

Day of Epiphany:
Magi Visit

January 6, 2019

Matthew 2:1-23

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

O Lord, you deliver your faithful people in your good time. Give us courage to believe your promises and hope to carry us through our trials. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. (Matthew 2:13-15a)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

A rising star leads scholars to a growing child who is to become the king and messiah to deliver his weary people. But in Herod's jealous heart, there is room for only one king in the land.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What rites and rituals does your community practice? What milestones are lifted up throughout the stages of life?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is a king? What other images for Jesus speak to you?

For the littles: Where have you gone on a trip? God often sends people on trips.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

God bless your travels, far and near. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Look at your calendar for the year ahead. What milestones will you celebrate? How will you mark those occasions? Start planning now to celebrate important milestones in the coming year.

Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.



Monday, Psalm 96:10-13, *Psalm*

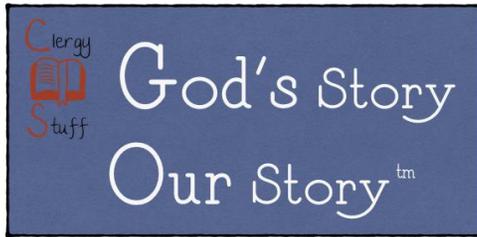
Tuesday, Psalm 11:1-3, *Psalm*

Wednesday, Exodus 1:8-22, *Israelites are Oppressed*

Thursday, Exodus 2:1-11, *Birth of Moses*

Friday, Exodus 12:29-32, *Death of the Firstborn*

Saturday, Hosea 11:1-12, *A Promise Out of Egypt*



Jesus' Baptism:
Matthew

January 13, 2019

Matthew 3:1-17

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Dear God, your only son came to impart the Spirit's power and mercy to all. May our hearts receive him and turn from the ways of selfish pride. We ask this in the name of Jesus the anointed one, our savior and lord. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. (Matthew 3:7-8)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

John preaches a message of repentance and baptizes all with passion. But when his cousin Jesus requests to be baptized, John wonders if God could possibly approve of such a thing. Perhaps an affirmation from heaven will reassure him.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How does your community of faith honor its baptismal promises for those who are baptized?

How do you claim God's baptismal promises in your daily life? What difference does your baptism make in your life?

For the littles: Ask someone to tell you the story of your baptism. What did you like about the story?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God remind you daily of your baptismal promises. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Visit a body of water near your home (a lake, ocean, or river). Reflect on how God's baptismal promises show up in your life.



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Monday, Psalm 2:7-8, *Psalm*

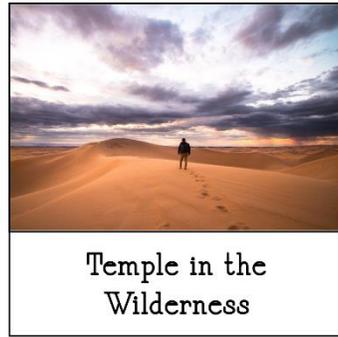
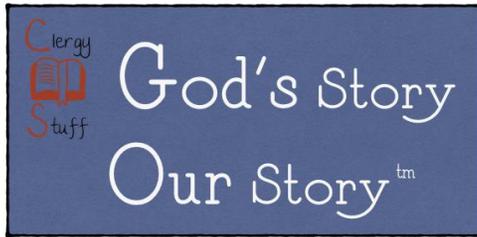
Tuesday, Judges 13:1-7, *The Birth of Samson*

Wednesday, Isaiah 11:1-9, *God's Peaceful Kingdom*

Thursday, Zechariah 3:1-10, *Joshua and Satan*

Friday, Numbers 31:21-24, *Cleansing by Fire*

Saturday, Isaiah 40:1-11, *A Voice in the Wilderness*



January 20, 2019

Matthew 4:1-17

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

O Lord, your son did not succumb to temptation under the most extreme duress. May we show even a fraction of his faithfulness, keeping our eyes on you and our hearts true to who we are. In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:3-4)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

At the height of hunger and isolation, Jesus keenly feels the stab of temptation in the wilderness. Will he cave in to his primal needs and desires, or stay true to his identity and muster the strength to resist?



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How does a community come to agreement about which laws, rules, or norms are to be followed? Which rules or norms are unique to your setting? How are they followed? How are they enforced?

What tempts you the most? How can your faith help you resist temptation?

For the littles: Which is harder to resist... a sweet treat or staying up past bedtime? God can help you resist both!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God deliver you from temptation. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Choose one temptation to resist this week. Look at the challenge not as a punishment, but as an opportunity to be free from the object of your temptation. Notice how you feel after one week of abstinence.



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Monday, Psalm 91:9-12, *Psalm*

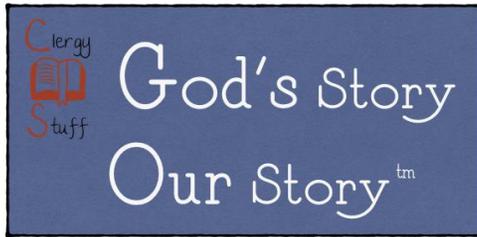
Tuesday, Genesis 1:26-27, *Creation of Humanity*

Wednesday, Genesis 3:1-7, *Temptation in the Garden of Eden*

Thursday, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, *A Warning from God*

Friday, Matthew 4:18-22, *Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

Saturday, Matthew 4:23-25, *Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People*



January 27, 2019

Matthew 5:1-20

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

O Lord, your son came as the fulfillment of your law. Continue to lift up all who are oppressed in this world, that they might know your blessing and receive the joy you have promised. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5:6-9)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Crowds gather in increasing number to hear the great teacher's words. But they may find themselves surprised by his reversal of the expected world order.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How do the guidelines in Jesus' sermon shape your community? Which are necessary today? Which have been adjusted to reflect the modern era? How can a community remain faithful to God's laws?

How has God blessed you? How do you think Jesus would describe you in your current state of life?

For the littles: Jesus liked to teach people about God. What is your favorite thing to learn about?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you in whatever stage of life you are in. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Set this week's grocery budget at half of what you normally spend. Find ways to provide for yourself and/or your household with this lowered budget. Reflect on the challenges and joys of this activity.

Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.



Monday, Psalm 1:1-3, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 5:21-26, *Concerning Anger*

Wednesday, Matthew 5:27-32, *Concerning Adultery and Divorce*

Thursday, Matthew 5:33-42, *Concerning Oaths and Retaliation*

Friday, Matthew 5:43-48, *Love for Enemies*

Saturday, Matthew 6:1-6, *Concerning Almsgiving*