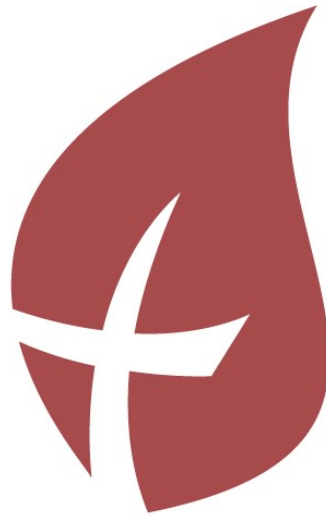


Sunday Morning Worship

December 8, 2024



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

December 8, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candles

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Lamentations 3:22-24

Song — O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Song — All My Help Comes From the Lord (Psalm 121)

Scripture Reading — Romans 8:18-39

Pastoral Prayer

Song — Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Prayer of Thanks

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“The Thrill of Hope”

Ruth 2

Song — Who Would Have Dreamed

Benediction

Comfort Rooms: To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

Visitors & Guests: Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

Call to Worship — Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Neale | Steve Cook | Bob Kauflin

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel!

Verse 2:

O come Thou Dayspring from on high
And cause Thy light on us to rise.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel!

Verse 3:

O come, O come, True prophet of the Lord
And turn the key to heaven's door
Be Thou our comforter and guide
And lead us to the Father's side.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall by His Word our darkness dispel.

Verse 4:

O come our great High Priest and intercede
Thy sacrifice our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Has banished every fear of hell.

Verse 5:

O Come Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

Verse 6:

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in its ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell

All My Help Comes From the Lord (Psalm 121)

Cleophus Robinson

Chorus:

All my help, (all my help)
comes from the Lord.
All my help, (all my help)
comes from the Lord, (the Lord).
All my needs that I'm possessing.
All my help, all my help, all my help
comes from the Lord, (the Lord).

Verse 1:

Father I stretch, (I stretch) my hands to Thee.
I know that You, (only you,) remember me.
When others forget, when others forget
and leave me alone,
I know that Jesus, Jesus, Jesus
will hear my groan.

Verse 2:

When I am weak, (when I'm weak)
He gives me strength.
When I am lonely, He comforts me.
When I am tired of the load that I am bearing,
He gives me courage, courage, courage
to bear my share.

Scripture Reading — Romans 8:18-39 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

(continued on next page)

Scripture Reading — (continued)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul

Anne Steele | Kevin Twit

Verse 1:

Dear refuge of my weary soul
On You when sorrows rise
On You when waves of trouble roll
My fainting hope relies
To You I tell each rising grief
For You alone can heal
Your Word can bring a sweet relief
For every pain I feel

Verse 2:

But oh, when gloomy doubts prevail
I fear to call You mine
The springs of comfort seem to fail
And all my hopes decline
Yet gracious God where shall I flee
You are my only trust
And still my soul would cleave to You
Though prostrate in the dust

Verse 3:

Have You not bid me seek Your face
And shall I seek in vain
And can the ear of sovereign grace
Be deaf when I complain
No, still the ear of sovereign grace
Attends the mourner's prayer
Oh, may I ever find access
To breathe my sorrows there

Verse 4:

Your mercy seat is open still
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Your will
And wait beneath Your feet
Your mercy seat is open still
Here let my soul retreat
With humble hope attend Your will
And wait beneath Your feet

Sermon Notes
“The Thrill of Hope” :: Ruth 2

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# Who Would Have Dreamed?

Jason Hanson | Bob Kaulfin

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## **Verse 1:**

On a starlit hillside  
shepherds watched their sheep  
Slowly David's city drifted off to sleep  
But to this little town of no great renown  
The Lord had a promise to keep

## **Verse 2:**

Prophets had foretold it  
a mighty King would come  
Long awaited Ruler, God's Anointed One  
But the Sovereign of all  
looked helpless and small  
As God gave the world His own Son

## **Chorus:**

And who would have dreamed  
or ever foreseen  
that we could hold God in our hands  
The Giver of Life is born in the night  
Revealing God's glorious plan  
To save the world!

## **Verse 3:**

Wondrous gift of heaven,  
the Father sends the Son  
Planned from time eternal  
moved by holy love  
He will carry our curse  
and death He'll reverse  
So we can be daughters and sons

## This Week at First Baptist Church

### **Sunday, December 8**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
 10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
 12:00 PM Budget Review Meeting  
 6:00 PM Youth Night

### **Monday, December 9**

### **Tuesday, December 10**

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study  
 6:30 PM Elders' Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 11**

5:45 PM King's Kids Choir  
 6:30 PM AWANA; Bible Study; Choir/Band

### **Thursday, December 12**

### **Friday, December 13**

### **Saturday, December 14**

9:00 AM Christmas VBS for Senior Saints (CVBSSS)

### **Sunday, December 15**

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes  
 10:00 AM Sunday Worship  
 12:00 PM Members' Meeting  
 6:00 PM Youth Night

## Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

### **Sunday, December 8**

Budget Review Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Saturday, December 14**

9:00 AM — 12:30 PM :: Christmas Vacation Bible School for Senior Saints

### **Sunday, December 15**

Members' Meeting — immediately following worship service

### **Tuesday, December 24**

6:30pm — Christmas Eve Worship

### **Wednesday, January 1**

6:30pm — Prayer Meeting

### **Sunday, January 12**

Church Potluck Lunch — immediately following worship service

### **Sunday, January 26**

Starting Point Seminar — immediately following worship service  
*(Seminar for those interested in church membership. Contact the church office to register or use the Digital Communication Card on the back of this bulletin.)*

# Praying with First Baptist Church

## A Prayer Guide for the week of December 8

### **Prayer of the week:**

One of the ways we learn to pray is by using the examples in Scripture as a springboard and inspiration for our own prayer life. This week, we encourage you to use the prayer of the Apostle Paul from the book of Colossians 1:9a, 11:

*“<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be ...  
<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might,  
for all endurance and patience with joy; “*

We recognize our need for God’s help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

### **Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God’s word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God’s glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

### **Prayer items outside our church:**

- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)

- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)
- Pray for those effected by natural disasters around the world, especially recent hurricanes through the Southeast U.S. Pray God would provide for immediate needs and preserve life. Pray God would comfort those grieving the death of loved ones. Pray for relief workers to work safely and quickly to bring stability (Psalm 119:88; 34:18)
- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we are directly involved with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison and Susanna Schriever (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray that God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

#### **Particular prayer items in the life of our church:**

- Pray that God would provide opportunity for gospel conversations with family and friends during the holiday season (Matt. 28:19).
- Pray for those in our church family who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray for God's comfort in their time of bereavement. Pray that our church family would come around them to serve practical needs and give encouragement in their faith. (John 14:27; 2 Cor. 1:3-4).
- Pray for our students wrapping up a semester at school this month. Pray that they would be diligent in their studying/training and finish well. Pray they would grow in their faith and seek opportunities to glorify God with their skills and education. (Prov. 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31).
- Pray for our upcoming Members Meeting on Dec 15 after worship. Pray that God would continually help us to grow in unity and service to one another as fellow believers here at FBCUM and help us work together for kingdom purposes. (Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for our church family as we consider amendments to our church constitution. Pray that we would work together to comprehend and establish God's good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

**Margaret Austin, Family of Debbie Booher (died Nov 30), Alice Copeland, Connie Crawford, Mary Dina, Lucie Lowe, Sharon Powers (death of sister), Bonnie Trott, Glenn Walker**

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

# Announcements

1. **Budget Review Meeting — TODAY.** Church members are invited to review and discuss the proposed 2025 church budget with the pastors following the worship service today.

2. **Church Members' Meeting — Sunday, Dec 15.** Lord willing, we will have our regularly scheduled Members' Meeting immediately following the worship service next Sunday, Dec 15. We will be voting on memberships and the 2025 Budget. We will also thank God for the work he's done in 2024 and prayerfully consider where we see God leading our church in 2025. Minutes from our previous Members' Meeting will be available in the church office on 12/8.

3. **Christmas Eve Worship at 6:30pm.** Join us for an evening of worship as we remember the Christmas story and rejoice in the truth that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Feel free to invite family, friends, and neighbors.

4. **Christmas Vacation Bible School for Senior Saints — Dec 14.** The youth group will be hosting a fun-filled day of Christmas themed VBS for our Senior Saints (60+) on Dec 14 from 9am-12:30pm. Flyers with more info are available at the Welcome Desk. Questions?... contact Jason Brown.

5. **Advent Devotional 2024.** There are still copies of the suggested Advent devotional, "The Light Before Christmas," by Marty Machowski available at the bookstall for \$10.00.

6. **Year-End Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBCUM. As we near the end of 2024, please remember that any gifts to be counted toward your 2024 annual giving statement must be postmarked, in the church office, or submitted online by Dec. 31. You can give three ways:

- [online](#): click the link or scan the QR code,
- [in-person](#): designated boxes at the Welcome Desk or during the worship service
- [by mail](#): send to the church office.



Church members with a benevolence request, please contact the church office.

## Digital Communication Card



Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.





**You are Invited!!**  
**CVBSSS –**  
**Christmas Vacation Bible School for**  
**Senior Saints!**

**All senior saints 60+**  
**Hosted by Youth@UM**

**Lesson, music, games, snacks, crafts.**

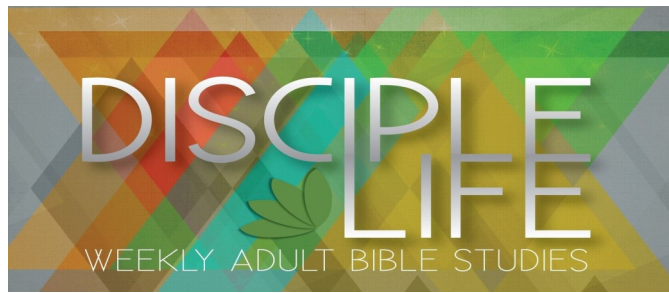
**Invite a friend!**

**Date: Saturday, December 14th**  
**Time: 9:00am–12:30**

**RSVP Today!**

**Scan the QR code to register or email Jason Brown**  
**at [FBCUMstudentministries@gmail.com](mailto:FBCUMstudentministries@gmail.com)**





## **Winter 2024-25 (Dec - Feb) DiscipleLIFE Classes for adults:**

**FALL SESSION BEGINS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

To help us prepare, we are asking that everyone sign up for the class they wish to attend by [clicking here](#).

### **Explore the Bible – Exodus and Leviticus**

This winter, we'll study *Exodus*; *Leviticus*. These books remind us that imperfect people can depend on a perfect God to lead them through whatever wilderness they face. As you study how God worked among His people, you'll see that He is still at work in your life as well. He still guides, cares, protects, and delivers. (13 sessions) (Books are available in the room 117/118 starting this Sunday, 11/24)

- **Explore the Bible (Coed) — Room 117/118 :: Teachers: Tyrone Moorehead & Tre Fields**
- **Explore the Bible (Women) — Room 115 :: Teacher: Tanya Joy**
- **Explore the Bible (Men) - Room 113 :: Teachers: Faris Hawit & Dimitri Louis**

### **Growing Together: Mentoring Beyond Small Talk and Prayer Requests (Women)**

Take your mentoring efforts beyond small talk and prayer requests---establish cross-generational female friendships that exemplify the discipleship Paul affirmed in Titus 2! Topics include: how to set expectations and share your story; savor the Word of God together; resist temptations; cultivate contentment in all seasons; choose what is best; and more. (Books will be available for \$11 on the first day of class.)

- **Room 112 :: Teachers - Kristine Louis & Nikki Butler**

### **Anxiety: Knowing God's Peace (Coed)**

Anxiety can feel like a daily battle—at times bringing great suffering to both the body and the soul. Whether you experience nagging worry or debilitating panic, God's Word offers hope and help. The Bible is honest about human experiences of dread and fear, even in the lives of believers. We wage our war against anxiety through the disciplined exercise of biblical faith rooted in who God is, what he has done for us in Christ, and how he promises to continue to care for those who belong to him. (This 31-day devotional will be available for \$11 on the first day of class)

- **Room 114 :: Teachers - Mike Rogers & Darryl Arrington**

**\*\* DiscipleLIFE classes for all ages meet every Sunday morning at 9am. \*\***



# Christmas According to Ruth

## [Ruth 2](#)

"The Thrill of Hope"—December 8, 2024



### Introduction

In life, there is no reset button. We take things - good and bad - as they come. Here in the book of Ruth, we see Naomi taking blow after blow. Even in all her heartache, she knew God was sovereign. She went back to Bethlehem hoping for a fresh start. As she limped back into town, it seemed that she had lost all hope. She and Ruth return after the famine at the beginning of the barley harvest. We are left asking, "could this be a new beginning? Could this be a fresh start?"

What about you? Have your choices or circumstances left you feeling empty, hopeless, and/or alone. There is no reset button, but is a fresh start possible? Is the hope of a new beginning absurd? Are we right to even hope for a new beginning? God can bring about a new beginning for all those who take their refuge in Him.

Chapter two begins with an "editorial comment." It is a detail that the author of the book wants us to know. We are introduced to Boaz. We know this, but Ruth and Naomi didn't. This raises the tension of the story because they need help, but finding Boaz is like finding a needle in a haystack.

### Sermon Outline

1. Scene One: Take a step of faith. Vs. 1-3
2. Scene Two: Wait in hope for God's grace. Vs. 4-17
3. Scene Three: Open your heart. Vs. 18-23

### Read & Discuss

#### 1. Read vs. 1 – 3

It can be hard for us to imagine what it was like for Ruth, a foreigner, to live in Bethlehem. She was an outsider, a foreigner from Moab. Ruth was a widow with no children, no welfare, and no support system. She only had Naomi who was in despair. They needed food - that was their most pressing need.

To glean meant to follow the reapers and pick up the pieces of grain that they had missed. It was slow, difficult work. God's law required landowners to allow the fatherless, the widow, and the sojourner to reap in the fields. Even though there was a law, it was the time of the judges when people ignored God's law, doing what was right in their own eyes. There was no guarantee that she would be allowed to glean. This is why Ruth looked for God's favor.

Ruth didn't just sit around waiting. She took the initiative. "She set out and went." Why didn't Naomi go with her? She was stuck in the pit of bitterness and depression. Ruth's character and faith shone. She was determined to help Naomi. Her love for Naomi and her trust in God compelled her to go.

Where did she end up? She "happened" to come to Boaz's field, and Boaz just "happened" to be of the same clan as Elimelech. But was it really happenstance? No, there is no such thing as luck for the Christian. ([Proverbs 16:33](#)) God is sovereign over all things. He guided her to that field. Ruth had no idea that this day would change the course of her life forever.

To be in God's favor, we must find the right field. The church is God's field. ([1 Corinthians 3:9](#)) Has God, in His providence, brought you to this church today to hear His word and give you a new start? Do you need to hear God's voice? Get out your Bible and read it. Do you long for friendships and community? Pick up the phone and call someone in the church. Invite them for lunch or coffee. Get to know them. Don't grow weary in doing good. Trust God to guide you as He guided Ruth. ([Psalm 23:6](#)) We can take a step of faith forward and trust God.

**Additional Reading:** *Leviticus 19; Deuteronomy 24*

## 2. Read vs. 4 – 17

Ruth was in a very vulnerable spot, needing protection and provision. God provided both of those things in Boaz. The way Boaz treated his servants gives us a glimpse of his character. He noticed Ruth and asked about her. The foreman made sure Boaz knew she was a foreigner - an outcast. Imagine the impact of Boaz's words to Ruth. He spoke to her as if she was family, making sure she knew that she belonged. Why? She has taken refuge in God. Just as Ruth was considered family to Boaz, God, in Christ, has taken people from every walk of life and made them family – the church. Do you see the church as family?

Boaz had heard about Ruth and all she had done. Boaz protected Ruth. He insisted that she stay and glean in his field, and he told the young men to not touch her. These left Ruth stunned by his grace. Where did her fearlessness come from? She took refuge in God, and God used people like Boaz to protect. In [Genesis 1:26-28](#), we see that God created men and women as equals, but with different roles. Men are called to sacrifice their comfort to protect but must use their authority in a proper way. Boaz was a godly man - a worthy man who protected Ruth.

Boaz also generously provided for her. Ruth left the field that day with almost five gallons of grain. Like Boaz, we are to welcome the outsiders who come to this church. Do you tend to miss the “Ruths” because you are looking for people like you? Do you see people on the fringe, on their own, in need, hurting, and/or overlooked? Do we as a church care for these people, reach out to them, care for them, believing that God can give them a fresh start just like He did for us? Can you imagine what our community would look like if we took the initiative to reach out to others?

## 3. Read vs. 18 – 23

Boaz qualified as a “kinsman redeemer.” A kinsman redeemer could buy back a relative who was enslaved due to debt. They could also marry a childless widow and raise a child with her in order to preserve the family line. When Ruth revealed whose field she found, Naomi's bitterness and depression began to fall away. Naomi realized that God's kindness had not forsaken the living or the dead.

God's kindness is his covenant love. It is His commitment for our good. He obligates Himself with a covenant promise - so committed to our good that He will bless no matter what it costs Him. It cost Him His Son. We deserve His curse because of sin. But Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. ([Galatians 3:13-14](#)) Jesus bore the righteous wrath of God to bless anyone who would come in repentance and faith. Have you taken refuge with God in Christ? One day, you will stand before God and give an account to Him. Run to Christ and take refuge under His wings. Jesus wants to be our refuge. Don't let pride keep you away. Take shelter in Him. Then you can know the thrill of hope of a new beginning.

### Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

|                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Ruth 3</a> “Waiting for the Redeemer” |
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## Family Guide for week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



### Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc...)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

# Family Guide for week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*



## Bible Intake (Listening to God)

### Advent Week Two

Day 1 – Proverbs 4:18-19

Day 2 – John 1:1-5

Day 3 – 1 John 1:5-10

Day 4 – Luke 1:76-79

Day 5 – Ezekiel 1:26-28

*\*Read Ruth 3 in preparation for church on Sunday, December 15, 2024*

## Prayer (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 29 of our church directory.

Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

*Thank God that He is perfect light & He has allowed His word to teach us.*

*Ask God to help you turn away from sin (darkness) and Follow the Light (Jesus).*

## Sing together

"The First Noel" – found on page 32 of the Advent Devotional "The Light Before Christmas" "Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul" – using the bulletin from Sunday.

## Memory verses for the month

**Isaiah 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."

**Psalms 34:17** "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles."

## Catechism question for the week<sup>1</sup>

Question 22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

Answer: That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.

<sup>1</sup> New City Catechism (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)