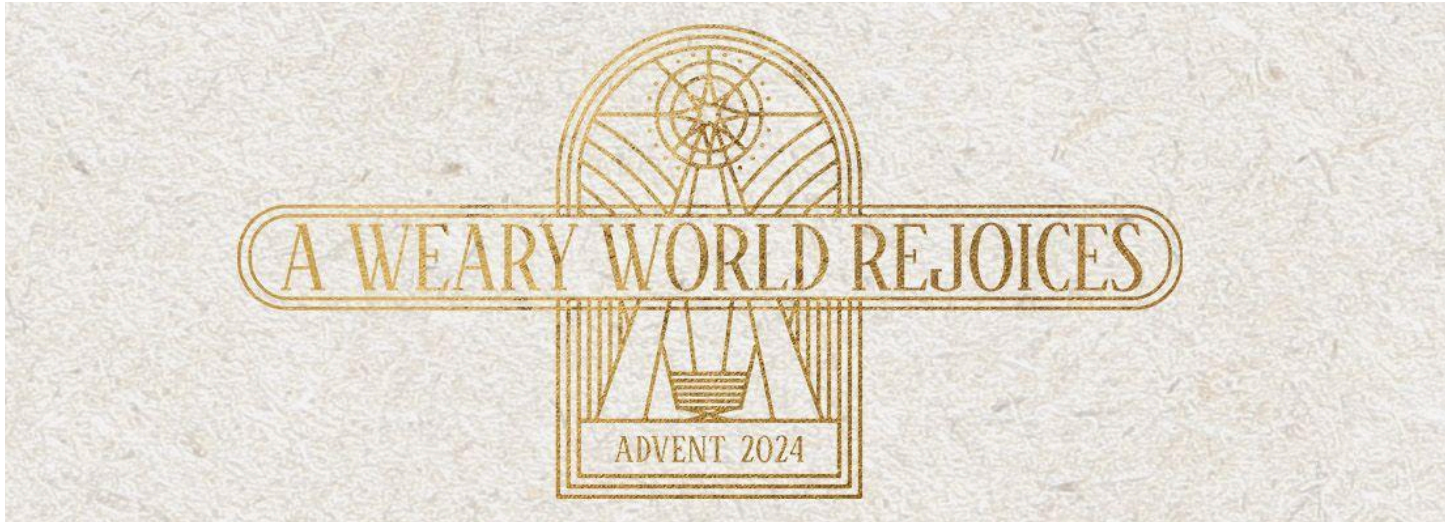


Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 12/2/24 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES -

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail

Matthew 11:3 "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

Galatians 4:4 But when the appropriate (fullness) time had come, God sent out his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we may be adopted as sons with full rights.

Isaiah 7:13 Then Isaiah said, "Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? 14 All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us').

Other Passages: Philippians 4, Matthew 6, Matthew 19, Rom 8::21-22

Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message or Advent readings?
2. Is the Christmas season busy for you? What is something you do now, or you used to do, that helped you keep the season focused and uncluttered?
3. As most tend to be busy, what about the Christmas season do you think makes it more so? What do you think the current generation might be missing when we have too many things going on?
4. Matthew 13:22 uses the phrase "crowded out" or "choked", many of us have seen a plant that has been choked out by weeds or some even get choked out by their own roots because they are not properly potted. How does this analogy possibly help describe our lives today? What does Jesus offer as a solution to this problem in Matt 13:44-45?
- "5. What does the Bible say we should do about busyness? Matthew 13:22-23, 19:16-22, Matt 6:33, Philippians 4:11-12
6. Be sure to write down the ways you can pray for one another in this season, in particular the ways you could get caught up in the busyness of it all.

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS