

BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Bringing the Church Back to Life
November 14, 2021
Week 1 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Ephesians 1:13-23](#)

REFLECT: "This must be stronger than that." Today we reflect on what we could be (both individually and as the church) if we discover the wisdom and power that is available to us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Vs. 13-14 - How aware are you of the Holy Spirit's work in you on a daily basis? How could you become more aware?

Vs. 18 - What do you think an "enlightened heart" would look like?

Vs. 19-20 The same power that "raised him (Christ) from the dead" is available to us. What would have to happen for an individual and/or a church to experience that power?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Use verses 17-19 as a prayer guide to pray for yourself, closest relationships, spouse, children, co-workers, life group friends, pastors, elders, other church leaders, and the church as a whole.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ or LISTEN to all of Ephesians this week. Begin today with [Ephesians 1:1-12](#).

PRACTICE: Have a conversation with another person about the work of the Holy Spirit and what you believe could happen as you yield yourself to Him.

Day 2-

READ: [Ephesians 2:8-22](#), [1 Peter 2:5](#), [1 Corinthians 3:16](#)

REFLECT: "The church is still the Temple of God." Reflect on the words used to describe you/us before Christ: "separated from Christ", "alienated", "strangers", "no hope", "without God". What has changed? What do we now have? How has this changed your perspective on life?

You are a brick in God's temple! Who are some other bricks that you are joined together with (use this passage to guide your answer)? What is the significance of being the "dwelling place of God"? How does this affect how you live? How does this affect how the church functions?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the presence of God. What would you want to tell Him? What is the very first thing you would say? Keep imagining and pray, speaking directly to Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ or LISTEN: [Ephesians 2:1-7](#) and [3:1-13](#).

READ: For more on this topic, or the entire sermon series, check out Jon Tyson's book [Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise](#).

Day 3-

READ: [Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

REFLECT: "The church is still the Body of Christ." What do you think it means "to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (Vs. 1)? How would you know if the body is growing as it should (Vs 11-16)?

Read Vs. 16 in the New King James Version: "...joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share..." Which part of the body might you be, or which do you have the potential to be? Remember, whatever the part, it's not by your choosing, but by God's gifting (Vs 7-8)!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: As the body of Christ, how might we have an impact on our world? Pray for what might be.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ or LISTEN: Ephesians [3:14-21](#) and [4:17-32](#)

REFLECT: Review a description of the [Spiritual gifts](#) and/or take the Spiritual gifts [assessment](#).

PRACTICE: Have a conversation with another person, and ask them to tell you what part they think you might be in the body of Christ. Now reverse the conversation, and describe to them what you think their part might be.

Day 4-

READ: [Ephesians 5:21-33](#), [1 Corinthian 11:2-3](#), [Revelation 21:9](#) -

REFLECT: Today, make special note of the relationship between Christ and His bride. "The Church is still the Bride of Christ." Underline/highlight all parts that have to do with Christ and His bride/church. From these passages, what has Christ done (or will do) for His bride? How does the metaphor of being the bride of Christ affect your view of the church? In what ways can the bride be beautiful? What could tarnish the bride?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Spend time in praise for what Christ has done for you by writing a list using some of the concepts of today's reading.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ or LISTEN: [Ephesians 5:1-20](#).

LEARN: "[How to Read Ephesians](#)", a video from the Bible Project on RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here!](#)]

Day 5-

READ: [Ephesians 6:10-20](#)

REFLECT: "This must be stronger than that." According to this passage, where are the challenges of our culture truly coming from? (Vs 11-12) According to this passage, where will our strength to resist come from? List each piece of the armor of God and consider how you can ensure that you are wearing each. What steps could you take to ensure that you have the armor that you need?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: In the spirit of this passage, pray for "all the saints" (all believers in Christ) and for church leaders. Pray for God's strength, God's wisdom, God's armor, and boldness.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ or LISTEN: Ephesians [6:1-9 and 6:21-24](#)

READ: Read this article for a description of what the armor of God is and how to apply it: [Tempted and Unarmed, by Garrett Kell](#)

REFLECT: [Operation World](#) -read about the growth of God's church in China and the challenges His bride is facing. Take time to pray for the church in China.

BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Hospitality That Resists Fear

November 21, 2021

Week 2 Reading Plan

Happy Thanksgiving!

Day 1-

REFLECT: Before you read from Luke 7- How do you define hospitality? Do you feel like you're "good at" showing hospitality to others?

READ: [Luke 7:36-50](#)

REFLECT: It is not clear from the passage why the Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner, but we do see that the Pharisee took few customary steps to make Jesus feel welcome and honored. How did the Pharisee fail to show hospitality to Jesus? Who was it that displayed genuine hospitality and honor? Imagine the varying reactions in the room! Does this passage change how you define hospitality?

PRACTICE: Make a list of some practical ways you can show hospitality to another student, a colleague, a neighbor, or a stranger.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: [Gospel Hospitality](#), a short clip from RightNow Media [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).].

Day 2-

READ: [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)

REFLECT: What might it feel like to be an "outcast"? How can we in Christ welcome the outcast? What brought the outcast that Paul is writing to into the body? Verse 14 says, "*For He Himself (Christ) is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.*" Who are the opposing groups that Jesus wants to draw together in our day? How does hospitality resist fear?

PRAY: Use [Psalm 139: 23-24](#) to lead you into a prayer of confession and repentance.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: For more on this topic, or the entire sermon series, check out Jon Tyson's book [Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise](#).

Day 3-

READ: [Hebrews 13: 2-3](#) ; [1 Peter 4:7-10](#)

REFLECT: How have you experienced hospitality? What does it look and feel like to be genuinely welcomed by someone? Why does the author of Hebrews encourage the church to practice hospitality? What does Peter say about hospitality? How can we show Jesus to others in simple, practical ways?

PRAY: Ask God to open your eyes and your ears today to someone who needs gospel hospitality this week. Be ready to follow through!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: [How to take your faith to work and serve others](#) from RightNow Media. [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).]

Day 4-

READ: [Psalm 23:5-6](#); [Ephesians 2: 12-14](#)

REFLECT: God in His kindness, love, and grace invites us to feast at His table. Not because we have earned it or deserved it, but because His Son, Jesus Christ, sacrificed his life and defeated death. We are now invited, welcomed, and lavished upon in the presence of Almighty God. Let your heart rejoice in that truth today!

PRAY: Use [Psalm 100](#) to lead you into a prayer of thanksgiving.

READ: "[This Thanksgiving, Come to the Table](#)" From The Gospel Coalition.

Day 5-

READ: [Luke 7: 44-47](#) ; [Psalm 139:13-16](#)

REFLECT: What labels would the Pharisees have given this unwelcome woman? Their fear of her as "sinner" would have never allowed them to invite her to their table. What labels do you think she bore after her encounter with Jesus? Now consider: how do you label yourself? Who are you in your Savior's eyes? How will this change how you see others?

PRACTICE: Seek an opportunity to show hospitality to someone who is different from you in some way.

BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Worship That Resists Idolatry

November 28, 2021

Week 3 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Exodus 20:1-3](#); [1 Corinthians 10:12-14](#); [1 John 5:21](#)

REFLECT: It can be hard to recognize the idols in our lives. Dwight L. Moody said, “Whatever you love more than God is an idol.” We can make idols of success, work, money, people, sports, achievement, approval, and many other things. Tim Keller writes, “We think that idols are bad things, but that is almost never the case... Anything can serve as a counterfeit God, especially the very best things in life.” Good things like family, ministry or serving others can become idols. When you are trying to identify idols in your life ask yourself: Where do I get joy? Where do I find my identity? Where do I find comfort, escape, or pleasure? What do I think about most often?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Read [Psalm 139:23-24](#) then take some time to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything that has become an idol to you and to help you let it go.

Day 2-

READ: [1 John 2:15-17](#)

REFLECT: Pastor Derek talked about two kinds of idols:

Heart idols, which we elevate to the place of God in our hearts such as power, control, comfort, or approval.

Cultural idols, which the world around us values that we begin to worship. These may be sports teams or fashion or political parties or groups that define us.

John tells us the root causes of sin are desires of the flesh, desires of the eyes, and pride of life. Think about heart idols and cultural idols you see working in yourself and those around you. How do they align with these root causes?

PRAY: Recognizing and resisting our idols is a continual process. So, once again, read [Psalm 139:23-24](#) and ask God to show you the idols in your life and ask him to help you release them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: “[A Prayer About Living the Wrong Things Too Much](#),” a beautiful prayer from Scotty Smith

REFLECT: How can the assurance that you are loved and forgiven by God help you resist idols?

PRAY: Pray this prayer from the blog out loud: “Help me to know when I’ve made a good thing an ultimate thing. Help me be wary of those seasons when my cry for relief is louder than my cry for a changed heart. When I don’t think you are ‘enough,’ make it clear where I take the trust and worship you deserve—the false gods and broken cisterns to which I look for deliverance, and temporal salvation.

I praise you for the assurance that I am already one of your 'beloved children.' You cannot love me more than you already do, and you will never love me less. Surely the gospel, *this* gospel, will win the day, my heart, and the entire cosmos. So very Amen I pray, in Jesus' strong and loving name."

Day 3-

READ: [Romans 1:18-25](#)

REFLECT: In these verses God's wrath is passive. Verse 21 says God "*gave them up*" or "*gave them over*" to lust and impurity. Jon Tyson says idols lead to deception (Romans 1:21), distortion (Romans 1:25), and destruction (Romans 1:18). Think of some ways you see these consequences of worshiping idols playing out your surroundings. Consider how many current problems in our community may be related to worshiping idols instead of God.

PRAY: Are you remembering to pray for 3 people for 3 minutes at 3:00? Take that time to pray for those people to understand that God alone deserves their worship and ask God to help them see their need for Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: For more on this topic, or the entire sermon series, check out Jon Tyson's book [Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise](#).

Day 4-

READ: [Psalm 8](#)

REFLECT: It's clear we need to resist idols—there's no better way to do that than to focus on who God is and what He's done for us through Jesus. The sight of His power and beauty in combination with His unconditional love for us demonstrates that He is all we need. Worship (affirming who God *is* with our words and our lifestyle) and Wonder (affirming *all* the blessings we have because of Jesus coming into our world) are the antidote for idolatry. What are some ways you can direct your thoughts to who God is and what Jesus has done?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Make a list of some words that describe God's character (for example: loving, faithful, omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), strong, kind, fierce). Take some time to specifically thank and praise Him for who He is.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: "[Worship Defined](#)", a short video from RightNow Media [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here!](#)]

REFLECT: What are some ways you worship God without using words? How can your day-to-day life be more filled with real worship?

Day 5-

READ: [Ephesians 2:4-10](#)

REFLECT: Read these verses again, noting carefully all the blessings you have because Jesus came on a rescue mission for you. Let that fill you with wonder! Next, think of all the ordinary wonders God did in your life just today. Take a few breaths and ponder all miraculous things going on in your body during those breaths—each body is a miracle of wonders that we mostly take for granted until one part fails. Now think of a few wonders of creation. It is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong while forgetting how many, many more are miraculously good and right.

PRAY: Take some time to confess to God all the ways you take His wonders for granted. Then ask Him to help you maintain an attitude of wonder over all His blessings, so you can resist the idols that threaten you.

WORSHIP: Take a walk. Listen to a favorite worship song. Find a new worship song. Close your eyes and let the warmth of the sun or the fragrance of a candle wash over you. Breathe deeply as you pray, “God, you are worthy.”

BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Honor that Resists Contempt

December 5, 2021

Week 4 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Romans 12: 1-21](#)

REFLECT: This week's sermon focuses on living in a way that honors others and resists contempt. "Contempt is so dangerous for followers of Jesus because it creates a sense of superiority in us, devalues others, and also shuts off the work of God in our midst. Most of us would shudder at the thought that we show contempt to others, but it manifests itself in ways that we may not immediately recognize." (Tyson, [Beautiful Resistance](#), pg 203)

As you read Romans 12 today, slow down and take note of Paul's many specific examples of how believers honor or dishonor each other. Consider--where is biblical honor rooted? What makes it possible for the church to serve God in this way?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Read [Psalm 8: 4-5](#). Think of a time that someone honored you and how that moment impacted you. Spend a few minutes thanking God for crowning you with glory and honor. Ask Him for eyes to see the people in your life as He sees you. Ask Him to reveal to you one person in particular that you can honor this week.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ/ WATCH: John Piper's message, "[Love One Another with Brotherly Affection](#)" from Desiring God

REFLECT: Why is it so important that Christians love and honor one another? How does this impact the global church when Christians do this well? What about when they fail to do so?

Day 2-

READ: [Luke 18: 9-14](#)

REFLECT: As Jesus tells this parable, He describes two men praying in the temple. Culture would have respected and honored the Pharisee, but not the tax collector. What do we learn about each man through Jesus' descriptions? How does getting a glimpse of each man's story--who they were and where they were coming from--change our perspective? What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His audience? How can this parable help us learn to resist contempt in our world today?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Read [Psalm 139: 13-16](#) and let the truth of it sink in: how intentionally and beautifully God has made you.

Now, call to mind a person that you have a hard time loving, that you treat with some level of contempt or devaluation. Read through the passage again, but this time, insert this person's name. Spend some time praying for God's blessing on him/her and for your heart to be softened.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Scott Sauls, "[How Gentleness Raises Us Above Cancel Culture](#)" from The Gospel Coalition

Day 3-

READ: [Ephesians 2: 8-10](#) and [Acts 9: 1-28](#)

REFLECT: This chapter in Acts outlines how Saul was transformed from a zealous Pharisee bent on persecuting early Christians to a bold disciple of Jesus who dedicated his life to spreading the gospel. How difficult do you think it was for Ananias to honor the call Jesus placed on Saul? How did Barnabas play a role in overcoming the other disciples' contempt for Saul? Since disciples were already actively preaching the good news throughout the land, why do you think it was important for the early church to be challenged by the addition of Saul in this way?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Call to mind the person you were praying for yesterday--the one you are challenged to resist dismissing and honor instead, your 'honoree'. Pray for the call that God has placed on his/her life. Be open to the leading of the Spirit and seek ways that you can recognize and support that calling.

Day 4-

READ: [Mark 12: 41-44](#)

REFLECT: Why do think it was necessary for Jesus to draw the attention of his disciples to the widow? How do you think a poor widow would have been viewed in that culture? What does this teach us about value and sacrifice?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Think about sacrifices that you have made in order to follow Jesus. What did they cost you? Do you think outside observers understand the price you have paid for your faith? Thank God for honoring your sacrifices and ask Him for insight to recognize and celebrate the sacrifices that your 'honoree' has made. Pray for an opportunity to spend some time with this person and learn more about their journey.

Day 5-

READ: [1 Corinthians 12: 4-27](#)

REFLECT: Who does God empower with gifts? Why does He give these gifts? Which gifts are most important? What happens if we try to ignore the gifts in people we don't get along with? Why do you think God designed His church this way?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Pray for deepening revelation about the gifts that God has given you and how they relate to His body as a whole. Pray also for the ability to recognize the gifts residing in your 'honoree' and for inspiration about how to acknowledge them. Consider sending him/her a note of appreciation or complimenting them in public, or... (be creative)!

TAKE IT FURTHER!

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***Find information on Christmas services at Grace Church: www.hometownholidaylights.com**

***The MY CHAIR podcast returns with Christmas reflections December 17-23. Search "whoisgrace" on Spotify or iTunes.**

BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Sacrifice that Resists Privilege

December 12, 2021

Week 5 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Philippians 2: 3-11](#)

REFLECT: What strikes you the most in this passage? What instruction does it give to believers? Why is it significant that Jesus "emptied himself by taking the form of a servant"?

In his book, Beautiful Resistance, Jon Tyson wrote, "It could not be clearer from Jesus' life that privilege is not something to be ignored or enjoyed. It is to be stewarded for the sake of others." (p. 138) How do you think this passage of scripture illustrates this?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: How does this example of Jesus challenge you personally? Is there an area of your life that God is prompting you toward sacrificial serving? What might you have to lay down? Pray for guidance and courage to acknowledge any areas that the Spirit reveals.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Memorizing scripture can be a powerful way to focus our thoughts and prepare us for times of challenge. Consider memorizing [Philippians 2: 3-11](#) this week. It may seem overwhelming at first and that's okay! Start by writing it out in a journal and reading through it several times today. Consider using a Scripture memory app to help you (example- Verses).

Day 2-

READ: [Isaiah 58: 6-12](#) and [Philippians 2: 3-11](#)

REFLECT: What can we learn from this passage in Isaiah about God's intended role for sacrificial giving in His kingdom? What do you think it means to "pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted"? How do these actions resist selfishness and show value to others? Based on the scripture, who benefits when people practice this way of life?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Spend a few minutes thinking about resources you might have that could contribute to relieving oppression or providing for the needy in our region. Is there anything holding you back from pouring out what you have for the benefit of others? Pray for revelation and guidance. Take one tangible step today to bless someone out of your abundance.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: Take a few minutes to write [Philippians 2: 3-11](#) out again, but this time leave a few blanks at key words. Challenge yourself to read through it several times throughout the day and begin to fill in the blanks from memory.

READ: For more on this topic, or the entire sermon series, check out Jon Tyson's book [Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise](#).

Day 3-

READ: [Luke 18: 18-30](#) and [Philippians 2: 3-11](#)

REFLECT: How did the rich ruler respond to Jesus' last answer? Why do you think he responded that way? What did it cost him to refuse? Who would have benefitted if he had surrendered his privilege and status? How does this passage relate to the instruction Paul gave the Philippians in Chapter 2?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Consider: where do you have even a small amount of status? How can you utilize that to assist others? Confess any areas of your life or privilege that you find difficult to surrender and pray for God to help you release them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: "[Surrender Status: The Interest of Others](#)" from Francis Chan on RightNow Media [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here!](#)].

PRACTICE: Continue working on your memorization of [Philippians 2: 3-11](#). Try leaving a few more words out of your written copy to challenge yourself throughout the day.

Day 4-

READ: [John 13: 3-17](#), [John 18: 4-11](#) and [Philippians 2: 3-11](#)

REFLECT: What do these passages in John illustrate about the use of power and authority in the Kingdom of God? How might these scenes have been viewed by those who were not disciples of Jesus? What do they teach us about who and how we are meant to serve?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Have you ever found yourself on the defensive (like Peter) in a situation where society would expect you to take charge but Jesus is asking you to submit? If not, can you imagine a scenario in which that might be a temptation for you? Pray for God to show you any areas that you might resist laying down your "rights" or privileges and ask Him to give you a heart of sacrificial servanthood.

Continue rehearsing [Philippians 2: 3-11](#). Challenge yourself to recite it without looking at the paper (as much as possible).

Day 5-

READ: [Luke 22: 24-30](#), [Galatians 5: 13-15](#) and [Philippians 2: 3-11](#)

REFLECT: Why do you think it is significant that Jesus "assigns" a kingdom to his followers in Luke 22? Why do you think he would make this point after finding them arguing over who was the "greatest"?

What does this assurance mean in the context of their call to serve? How is freedom to be used to serve others?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Practice reciting [Philippians 2: 3-11](#) from memory and then use the ACTS prayer model to close your chair time today:

A (Adoration) – God you are...

C (Confession) – I confess that I struggle to fully surrender...

T (Thanksgiving) – Thank you for blessing me abundantly in/with....

S (Supplication: say what you need) – Please help me/show me how to...

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BEAUTIFUL RESISTANCE: Celebration That Resists Cynicism

December 19, 2021

Week 6 Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Psalm 8](#)

REFLECT: Does your heart lean more naturally toward cynicism or toward celebration? Why do you think that is? From creation to revelation, the story of Scripture reveals a God of goodness and joy who delights in His creation. Even in our brokenness and sin, He persists in His plan to redeem us from darkness and restore us to light. How does Psalm 8 move your heart toward celebration in the midst of a dark world?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: In your journal or on a piece of paper, draw a timeline of your life. Spend a few quiet moments allowing God to bring to your remembrance times in your life when you have experienced His love, His kindness, His faithfulness. Use words or sketches or symbols to record those memories on your timeline. Use some of the words from today's scripture to praise and thank God for His faithfulness.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LISTEN: Celebrate the season with Pastor Sarah on the MY CHAIR podcast (search "whoisgrace" on Spotify or iTunes or wherever you listen to podcasts).

CELEBRATE: Join us for Christmas Eve services on December 23 and 24 at both Grace locations in McKean and Harborcreek or online/television. Find out more information at www.hometownholidaylights.com.

Day 2-

READ: [Luke 15:11-32](#)

REFLECT: Many of Jesus' parables center on celebrations and feasts. How does the parable of the lost son reveal both cynicism and celebration? With which character's response do you resonate—father, younger son, elder son? Why do you think that is?

"We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!" (Luke 15:32, NLT)

When was the last time you thought, "We have to celebrate this"? What can you celebrate today?!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Continue filling in the timeline you started yesterday. Start with a few quiet moments, allowing God to fill your mind with remembrances of His goodness, His mercy toward you. Use some of the words from today's scripture to praise and thank God for His mercy.

Day 3-

READ: [Psalm 65](#)

REFLECT: It is not always easy to celebrate the dark days of winter but look out your window. Step outside for a few minutes and breathe deeply. How does the wonder of God's good creation lift your heart toward joy and celebration? When you're tempted to be cynical today, take another look outside and remember your Creator.

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Continue filling in your celebration timeline. Start with a few quiet moments, allowing God to fill your mind with remembrances of His grace and His presence through your life. Use some of the words from today's scripture to praise and thank God for His presence.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: For more on this topic, or the entire sermon series, check out Jon Tyson's book [Beautiful Resistance: The Joy of Conviction in a Culture of Compromise](#).

Day 4-

READ: [2 Samuel 6:12-22](#)

REFLECT: The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God to the people of Israel, so imagine the scene of celebration when it was finally restored to the tabernacle in Jerusalem! David went to great lengths to personally praise God and celebrate this event. What was the response of the people? What was the response of his wife, Michal? Are there moments when you choose cynicism because it is more acceptable to your social circle (colleagues, classmates, friends, family) than joy or optimism or celebration? To what degree are you will to appear "undignified" in someone's eyes in order to celebrate what God has done?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Prepare your heart and mind today to celebrate the Emmanuel, God in flesh, coming to earth to dwell among us. What will your outward demonstrations of celebration look like this Christmas season?

TAKE IT FURTHER!

CELEBRATE: Join us for Christmas Eve services on December 23 and 24 at both Grace locations in McKean and Harborcreek or online/television. Find out more information at www.hometownholidaylights.com.

Day 5- CHRISTMAS EVE

READ: [Luke 1:39-55](#)

REFLECT: The unborn John the Baptist leaped for joy. Elizabeth's words convey great joy. Mary sings a song of celebration. Why? Because God's magnificent story of redemption is reaching its climax. Jesus

Christ, the Son of God, is born. Born to live. Born to die. Born to defeat death in resurrection glory. He is all that God has promised—Messiah, Good Shepherd, Wonderful Counselor, Light of the world, the better Moses, the better David, Prince of Peace, the Bread of Life, King of kings, Lord of lords... Let your heart leap for joy today!

PRAY/ PRACTICE: As part of your Christmas celebrations this weekend, share with someone you love how God's mercy, grace, love, joy, peace, hope, etc. have transformed your life.

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