

December 14 | "An Ordinary Yes"



Ordinary
Wonders



Christmas Eve

2:30 | 4:00 | 5:30



THE JOURNEY.org /CHRISTMAS

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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?

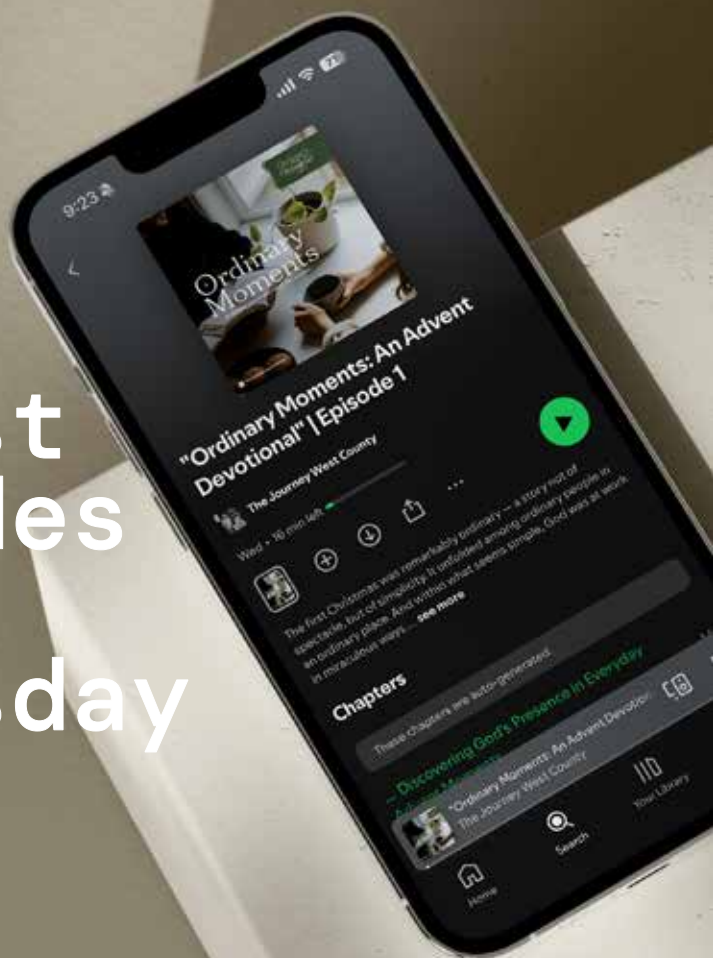
Apply | Consider what the Holy Spirit might be inviting you to do and how this passage shapes your life as an apprentice of Jesus.

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

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.

New Podcast Episodes Every Wednesday



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.



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:

Mary received a divine announcement in the midst of her ordinary life. Her response—even in mystery—was one of trust and joy.

READER 2:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."


— Luke 1:46-47

READER 3:

As we light the candle of Joy, we remember that joy grows not from extravagance, but from faith that God is with us.

ALL:

God of ordinary wonders,
awaken Your joy in us as we trust Your quiet, faithful work.



Simple obedience, trust, & willingness

By Sam Janes

This time of year we have endless opportunities and options for things to say yes to. There is a lot of movement, and a good amount is very good and joyful. However, the holiday season can offer us the unique opportunity to evaluate and calibrate what we are giving our “yes” to. It’s an opportunity to be near the Father’s voice and to be quick and eager to enter into where and what He is calling us to — and that may just surprise us!

In the story of Jesus, we see that Mary and Joseph gave their “yes” to the Lord and played a pivotal and humble role in the story of the gospel that altered humanity forever. Now, let’s be real, they had to be terrified. This wasn’t in their plans. This required GREAT sacrifice that we can hardly even imagine in our culture today.

The Lord is always, *literally always*, calling us into something. He is calling you into something. What an honor, if we really sit

with that: the God of the universe is calling us to partner with Him in this whole thing. Whether it is to show up every day consistently, completely drenched and oozing in the Holy Spirit at our 9–5, to shepherd and steward your children to be exceptional humans, to show up in your neighborhood or community in a particular way, or to make a move to a different city away from your friends and community, the challenge is to be close enough to the Father’s voice to hear His gentle whisper and to be bold and obedient to say, “Yes, Lord,” and go absolutely crush it. What I have found is that my life becomes extremely interesting when I give God my “yes.” I wonder what our community could look like this season if all of us entered boldly and courageously into the “yes” God is calling us into.

- **Where do you sense God has been inviting you into something more?**
- **What am I currently saying “yes” to that could use further discernment in this season?**



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

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.



Simple Practices to Build Generosity

Generosity

- Give intentionally — pick one small, meaningful way you can bless someone this week (write a card and send them a gift card, provide them a meal, pay for someone's groceries).
- Offer to babysit for someone so they can have a night off.



Becoming
apprentices of Jesus by

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



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