

November 30 | "An Ordinary Plan"



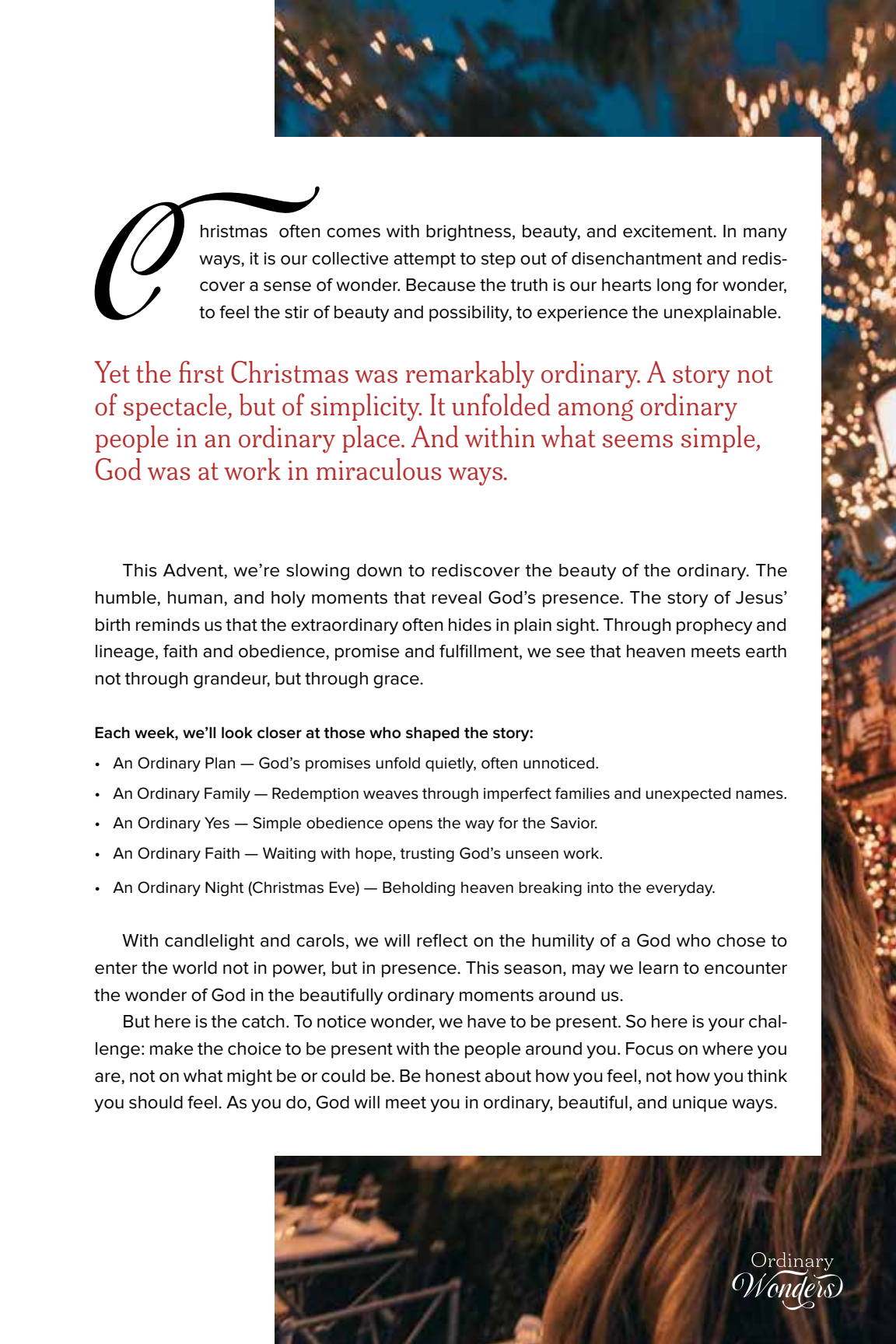
Ordinary
Wonders

Jesus Transformation. Together.

Our mission is to become apprentices of Jesus—a journey that takes time and intentionality. Pathway Nights provide hands-on practice alongside others. On the first Wednesday of each month, we gather to share a meal, engage with focused teaching on following Jesus, and create space to experience and put into practice what we've learned.

Join us for our next Pathway Night on December 3rd, 5:15pm-7:15pm.

learn more at THEJOURNEY.org/pathwaynights



Christmas often comes with brightness, beauty, and excitement. In many ways, it is our collective attempt to step out of disenchantment and rediscover a sense of wonder. Because the truth is our hearts long for wonder, to feel the stir of beauty and possibility, to experience the unexplainable.

Yet the first Christmas was remarkably ordinary. A story not of spectacle, but of simplicity. It unfolded among ordinary people in an ordinary place. And within what seems simple, God was at work in miraculous ways.

This Advent, we're slowing down to rediscover the beauty of the ordinary. The humble, human, and holy moments that reveal God's presence. The story of Jesus' birth reminds us that the extraordinary often hides in plain sight. Through prophecy and lineage, faith and obedience, promise and fulfillment, we see that heaven meets earth not through grandeur, but through grace.

Each week, we'll look closer at those who shaped the story:

- An Ordinary Plan — God's promises unfold quietly, often unnoticed.
- An Ordinary Family — Redemption weaves through imperfect families and unexpected names.
- An Ordinary Yes — Simple obedience opens the way for the Savior.
- An Ordinary Faith — Waiting with hope, trusting God's unseen work.
- An Ordinary Night (Christmas Eve) — Beholding heaven breaking into the everyday.

With candlelight and carols, we will reflect on the humility of a God who chose to enter the world not in power, but in presence. This season, may we learn to encounter the wonder of God in the beautifully ordinary moments around us.

But here is the catch. To notice wonder, we have to be present. So here is your challenge: make the choice to be present with the people around you. Focus on where you are, not on what might be or could be. Be honest about how you feel, not how you think you should feel. As you do, God will meet you in ordinary, beautiful, and unique ways.



Ordinary
Wonders

Isaiah 9:2-9

- 2 The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.
- 3 You have multiplied the nation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- 4 For the yoke of his burden,
 and the staff for his shoulder,
 the rod of his oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
 and every garment rolled in blood
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
- 8 The Lord has sent a word against Jacob,
 and it will fall on Israel;
- 9 and all the people will know,
 Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria,
 who say in pride and in arrogance of heart:



THE *Advent Candle*

Each week of Advent, we open our hearts to the God who meets us in the ordinary. We remember that His glory is often revealed in quiet moments and simple places, and we trust that this same God still brings hope, peace, joy, and love into our everyday lives in surprising and unseen ways.

READER 1:

The story of Christ begins not with grandeur, but with a quiet promise spoken into everyday life.

READER 2:

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”

— Isaiah 9:2

READER 3:

As we light the candle of Hope, we remember that God meets us in our most unassuming places. The extraordinary often hides in plain sight.

ALL:

God of ordinary wonders,
kindle Your hope in us as we look for Your light in everyday places.



Room to Wonder

By Landon Brewer

The season of Advent is meant to help us slow down, but often does just the opposite. Between shopping lists, all the events and parties, and the pressure to make everything “magical,” it’s easy to plan for everything except what really matters.

But what if the invitation this year is simpler? What if your Advent plan isn’t about doing more, but noticing more?

The story of Jesus’ birth began with an ordinary plan. Quiet promises spoken through prophets, unfolding not in grand gestures but in steady faithfulness. God was at work long before anyone could see it. Maybe that’s the kind of plan we need too. One that

leaves room for God’s presence to show up in the ordinary.

As you prepare to step into the season and add things to your life, take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit:

- What does God want me to experience this season? Peace, connection, gratitude, joy, lament?
- What traditions or moments could help me draw closer to those things?
- What prevents me from fully stepping into experiencing the things the Holy Spirit is highlighting?

Write down one or two words that capture your hope for this Advent. Let those words shape what you say “yes” and “no” to in the weeks ahead.



PRACTICES

Practices are rhythms we put in our life that over time, form all of who we are. Learn more about Practices at thejourney.org/ApprenticeshipPathway



Simple Practices for an Ordinary Plan

During this season, there are four practices we want to encourage you to consider: Sabbath, Community, Generosity, and Service.

These are not checklists to add to an already overly busy season. These are simply ways that might invite you to experience more of what God wants for us.

Sabbath

- Unplug for an hour. Turn off screens, notifications, and anything that might distract you. During this time, do something that brings you delight.
- Look over your plans for the month of December and remove something that isn't necessary in order to build more margin.



Becoming
apprentices of Jesus by

**being with,
being transformed by,
and partnering with Him.**



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