THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Making Room for God's Promise: Luke 1:26–38

GATHERING - Light a candle and sit quietly for a moment. Let its light remind you that God's promises often begin in small and unexpected ways.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK - *God of promise, prepare our hearts for Advent. Quiet our hurry, open us to your presence, and give us courage to trust what we cannot yet see. Like Mary, help us listen, wonder, and say yes to the work of your grace. Amen.*

CARING CONVERSATION - Take a few moments to check in with one another. Share your highs & lows.

- What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- What are you waiting or hoping for right now?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK'S SCRIPTURE - Gabriel comes to Mary with news that will change her life and the world. Mary does not have every answer, but she listens, asks an honest question, and trusts God's promise. As Advent begins, her courageous yes invites us to make room for God's new work.

- What do you notice about Mary's response to Gabriel?
- Why can waiting and trusting be difficult?
- Where might God be inviting you to make room for grace?
- What small yes could you offer God this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: How can I prepare my heart to receive God's promise?

DAY	READING	THEME
Sun	Luke 23:33–43	*The King Who Stays*
Mon	Isaiah 9:2–7	*Light in the Darkness*
Tues	Micah 5:2–5	*A Promise from Bethlehem*
Wed	Isaiah 40:1–5	*Prepare the Way*
Thur	Psalm 130	*Waiting with Hope*
Fri	Luke 1:5–25	*A Promise Begins*
Sat	Luke 1:39–45	*Joy in God's Promise*
Sun	Luke 1:26–38	*Making Room for God*

If your household includes children, feel free to use a children's Bible or summarize the readings in simple language.

DEVOTIONAL - Advent begins with a message delivered in an ordinary place to an unexpected person. Gabriel tells Mary that God is at work and that her life will become part of a promise larger than she can imagine.

Mary does not understand everything. She asks an honest question, listens to the angel's assurance, and chooses to trust God one step at a time.

The weeks before Christmas can become crowded with activity, but Advent invites a different posture: slow down, pay attention, and make room for grace. God's new work often begins quietly—in a conversation, a stirring of hope, or a small act of obedience.

Mary's yes reminds us that faith is not having every answer. It is offering ourselves to the God who is already at work. As Advent approaches, we can wait with hope and become willing participants in God's promise.

PRAY TOGETHER - Invite each person to name one hope or one area where they need courage. Then pray together:

God of hope, meet us in our waiting. Quiet the voices that make us afraid, help us notice your presence, and give us courage to say yes when you call. Prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus and to share his hope with the world. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER - *God of promise, thank you for this food and for those gathered here. Make room in our hearts for your hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.*

SERVICE CHALLENGE - This is one way we prepare for Advent together. Make room for someone this week. Listen without rushing, offer practical help, invite someone to join you, or encourage a person who feels unseen. Let one small yes become a sign of God's welcome.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that God's light is already shining, even while we wait for what is still to come.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hands or foreheads and say: **"Go with hope. Make room for grace. And trust that nothing is impossible with God."**