

## **Prepare for Christmas- weekly faith challenge from 12-10-17**

**Matthew 2:9-11** *“After they had heard the king, the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”*

### **Day 1-Prepare in advance**

What are you hoping for this Christmas? (jot it down)

**Say no-** What will you say no to so you can say yes to what is most meaningful for you and your family?

Sit with God; ask Him if there need to be some divine subtractions from your “normal” Christmas activity.

### **Day 2-Prepare in advance**

How will you give Jesus your time, talent and treasure this Christmas?

**Give yourself-** Who, what where might God have you give yourself? How might your family give themselves for others?

**Ephesians 3:16-17** *“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”*

### **Day 3- Prepare space** (in your heart and in your schedule)

“there was no room for him in the inn” Luke 2:7

“Each of us is an Innkeeper who decides if there’s room for Jesus.” Neal A. Maxwell

If your heart is the Inn where Jesus is to stay, how might you make room for Him?

Read Luke 2:1-20; recapture what His arrival meant then and jot down what it means to you now.

Reach out- talk to God, express your gratitude for the gift of His Son

Repent- ask the Holy Spirit if you need to prepare your heart for Him by confessing and repenting sin.

Read Luke 2:9-17

### **Day 4- Prepare to believe, act and share**

Jot down any God activity you have experienced this week

To follow Jesus we’re encouraged to- “Ask, listen and say yes”. What is God asking you this week? Jot it down. Will you say yes?

Who might God have you share what God is doing in your life? When will you share it?

**Luke 2:20** *“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”*

### **Day 5- Prepare to worship**

Sit silently in God’s presence for 3-5 minutes (it may feel like forever)

What has this week been like for you? Express your heart to Him. (jot it down if you like)

Play, sing or listen to one of your favorite Christmas carols. Express what your heart feels when you finish. Jot it down