

December 7 | "An Ordinary Family"

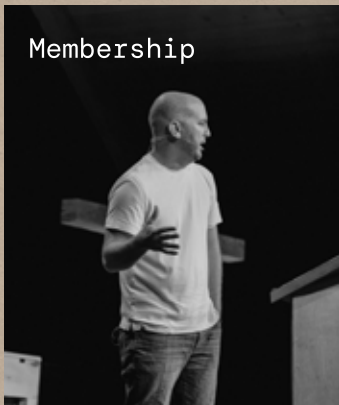


Ordinary
Wonders



Everyone
has a next step.

What's yours?



Next
Steps
Gathering

December 7

LOOKING TO FIND YOUR PLACE AT THE JOURNEY? JOIN US TODAY
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE FOR OUR NEXT STEPS GATHERING.

This is a simple way to move toward deeper community. Share a meal, meet our staff and leaders, learn who we are, and discover practical ways to get connected—whether that's joining a group, serving, or building new relationships. Wherever you are in your journey, we'd love to help you take your next step.

Matthew 1:1-17

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

SO, HOW DO I READ SCRIPTURE?

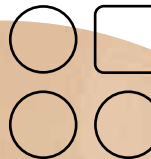
If you aren't sure where to start, that's ok. A simple way to read scripture is using the acronym R.E.A.P.

Read | Put away distractions, pause in silence, and pray "Come Holy Spirit." Then read the passage slowly—maybe more than once—and notice what stands out.

Examine | What does this show about God, Jesus, or me? What was it saying to the original audience?

Apply | Consider what the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to do and how this passage shapes your life as an apprentice of Jesus.

Pray | End by talking with God—share struggles, give thanks, ask for guidance, and listen.



For some, December feels bright and full. For others, it may feel quiet, complicated, or heavy. Wherever you find yourself, we want to walk through this season with intention. Whether through worship, serving, or gathering with others, we believe the beauty of community helps us behold the coming of Christ.



SUNDAY MORNING GATHERINGS

Each Sunday in December, we will gather around Scripture and walk through our Advent series, Ordinary Wonders. These mornings will help us pay attention to the presence of Jesus in ordinary places and remind us of the hope we have in Him. Whether you come alone, with friends, or with family, these gatherings will create space to worship, reflect, and rest in God's grace.



WEDNESDAY PODCAST

"Ordinary Moments": Each week during Advent, we are taking time to pause and open our hearts to the God who meets us in the ordinary. We invite you to pull up a seat at the table and explore God's Word with us as we consider how He might be working to bring hope, peace, joy, and love into our everyday lives in unexpected and beautiful ways.

DEC 7 | KIDS' CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Our Journey Kids choir will lead us in worship as they share their Christmas songs during Sunday services. It will be a joyful moment for our whole church.

DEC 14 | AFFORDABLE CHRISTMAS

Affordable Christmas invites us to love our neighbors in a meaningful way. Families from our community will be able to purchase new, high-quality gifts at a greatly reduced cost. Volunteers of all ages and life stages will serve together to make this day possible and extend dignity and joy to our neighbors. But we still need gifts! Visit thejourney.org/affordablechristmas to see the full list of gifts still needed.

DEC 21 | CHOIR SUNDAY

Our adult choir will lead us in worship during Sunday services. It will be a beautiful and meaningful morning for our congregation as we lift our voices and celebrate the hope of Jesus. If you'd like to join the choir visit thejourney.org/events.

DEC 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | 2:30, 4:00, 5:30 PM

On Christmas Eve, we will gather with candlelight and carols to reflect on the wonder of the birth of Jesus. If you are a member or regular attendee, we encourage you to extend hospitality by attending either the 2:30 or 5:30 service as we expect our 4:00 service to be the most full.

DEC 28 | ONE SERVICE | 10:00 AM

On Sunday, December 28, we will gather for one combined service at 10:00 am. Come enjoy a relaxed morning with pancakes and pajamas as we worship together and celebrate the close of the Christmas season. We look forward to spending this cozy Sunday with you.



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 first Christmas was remarkably ordinary—a stable, a village, a young couple saying yes to God. Yet within the simple, God was moving with holy intention.

READER 2:

"But you, Bethlehem... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel."

— Micah 5:2

READER 3:

As we light the candle of Peace, we remember that God still chooses humble places and humble hearts.

ALL:

God of ordinary wonders, let Your peace rest on us as we recognize Your presence in simple places.



Flawed & Redeemed

By John Beaumont

The holidays are intended to be a time of wonder and anticipation, joy and peace. It can also be fraught with anxiety as families come together, who don't always get along. We may even think that our family is so dysfunctional that we shouldn't even try to get along.

Jesus' family tree is not much different. From patriarchs to prostitutes to kings, Jesus' family tree assumes all of humanity. This makes sense, as He is a Savior for all of humanity. We, too, are flawed and redeemed. A mixed bag, to say the least.

As we gather with our families this holiday season, may we exhibit the peace of Christ that goes beyond understanding.

As you prepare to step into the season and add many relationships, take a moment to

ask the Holy Spirit to grant thanksgiving for our families and time together, for extra grace for those times that are challenging and anxious and to set our eyes on Jesus.

- Where do I need to recognize both the flaws and the beauty in my own family, just as Jesus' family tree held both brokenness and redemption?
- What would it look like to enter this holiday season carrying the peace of Christ instead of the anxieties I usually bring into family gatherings?
- Where do I need to ask the Holy Spirit for extra grace—either for myself or for specific relationships—as we come together this season?

Write down the name of one person that you can begin praying for and that God would give you opportunities to connect with that person.



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 to Build Community

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.

Community

- Spend time with family and friends, including everyone in the celebration.
- Look over your calendar, and make plans to spend time with someone you have just met, or a neighbor you don't know very well.



Becoming
apprentices of Jesus by

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



THE JOURNEY.org