

Grace Guide



DECEMBER 15-21

“God With Us”

Advent 3: We Are Not Alone

MONDAY
12/15

DEUTERONOMY 31:1-8

As Israel prepared to enter the promised land, Moses reminded them that even though he would not go with them, God would always be with them. The people faced uncertainty, new challenges, and a future they could not see clearly, yet Moses assured them that God would go before them, stay with them, and never forsake them. This same promise steadies us in our own seasons of transition, when the familiar things that support us and sustain us change or disappear, God’s presence remains constant. Advent reminds us that God comes near not only in moments of triumph but also in the unknowns where we need courage to take the next faithful step.

1. When have you faced transition and change in your life that made you anxious or hesitant and how has God been with you in those moments?
2. Who in your life might need to hear that they are not alone, that God is going with them?

TUESDAY
12/16

ISAIAH 7:10-17

In a time of political fear, religious indifference and looming threat from other nations, Isaiah spoke a surprising word to King Ahaz: God would give a sign, a child would be born and he would be called Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” Ahaz wanted military guarantees and visible solutions, but God promised presence instead. The season of Advent invites us to see that God’s nearness is often the very answer we overlook. Instead of removing every pressure, God enters the midst of our anxieties, offering steadying hope and reassurance through his presence. The birth of Jesus fulfills this ancient promise (Ahaz was king more than 700 years before Jesus was born), showing that God meets us not in displays of power but in unexpected, vulnerable places.

1. Where do you find yourself wishing for clear, immediate solutions rather than simply trusting God’s presence?
2. How might God be inviting you to look for signs of his nearness in unexpected ways this season?

WEDNESDAY
12/17

JOHN 1:1-14

John’s Gospel announces the breathtaking truth that the eternal Word, present with God and active in creation, became flesh and made his dwelling among us. The God who spoke light into existence stepped into our world as light shining in the darkness. In Jesus, God did not remain distant but came close enough to be seen, touched, and known. Advent invites us to sit with the wonder that God is with us in the most personal way possible, entering into human experience and ushering in the Kingdom of God so we can know grace and truth firsthand.

1. What does it mean to you that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” and how is that meaningful for you today?
2. How does the light of God shine in the darkness in your life, so that the darkness does not overcome it?

THURSDAY
12/18

ROMANS 1:1-7

Romans is sometimes said to be Paul's great work of systematic theology. He opens his letter by announcing the gospel as God's long-promised good news, fulfilled in Jesus, who is both descended from David and declared Son of God in power through the resurrection. This gospel is not distant history; it is God's active work to bring grace and peace to all who belong to Jesus. The season of Advent reminds us that in Jesus, God is not far off but draws near to establish a relationship with his creation marked by grace and calling us into faithful obedience. The presence of God with us through Jesus gives purpose and identity to our lives.

1. What part of Paul's description of the gospel in these verses stands out to you as particularly meaningful during Advent?
2. Where do you sense God calling you to a deeper obedience rooted in grace rather than obligation?

FRIDAY
12/19

PSALM 24

Psalm 24 celebrates God as the creator and rightful ruler of all the earth, and calls God's people to approach with clean hands and pure hearts. The psalm climaxes in the triumphant invitation: "Lift up your heads... that the King of glory may come in." Advent echoes this anticipation as we prepare room in our lives for the God who comes near. The God who formed the world seeks to dwell with those who seek him sincerely, reminding us that welcoming God's presence is both a gift and a responsibility that shapes how we live.

1. How do we approach God with "clean hands and pure hearts"?
2. What does it mean to you that God is creator and King of all creation?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
12/20-21**

MATTHEW 1:18-25

After some important background naming the generations from Adam to Jesus, Matthew tells the story of Jesus' birth from Joseph's perspective, highlighting both the confusion he faced and the reassurance God gave through the angel. Joseph learns that the child conceived in Mary is from the Holy Spirit and that this child will save people from their sins. Matthew connects this to Isaiah's prophecy: the child will be called Immanuel, "God with us." Advent reminds us that God comes into real, complicated situations, not necessarily to simplify or minimize them, but God comes bringing salvation and his own presence. Joseph's obedience shows what it looks like to trust God even when the path feels uncertain.

1. How does the story of Joseph's confusion and uncertainty speak to you in your life and faith today? How has God reassured you in your life?

2. What does it mean to you that in Jesus God came to save his people from their sins? How does this truth affect your everyday life?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"[The angel said], 'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')."

(Matthew 1:18-2)