 and Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph never says a word in Scripture. He simply listens and obeys. Psalm 37 uses the same kind of language. It's the picture of a steady, faithful life. Not all obedience is loud. Sometimes the most important faith decisions happen in small moments. It may look like choosing patience, forgiving someone again, or showing up with kindness even when we're tired. Joseph reminds us that faith doesn't always need a microphone. It needs a willing heart.

**Prayer:** God, teach me to trust You in the small, everyday choices.

### **Wednesday, Dec. 17**      **Courage to Say Yes**

**Scripture:** Joshua 1:9 and Matthew 1:18-25

The angel told Joseph, *"Do not be afraid."* Joseph had every reason to be scared, but God gave him courage. When Joshua took leadership of Israel, he heard the same words: *"Be strong and courageous."* Courage in the Bible is rarely about feeling brave. It's about trusting God enough to move forward even when you're nervous. Saying "yes" to God may stretch us. It may lead us into unfamiliar territory. But the promise is the same for us as it was for Joseph and Joshua: God goes with us.

**Prayer:** Lord, give me courage where I feel afraid.

### **Thursday Dec. 18**

### **God in the Quiet Moments**

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 19:11-13 and Matthew 1:18-25

The name "Emmanuel" means *God with us*. Not just in miracles, angels, or dramatic moments, but in the simple, everyday places. Elijah expected God to show up in wind, fire, and earthquake, but God came instead in a gentle whisper. Joseph experienced God's presence in very ordinary settings. God meets us the same way. Often not in big, flashy moments but in quiet ones. Early morning prayers, a walk outside, a word of encouragement from a friend.

**Prayer:** God-with-us, help me recognize You in the quiet spaces of my day.

### **Friday, Dec. 19**

### **When You Need Direction**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph faced decisions he never imagined making. Stay with Mary? Believe the angel? Raise a child who wasn't biologically his? Proverbs tells us that when we trust the Lord with all our heart and lean on Him instead of our own understanding, He will guide our path. God doesn't always show us the whole road. Most often, He lights just the next step. When we feel uncertain God invites us to come to Him, trust Him, and let Him guide us.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me trust You fully.

### **Saturday, Dec. 20**

### **When Things Don't Make Sense**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 55:8-9 and Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph's situation made no logical sense. Mary was pregnant, and the story behind it was unlike anything he'd ever heard. Yet God was doing something bigger and more beautiful than Joseph could imagine. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours. We don't always understand what God is doing, and sometimes life feels confusing or unfair. But God often works behind the scenes in ways we don't see until later. When things don't add up, we can still trust that God is at work.

**Prayer:** Father, help me trust You when I don't understand.

### **Sunday, Dec. 21 ADVENT (LOVE) Signs and Faithfulness**

Worship at 10am by Pastor Clint Phillips Matthew 1:18-25