

MONDAY

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Psalm 40:3

In your time with the Lord today, meditate on Psalm 40:3.

If Christ has become Emmanuel for you, thank God for the song of salvation He has given you to sing.

If you have never met Christ as your Savior, ask God to draw you to Himself during this holiday season. Take the first step by praying the prayer below...

*“Dear God,
I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.
I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son.
I believe that He died
for my sin and that you raised Him to life.
I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,
from this day forward.
Guide my life and help me to do your will.
I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”*

Take the next step by telling someone about your decision to follow Christ.

TUESDAY

Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of His servant?

Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on

*his God.
Isaiah 50:10*

Spend a few minutes thinking about what it means to you to trust in the name of the Lord.

Is it hard to follow in obedience when all seems dark and silent around you?

Are you discouraged by what you see and hear on the news each day?

As you talk to the Father today, ask Him to give you the strength to follow obediently, even when it seems like no one else around you is doing the same.

WEDNESDAY

‘Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

How does the “word of Christ” dwell in you?

How do you make sure that you know what the “word of Christ” is?

When you talk to the Lord today, ask Him how He would have you go further than just reading the Bible. Begin that process by memorizing a verse or two. Then, listen for what the Lord says to you through His Word.

Write the next verse you would like to memorize here:

THURSDAY

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

As you spend time with this verse today, let it serve as a reminder that hearing the voice of God must be followed by obedience.

Think of an area where you feel the Lord calling you to obedience.

Write a prayer of surrender for that area below:

FRIDAY

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men.
Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy.
Psalm 107:21-22*

Think about a time when obedience to the Lord was a blessing to you. In your time with Him today, thank the Lord for the blessing and healing that obedience can bring.

SATURDAY

*And they sang a new song:
'You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood
you purchased men for God from
every tribe and language
and people and nation.'
Revelation 5:9*

Commit this verse to memory.

Then, thank God for the song of salvation that people from every tribe, language and nation will one day sing, in unison, before the Lamb.

ADVENT SONG

Prophets of old – a birth foretold
Of One to come, Light as the dawn.
Hundreds of years, a thousand tears
A darkened state, and still we wait
For the one who would be called

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
“God with us” is pleased to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
My soul can sing for it is well!
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Peace on earth, good news to tell

A virgin girl, God’s grace received
Salvation’s plan, to be perceived
Redemption came, in human frame
Shepherds were awed, the angels laud
For the one who would be called

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
“God with us” is pleased to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
My soul can sing for it is well!
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Peace on earth, good news to tell

Hope for the earth, for he would save
With his spotless life he gave
Promise assured, He’ll come again
And we’ll rejoice at His reign
Once more He will be called

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
“God with us” is pleased to dwell.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
My soul can sing for it is well!
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Peace on earth, good news to tell

ADVENT 2017 WEEK 1

Zechariah: The Benedictus (Song of Obedience) Luke 1:5-25; 57-70

Zechariah and Elizabeth lived righteous lives, yet they did not have children and were well along in years. They brought their requests for a child before the Lord in prayer in the same manner Abraham and Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, and Samson’s unnamed mother did. When Zechariah was called to minister in the temple, he received a surprise visit from a heavenly messenger.

The angel Gabriel, when foretelling John’s birth, said it would bring joy for Zechariah and Elizabeth (as well as others). However, Zechariah questioned the possibility of this birth in a way that expressed his doubt. Zechariah may have walked blamelessly before the Lord, but he wasn’t without sin. In this case, he was guilty of unbelief. Therefore, he was silenced (mute), and possibly unable to hear as well (*Luke 1:62*). The birth of John occurred just as the angel said it would. When the words were fulfilled, Zechariah’s tongue was loosed, and out came a song of praise. He might have sung the song much earlier had he obeyed by believing God’s message immediately.

Not all silence from God is a sign of disobedience, but in our disobedience we can make our ears dull to God’s voice in our lives. This can be expressed through hardness of heart and unbelief. The prophet Amos warned the rebellious people of Israel that a famine was coming that wouldn’t be marked by a lack of food, but a lack of “*hearing the words of the Lord*” (*Amos 8:11*). In that time of silence, what should have been the joyous songs of worship were changed to choruses of lament.

In his goodness, God did not stay silent forever. Instead, he chose to send us his word again. This time it would be the Word made flesh who would dwell among us. At the birth of Jesus, the song of redemption was sung that was meant for the world to hear. As those who have been redeemed, our lives of obedience sing out the salvation we receive in the ever living Word of God.

SUNDAY

*O God, whom I praise,
do not remain silent.
Psalm 109:1*

In your time with the Lord today, begin by acknowledging areas of disobedience in your own life. Then, confess your desire to hear God’s voice afresh.

Use the space below to write your prayer to the Lord ...



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