



**NO SERMON NOTES THIS WEEK**

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 25-30, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

Emmanuel: God with us.

The Good News of Christmas is found in the hope that the angels sang of and that Mary delivered when Jesus was born: that God, our Savior, has come to rescue us. Beyond temporary feelings of happiness we find in the warm glow of Christmas lights, or wrapped tightly in colorful wrapping paper, or soaring on the melodies of our favorite Christmas carols, the Good News of Christmas is that joy - a deep, lasting feeling of great pleasure and hope - can be found in the baby born so many years ago, our *Emmanuel*.

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### Monday: Luke 2:1-20

Merry Christmas!

Take time today to read the full Christmas story as told through Luke's gospel (the Good News) and place yourself in the shoes of a few of the players in this familiar Christmas story. What might the shepherds have felt after that initial fear upon the arrival of the angels? How harrowing must the logistics of this journey have been for Mary and Joseph? What would it have been like to stand before the manger of Jesus?

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### Tuesday: Jeremiah 31:2-4

As the people of Israel were in captivity, they certainly weren't awash in happiness. Yet God promises them, through the prophet Jeremiah, that not only will they find rest, but that their joy will be great enough for music and dancing. What does God's promise to Israel mean for you - that there is hope enough to express joy even in times of sorrow?

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### Wednesday: Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah provides a list of names that the child (Jesus) will be called: "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Take a moment to reflect on each of these names and consider what they tell us about *Emmanuel* (God with us). How do these titles tell us who Jesus is (or can) be for us?

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### Thursday: Proverbs 17:22

Translators have taken various approaches to the Hebrew מְרִיָּה found in Proverbs 17:22: merry (KJV), glad (NLT), cheerful (NIV), and joyful (KJV) for a few. Do you agree with the premise that "a joyful heart is good medicine?" What are some ways you can seek to have an eternally joyful heart (not just a temporal happy heart) that can carry you through times of illness (both literal and metaphorical)?

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### Friday: Luke 2:19

Mary is said to have "treasured up all these things" that happened surrounding the birth of Jesus "and pondered them in her heart." What are some things that happened this Christmas season that you can treasure and reflect on?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Our hope is here. Our God is with us. Our lives have intersected with the *Good News of Great Joy* and we have been offered life for today, for tomorrow, and for eternity. Give thanks for the joys you experienced this holiday season; and take time to consider how you'll carry that joy throughout the year. Merry Christmas!