

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – December 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>th</sup>**  
***Doing Life Together – Christmas According the guy with the Sign***

**MONDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Isaiah 11:1-2

**OBSERVATION:** The underlying message, woven throughout the Christmas story, is “God and sinners reconciled”. Whether we’re proud of our ancestral roots or not, we’re stuck with them. And while we don’t get to choose our lineage, God chose Christ’s human ancestry right from David’s seed. The Messiah descended from a royal human bloodline, but one riddled with human frailty. But Christ’s heavenly ancestry rang perfect, pure, and holy. This is the ministry of reconciliation. God sent Emmanuel—God with us, to “save His people from their sins”; no matter who we are, or what we’ve done.

**TUESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Luke 2:13-14

**OBSERVATION:** Shepherds were looked down on in Bethlehem society. People didn’t exactly rub elbows with them at social events. But God’s message was clear—this hope was for ALL people, including shepherds! There is another reason why the appearance to the shepherds is important. Ezekiel 34:15, “‘I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord God”, is just one of many passages in the Old Testament referring to Christ as our Shepherd. Christ came to bestow peace, but also to lead us. What a comfort!

**WEDNESDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Luke 1:46-50

**OBSERVATION:** Cousins Mary and Elizabeth each had miraculous reasons to rejoice! God had honored their everyday faithfulness by granting them pregnancies. Both seemed impossibilities; one, an old woman of 80 years; the other, a virgin. As the angel said to Mary upon the announcement that she would conceive in holiness, “For nothing shall be impossible with God”.

**THURSDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Luke 2:6-7

**OBSERVATION:** We tend to glance over the stable birth, forgetting how traumatizing that would be for an expectant mom. But you can be sure that Mary, a female, probably fretted over this. Mary was on a trip! And not only that, she couldn’t find a decent room in which to have her baby! She also had to lay him where the animals fed. But God used Mary, an unwed teenage girl, to deliver His Christmas gift on a trip in a barn. He provided in His way, in His time.

**FRIDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Luke 2:19

**OBSERVATION:** Mary had just experienced unexpected excitement, what with the shepherds rushing in and out, telling everyone about her baby. Not only was she processing, but she was probably experiencing protective, maternal instincts. One of the instincts is to pause and catch up to the ramifications for her son; her family. When we pause to reflect, we allow the Spirit to speak. We can reflect on the wonder of our personal God; God of the impossible.

**SATURDAY:**

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 2:3-4

**OBSERVATION:** In every twist and turn of the story surrounding Christ’s birth, God’s hand overrules. Our God, who made the earth, sky, and stars, had a plan. Our world is in much the same, chaotic state as back in Herod’s day; we worry about the future. It’s hard, trusting a God we cannot see, while perplexing events unfold. But God is in control, and peace lies in resting in the Prince of Peace.