

OUR PART IN THE STORY:

Daily devotions on Sunday's Narrative Lectionary text

Daniel's Hope in God

Daniel 6:6-27

SHARE your highs and lows for the day.

READ Sunday's entire text each day to learn the story deeply. This is the first week of Advent, the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus. This reading, from one of the prophets, is a foretaste of the hope that is to come.

- ❖ This text brings out the theme of hope that is part of our Advent season. Create a list of things you hope for or are hopeful about. Be sure to differentiate "hope" from "wish for" or "want".
- ❖ Consider including an Advent ritual in your daily devotions. Light a candle each day and name a hope or expectation. The readings on the opposite page are designed for daily Advent reading.

TALK about what you just read, and relate it to your highs and lows. The questions and prompts below are intended to spark discussion and action. Use one each day or several at one sitting.

- ❖ How is Daniel a role model of faithfulness? What can you learn from him?
- ❖ How would you characterize the presidents and satraps? How about the king? Who is behind Daniel's persecution?
- ❖ Where do you see hope in this text?
- ❖ How does this reading provide hope for you as the season of Advent begins?

PRAY for your family and friends, for courage when facing obstacles, for your highs and lows, and for hope in the season of Advent.

BLESS each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead and saying, "The Lord is a God of hope."

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Daily texts for the season of Advent will follow the genealogy of Jesus, focusing on prominent ancestors of Jesus and their role in his coming.

MONDAY: The Genealogy According to Matthew

Matthew 1:1-16

- ❖ Which of these names do you recognize? What do you know about these ancestors?

TUESDAY: The Genealogy According to Luke

Luke 3:23-38

- ❖ How is this list different from Matthew's list? What stands out to you in this genealogy?

WEDNESDAY: God

John 1:1-5

- ❖ Jesus is described as the Word in this passage. Scripture is also called the Word. Why do you think this title is given to both Jesus and scripture?

THURSDAY: Adam

Genesis 2:4b-9

- ❖ Do you think Noah's worship aims to reinstate Adam's covenant with God prior to his sin?

FRIDAY: Noah

Genesis 9:8-17

- ❖ Can you see evidence of God's covenant today?

SATURDAY: Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

- ❖ God promised Abraham again and again that he would be the father of a great nation. Abraham was old and had no children. What do you think Abraham thought about this promise?