

Day 1
December 9



Pray | Pray that God would prepare your soul to feel its worth

“LONG LAY THE WORLD in sin and error pining; ‘til e appeared and the soul felt its worth.”

Before Jesus came to earth as a baby, there had been some 400 years of silence between God and the Israelites. After hundreds of years of a cycle of God pursuing his people, rescuing them from evil (when it was convenient for them) and letting them reject him and break their covenant with him, God finally backed off and given them what they wanted: the right to do whatever they wanted apart from him. And consequently, the Israelites were being oppressed more and more by the peoples around them. They were (as we are) incapable of keeping their side of the covenant with him. And God passionately wants to be close to us, so he was about to step in and do something drastic in order to secure our ability to remain in covenant with him.

“O Holy Night” speaks of the moment when God came to earth as baby Jesus and, our souls began to feel their worth. Let’s unpack that together this week.



Read | John 3:16-17



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

God was always seeking a relationship with the Israelites, just like he is always seeking a relationship with you. When have you accepted God’s pursuit of you or rejected God’s pursuit of you? What inspired either of those situations?

God sent Jesus to earth to ensure we could always have a relationship with him. When do you struggle to remain close to God? Why is that? Write down one way you can move toward him this week, starting today.

Consider what you know of the birth of Jesus. Take some time to dig deep to consider why he came to earth.

O Holy Night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17killxSdC0>

Day 2

December 10



Pray | That you would soak in the truth of your worth to God

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE yourself? What defines you?

What are the first few phrases, pictures or memories that come to mind when you ponder these two questions? Is it your sports, your grades, your lawn, your job, your relationships, your pain? Whatever it is that defines you in your mind is what shapes everything you do, in one way or another. Maybe it's something from your past, like a mistake or tragedy. Or maybe it's who you are right now. "I'm the guy who always wins." "I'm the girl who was abused." "I put on a mask so I look good to everyone else." "I will never be able to make up for my past mistakes."

Regardless of your past, you were made to reflect God's glory on earth in close relationship with him. You were, are and always will be, worth the price Jesus paid in coming to earth.



Read | John 1:12, Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 3:1



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

How do you feel about what it is that you feel defines you? Are you happy with it, or do you wish you defined yourself some other way? Take some time today to sit quietly and ask God to remind you of your worth in his eyes.

Scripture shows us how God views us. If you were to let God define you, how might your life be steered differently? What do you need to do to soak in the truth of those verses?

If you have not yet invited God into your life to define you, take a moment to do that now! Then reach out to a trusted Christian friend, pastor, or someone on staff at Five Oaks, to talk more about what that means. God is pursuing you!

Day 3

December 11



Pray | Praise God for favoring us!

MARY'S SONG

Mary was told directly by an angel that she had found favor with God. When we think about someone whom we may consider “highly favored” by God, we may think of someone like Mother Teresa or our pastor or someone who spends their time in ministry. Yet a teenage girl from a small, poor town found favor with God, and accepted his will for her life.

She found favor and now, because of him, she is going to be a blessing to every person forevermore and will be forever known as the girl with whom God had found favor. Her soul starts to feel its worth and she rejoices and praises God for this!



Read | Luke 1:26-33, 46-56



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Mary was a poor teenage girl and a seemingly unlikely candidate for God’s favor. Could it also be that you, another unlikely candidate, could be favored by God? Why or why not?

How might God show you that he favors you? Consider the blessings you have and thank God like Mary did for these signs that you, too, are favored by God.

Praise God for his favor by considering serving at Five Oaks (fiveoaks.church/serve) or participating in an “Impact Passport – GO” event (fiveoaks.church/impact) where you can be a blessing to someone else and help them to see God’s favor and blessings as well.

Day 4
December 12



Pray | For creative ways to treat someone as though they have unsurpassable worth.

UNSURPASSABLE WORTH.

Maybe you have struggled this week with the questions about your worth because you feel so very unworthy, or maybe just average. Maybe you continue to hear a voice in your head reminding you of your indiscretions or you see flashbacks of your haunting past. We often don't *feel* worthy because we aren't. The Bible says that none of us is worthy of his love and forgiveness. It also says that Jesus came to save us while we were unworthy because we have inherent worth to God. In all our humanity, our brokenness and our pain, we have inherent worth to God. And the more we look at him and hear him tell us we are worthy, the more our souls start believe that. Remember that you are not alone. Many others around you also struggle to accept that they have unsurpassable worth, and God calls us to support each other in this struggle.



Read | John 3:16-17; Romans 3:10-12; Romans 5:8



Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

Though we are unworthy, to God we have unsurpassable worth. Many of us don't quite grasp that. How can you bring truth to your own thoughts that deny your worth?

Many of us struggle to grasp our unsurpassable worth. How can you bless others around you by treating them as though they have unsurpassable worth?

If you are struggling to accept your unsurpassable worth, reread today's scriptures. What is difficult to believe about God's sacrifice for you? Feel free to reach out to a pastor at Five Oaks about embracing your unsurpassable worth. Or consider getting involved in a small group of other believers (fiveoaks.church/small-groups).

Day 5
December 13



Pray / Thank God for bending over backwards for you and me!

WHEN DEITY DOES the limbo.

In the book of John, Jesus prays for all believers that they may be united just like he and God the Father are united. Jesus wants us to be one with him and one with God. And in order to make that happen, he came to earth as a baby.

“O Holy Night” says that when Jesus came to earth, “the soul felt its worth.” Mary burst out into song when she began to grasp her worth in God’s eyes. When God sent Jesus to the earth to save us, while we were still pushing him away, we suddenly started to realize how much we matter. When deity bends over backwards, not to simply gain our affection, but to call us into relationship with him, we start to realize how valuable we are. Jesus suffered on earth. He was rejected by his beloved! And it was all worth it because he loves you so much and wants to be one with you.



Read | [John 17:20-26](#)



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:

When has someone done a really good job of showing you that they love you? How did it make you feel and how did it make you want to behave? Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you start to understand the depth his love for you.

Jesus’ prayer for us is that we would be close to him and each other as he is to God and as God wants to be with us. Jesus came to earth to ensure that this could happen. How does this act of love impact you?

Where can you begin to develop oneness with other believers to move toward the prayer Jesus prayed for us in John 17:20-23?

O Holy Night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17killxSdC0>

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