

# God's Story Our Story



**December 27, 2015**

**Devotion:** Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

**Voice of heaven, speak in us this day. Stir our hearts with your Word. Let us find both our happiness and our power in you. Amen.**

**Reflect:** Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:8*

**Study:** Study the reading and consider the background.

**Mark's gospel begins with a fiery preacher and a challenging message. No silent night here, no gift-bearing visitors. John the Baptist awaits his cousin, Jesus, by a stream in the wilderness. Temptations await Jesus on the other side. Soon, by the lakeshore, the divine call will be irresistible.****Read:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Mark 1:1-20, *Beginning of Good News*

Monday, Psalm 91:9-12

Tuesday, Malachi 3:1-7, *The Coming Messenger*

Wednesday, Isaiah 40:1-11, *Comfort, Comfort*

Thursday, Isaiah 44:1-8, *God's Blessing on Israel*

Friday, Joel 2:28-29, *God's Spirit Poured Out*

Saturday, Isaiah 42:1-9, *The Servant, a Light to the Nations*

**How do these Old Testament readings tie into the gospel reading for Sunday?**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household. Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

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

**Why do you think Jesus' ministry began with his baptism? What does your baptism mean to you?**

**How do you make it known that Jesus is your savior? What could you do to make Christ known through the way you live your life?**

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

**Make a list of 5 ways your life could be a proclamation of Jesus' presence in your life. Focus on doing more of one of those throughout the week.**

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God fill your life with the good news of eternal life. Amen.**