

Expect A Miracle: Shepherds

Life Steps | December 26 & 27, 2015

Day 1

Matthew 6:33

Think back to when you were a kid. What were some of the things you wanted for Christmas? What do you want now? What do you think you'll want in 10 or 20 years from now? How can you structure your life in such a way that you can begin to anticipate these?

Day 2

Luke 2:9-10

Sometimes we fear what we do not understand. The shepherds were initially terrified at the angel's presence, but that fear turned to excitement once they understood. What fears keep you from following God's directive to love? How can you better understand what creates these fears?

Day 3

Luke 2:8

Think of the Shepherds in Luke and the work they were about. They were aware of all that was happening around them. How are you practicing wakefulness, watchfulness, and readiness in your life?

Day 4

Isaiah 28:23-29

Do an attention inventory today. Who and what gets your attention? How much attention do you give to people? To projects? To media? To hobbies? To growing in faith? What adjustments need to be made?

Day 5

1 Peter 1:12

Some find it hard to see hope in the midst of loss and despair. In Greek, "angel" and "messenger" is the same word. Remember that you carry a message of hope and Good News. Sometimes that's received merely by being present to someone else. Who can you be an "angel" to this week?

Day 6

Exodus 13:21

A new year marks a new beginning. What are your hopes? Connect your expectations to your hopes, setting your direction for the year ahead. Prepare to take your first steps on that path and let God guide you.

Day 7

Jeremiah 29:11

There are many times in life when our expectations aren't met. You will experience when things don't turn out the way you expected. Remember that God's plans are bigger than ours, and sometimes it's hard to see the horizon. Pray for ways you might prepare for overcoming disappointment along the way, so that when it happens, hope is not robbed.