



**ST LUKE'S**  
**LIVERPOOL**  
a church for all people

## MAKE IT COUNT

Topical Sermon Series | 26<sup>th</sup> Oct - 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov



WORK



FAITH



PRAYERS



MONEY



TIME

## Introducing *Jesus*

Matthew 1 & 2 | 31st Nov - 24<sup>th</sup> Dec



*Bible Studies on*

*Topical Series 'Make It Count'*

*& Introducing Jesus; Matthew 1&2*



# ST LUKE'S LIVERPOOL

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# 1. Introduction

## ***“Making Your Life Count in Light of Christ’s Coming”***

Another year is drawing to a close.

For many of us, it’s been a mix of joy and exhaustion, faith and frustration, success and struggle. Yet as we reach the end of the year, we pause again to remember that God’s purposes are never interrupted — He is still at work, shaping us to live for what truly matters.

That’s what this term’s studies are all about. We’ve called this series “Make Your Life Count,” because every moment we’re given is a precious gift from God. We’ll explore what it means to make our work, our faith, our prayers, our money, and our time count for His glory — to live intentionally and fruitfully as followers of Jesus.

After those 5 studies, we’ll turn to the birth of Jesus Himself. The story that began in Bethlehem and continued through Egypt, Nazareth, and Galilee shows us what it looks like when a life truly counts — not for worldly success, but for eternal significance.

When God entered our world in the person of His Son, He showed us that no place is too small, no circumstance too messy, and no person too insignificant for His saving plan. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God’s light shines brightest in humble places, and that His promises are always fulfilled in His perfect time.

So, as we gather for these final studies of the year, let’s reflect deeply and respond personally:

- How can my life count for what lasts?
- How can I serve the King who came for me?
- How can I step into the new year renewed in faith, joy, and purpose?

May these studies strengthen your trust in God’s plan, deepen your love for Jesus, and help you see that when you live for Him — your life always counts.

*“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*  
— Psalm 90:12

## 2. Make Your Work Count | Sun 26 Oct

**Main Passage:** Genesis 1:27–28; 2:15

**Supporting Passages:** Colossians 3:23–24; Ephesians 6:5–8; 1 Corinthians 10:31

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### Introduction Question

1. Think about your daily work — whether at a job, home, or school. What part of your work gives you the most joy, and what part feels the most frustrating or meaningless?

### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Genesis 1:27–28** and **2:15**.  
What do these verses teach us about God's original design for human work? Why is it significant that work existed before the fall?

3. According to **Colossians 3:23–24**, how should we view our work, no matter what kind of job we have? What does it mean to “work for the Lord, not for men”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. The sermon said, “All work is ministry.” How does that challenge the common way people separate ‘church work’ from ‘everyday work’?  
(You might also reflect on Martin Luther’s quote about every kind of honest work being service to God.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Read **Ephesians 6:5–8**.  
How does knowing that God is your *real boss* change your attitude to work?  
What would it look like to work as if Jesus were your supervisor?

6. In **Ephesians 4:28**, Paul says we should work “doing something useful... that we may have something to share with those in need.” How does this verse expand the purpose of work beyond earning money?

### **Application Questions**

7. The sermon gave three practical principles under the theme of *Witness*:
- Work hard (Prov. 14:23; Eccl. 9:10)
  - Work with integrity (Col. 3:22–24)
  - Work to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17)
- Which of these three do you find most challenging, and why?

8. If someone observed your attitude and effort at work, what would they learn about your faith in Jesus?

What changes might help your daily work become a stronger witness to Christ?

9. Imagine signing your day's work — like Bach did with his music — "To the glory of God alone."

What would need to change in your mindset or habits for that to be true in your work this week?

## Additional Passages to Consider

- **Proverbs 14:23** – All hard work brings a profit.
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** – Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.
- **1 Thessalonians 4:11–12** – Live a quiet life, work with your hands, and win the respect of outsiders.
- **Matthew 5:16** – Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

## Closing Challenge

Whatever your job, studies, or household responsibilities — work this week *for the Lord*.

Ask God to help you:

- See your work as a **calling**, not a chore.
- Serve your **true boss**, Jesus Christ.
- And let your **witness** shine through your diligence, integrity, and joy.

When you work for God's glory, even the smallest task becomes eternally significant.



## *Prayer Points*

### 3. Make Your Faith Count | Sun 2 Nov

**Main Passage:** Hebrews 11:1–6

**Supporting Passages:** Acts 4:12; Romans 4:4–5; Ephesians 2:8–10; James 2:14–17

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#### Introduction Question

1. Everyone believes in something. What are some of the common things people in our world put their faith in today?  
What are the dangers of building your life on something that isn't true or trustworthy?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Hebrews 11:1** and **Proverbs 3:5–6**.  
According to these verses, how would you define *faith*? What does it mean to “trust” God rather than “lean on your own understanding”?

3. Read **Hebrews 11:6**.

Why is faith essential to pleasing God?

What two things does this verse say we must believe about Him?

4. What is the difference between believing that *God exists* and *trusting in God*?

How can someone move from mere belief in God to a deep, personal trust in Him?

5. Read **Acts 4:12**, **Acts 16:31**, and **1 John 5:11–12**.

Why must saving faith be in *Jesus Christ* alone?

Why is it not enough to simply have “faith” without the right object of faith?

6. Read **Romans 4:4–5** and **Ephesians 2:8–9**.

How do these verses show that salvation is by *faith alone* and not by works?

Why is this truth so freeing for the Christian?

### **Application Questions**

7. Read **Ephesians 2:10** and **James 2:14–17**.

If we are saved by faith alone, why do our good works still matter?

How do good works demonstrate the reality of true faith?

8. Jesus said, "By their fruit you will recognize them" (**Matthew 7:16–20**).

What kind of "fruit" should faith produce in a believer's life?

What might it reveal if that fruit is missing?

9. Take a moment to examine your own faith.

Do you see evidence of trust, obedience, and fruit in your life?

What would it look like this week to "trust in the Lord with all your heart" in one specific area of your life?

## Additional Passages to Consider

- **2 Corinthians 13:5** – Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.
- **John 3:16–18** – Whoever believes in Him has eternal life.
- **Galatians 2:20** – The life I live, I live by faith in the Son of God.
- **Romans 10:9–10** – If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord”... you will be saved.

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## Closing Challenge

Faith isn't just believing that God exists — it's *trusting* Him with your whole life.

Ask God to deepen your faith this week — not only to believe, but to trust, obey, and bear fruit that brings Him glory.

Pray that you would be someone whose faith truly *counts for eternity*.

## *Prayer Points*

## 4. Make Your Prayers Count | Sun 9 Nov

**Main Passage:** Psalm 5:1–3

**Supporting Passages:** Psalm 55:17; Ephesians 6:18; Mark 11:23; John 14:13–14

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### Introduction Question

1. When do you find it easiest — and hardest — to pray?  
What tends to stop you from praying as much or as deeply as you'd like?

### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Psalm 5:1–3** and **Psalm 119:147**.  
What does David's example teach us about the importance of praying *early* in the day?  
How can starting your day with prayer set the tone for everything that follows?



3. Read **Lamentations 3:22–23** and **Mark 1:35**.

What do these passages reveal about God's character and Jesus' example in prayer?

Why might God's "new mercies every morning" be connected to starting our day with Him?

4. Read **Psalms 55:17** and **1 Thessalonians 5:17**.

What does it mean to "pray often" or "pray without ceasing"?

How can we cultivate a continual attitude of prayer throughout our day?

5. Read **Philippians 1:4** and **Ephesians 6:18**.

Why is it important to pray *specifically* — for particular people, needs, and outcomes — rather than in general terms?

6. Read **James 5:17–18**.

What can we learn from Elijah's example about praying with specific requests and expecting real answers from God?

### **Application Questions**

7. Read **Jeremiah 32:17**.

How does remembering God's power ("Nothing is too hard for you") change the way you pray?

What might "praying big" look like in your life or church right now?

8. Read **John 14:13–14**.

What does it mean to ask "in Jesus' name"?

How can we make sure our big prayers still align with God's glory and will?

9. Read **Mark 11:23** and **James 5:16**.

What does it mean to “pray in faith believing”?

How can you strengthen your faith when you feel discouraged or when your prayers aren't answered immediately?

### **Additional Passages to Consider**

- **Psalm 4:4–5** – Prayer at night as reflection and surrender.
- **Daniel 6:10** – Daniel's rhythm of daily prayer.
- **Luke 18:1–8** – The parable of the persistent widow.
- **Matthew 6:9–13** – The Lord's Prayer as a model.
- **Ephesians 3:20–21** – God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine.

### **Closing Challenge**

Prayer is not a last resort but a first response.

This week, ask God to help you:

- **Pray early** — start each day with Him.
- **Pray often** — keep the conversation going.
- **Pray specific** — bring clear requests and names before Him.
- **Pray big** — believe that He can do more than you could ever imagine.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” — *James 5:16*

## *Prayer Points*

## 5. Make Your Money Count | Sun 16 Nov

**Main Passage:** Luke 16:10–13

**Supporting Passages:** Psalm 24:1–2; 1 Timothy 6:6–8; Proverbs 11:25; Matthew 6:19–21

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### Introduction Question

1. When you think about money, what feelings come to mind — excitement, worry, contentment, or guilt?  
Why do you think money is such a spiritually revealing topic for Christians?

### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Psalm 24:1–2**.  
What does this passage teach about ownership?  
How does this change the way we should view our money and possessions?

3. Read **Luke 16:10–12**.

According to Jesus, what does it mean to be *trustworthy* with worldly wealth?

What does this reveal about God's expectations for how we manage His resources?

4. Read **Luke 12:15** and **1 Timothy 6:6–8**.

How do these passages challenge the world's view that more possessions bring more happiness?

What does “godliness with contentment” look like in everyday life?

5. Read **Proverbs 6:6–8** and **Genesis 41:33–38**.

What principles about *saving* do we learn from the ant and from Joseph's plan in Egypt?

How might saving be an act of *faithful stewardship* rather than selfishness?

6. Read **Proverbs 22:7** and **Romans 13:7–8**.

Why does Scripture warn so strongly against debt?

How does debt affect our freedom to serve God and others?

### Application Questions

7. Read **Proverbs 11:25** and **2 Corinthians 9:6–7**.

What does the Bible promise to those who give generously?

What kind of heart does God love to see in a giver?

8. Read **Acts 20:35** and **Ephesians 4:28**.

How is money meant to be a *tool* for blessing others?

Can you think of a time when giving to someone else brought you joy or spiritual growth?

9. Read **Matthew 6:19–21** and **Proverbs 19:17**.

What does it mean to “store up treasure in heaven”?

How can we use our money in ways that last beyond this life?

### Additional Passages to Consider

- **Ecclesiastes 5:10** – Whoever loves money never has money enough.
- **Malachi 3:10** – Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse.
- **Philippians 4:11–13, 19** – Learning the secret of contentment in Christ.
- **Hebrews 13:5** – Keep your lives free from the love of money.

### Closing Challenge

John Wesley famously said:

“Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can.”

This week, reflect on which of the three principles you most need to apply:

- **Ownership** – Acknowledging that everything you have belongs to God.
- **Stewardship** – Spending carefully, saving wisely, and avoiding debt.
- **Generosity** – Using money as a tool to bless others and advance God’s kingdom.

Ask God to help you make your money *count for eternity*.



## *Prayer Points*

## 6. Make Your Time Count | Sun 23 Nov

**Main Passage:** Ephesians 5:15–17

**Supporting Passages:** Psalm 90:12; Ecclesiastes 3:1–11; Matthew 6:33

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### Introduction Question

1. If you could “buy back” one day, week, or season of your life to use differently, what would you do with it — and why?  
What does that reveal about what you value most?

### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Psalm 90:12**.  
What does it mean to “number our days aright”?  
How does recognising the shortness of life help us make wiser decisions with our time?

3. Read **Psalms 139:16** and **Genesis 1:5**.

What do these verses teach about God's control over time?  
Why does remembering that our time is limited and God-ordained give perspective to how we live each day?

4. Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1–8**.

What do you think Solomon means by “there is a time for everything”?

How does this truth help you bring balance to work, rest, family, and faith?

5. Read **Matthew 6:33**.

What does it mean to *seek first* God's kingdom and righteousness?

How might this verse shape how you prioritise your calendar and commitments?

6. Read **Ephesians 5:15–17**.

What does it mean to “make the most of every opportunity” or “redeem the time”?

Why do you think Paul describes the days as “evil”?

## **Application Questions**

7. Read **Romans 13:11–14**.

How does this passage call us to live “wisely” and avoid wasting time?

What are some practical examples of using time in ways that honour God?

8. Read **Ecclesiastes 9:10** and **Colossians 3:23**.

How do these verses encourage us to make the most of each day?

What would it look like for you to “do whatever your hand finds to do with all your might” this week?

9. Read **James 4:13–15** and **Proverbs 16:9**.

Why is it vital to submit our plans to God's will?

How can you build a daily rhythm of praying, "If it is the Lord's will..." before making decisions?

### Additional Passages to Consider

- **Psalm 39:4–5** – "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days."
- **Colossians 4:5** – "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."
- **Luke 10:41–42** – Martha and Mary: choosing what truly matters.
- **2 Peter 3:8–9** – God's timing and patience in salvation.

### Closing Challenge

Time is life's most precious and limited resource.

Ask God to teach you to:

- **Number your days** – recognise how short life is.
- **Manage your days** – use them in ways that honour Him.
- **Redeem your days** – invest them in what lasts forever.

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

## *Prayer Points*

## 7. Genealogy of Jesus | Sun 30 Nov

### Bible Study: The Genealogy of Jesus – God's Faithful Plan

**Main Passage:** Matthew 1:1–17

**Supporting Passages:** Genesis 12:1–3; Ruth 4:13–22; 2 Samuel 7:8–16; Galatians 4:4–5

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#### Introduction Question

1. Most people skip over genealogies in the Bible.  
Why do you think Matthew begins his Gospel with one?  
What do family trees usually tell us about a person — and why might that matter when it comes to Jesus?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Matthew 1:1**.  
Why does Matthew introduce Jesus as *"the son of David, the son of Abraham"*?  
What promises do those two names remind us of? (See Genesis 12:1–3 and 2 Samuel 7:12–16.)

3. Read **Matthew 1:2–6**.

Who are some of the surprising names in this part of the genealogy (e.g., Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba)?

What do their stories show us about the kind of people God chooses to use in His plan?

4. Read **Matthew 1:7–11**.

What do you notice about the middle section of names — particularly the kings of Judah?

What does their inclusion teach us about God's faithfulness through both godly and ungodly generations?



5. Read **Matthew 1:12–17**.

What does the final section (from the exile to Jesus) show about God's patience and sovereignty?

Why is it significant that the line continues even after Israel's exile and apparent failure?

6. Matthew arranges the genealogy into **three groups of fourteen generations** (v. 17).

What might this structure communicate about God's order and purpose in history?

(Hint: "David" in Hebrew has a numerical value of 14 — emphasizing Jesus as the promised King.)

## Application Questions

7. Matthew's genealogy includes outsiders, sinners, and broken stories.

How does that encourage you about your own place in God's family and His ability to redeem your past?

8. God's plan of salvation unfolded over thousands of years — through Abraham, David, exile, and waiting.

How does this strengthen your trust in His timing when your prayers or hopes seem delayed?

9. Read **Galatians 4:4–5**.

What does it mean that Jesus came “in the fullness of time”?

How can we prepare our hearts this Advent season to marvel at God's perfect timing in sending His Son?

### **Additional Passages to Consider**

- **Genesis 49:10** – The sceptre will not depart from Judah.
- **Isaiah 11:1–2** – A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse.
- **Micah 5:2** – Out of Bethlehem will come one who will rule.
- **Luke 3:23–38** – Compare Luke's genealogy to Matthew's and note the differences.

### **Closing Challenge**

Every name in Matthew 1 tells a story — of promise, failure, grace, and faithfulness — all leading to Jesus.

This week, reflect on how **your story fits into God's story**.

He is still writing history, and He delights to include ordinary people who trust Him.

“The God who worked through generations to bring Jesus is still working through our lives to bring His salvation to the world.”

## *Prayer Points*

## 8. Birth of Jesus | Sun 7 Dec

### Bible Study: The Birth of Jesus – God With Us

**Main Passage:** Matthew 1:18–25

**Supporting Passages:** Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26–38; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5–8

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#### Introduction Question

1. Think about a time when something unexpected completely changed your plans.  
How did you respond — with fear, faith, or both?  
Why do you think God often works through surprising circumstances?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Matthew 1:18–19**.  
What do we learn about Mary and Joseph's situation?  
What qualities of Joseph's character stand out to you in these verses?

3. Read **Matthew 1:20–21**.

What does the angel reveal about who the child will be and what He will do?

Why is the name *Jesus* so significant? (See also Luke 1:31–33.)

4. Read **Matthew 1:22–23** and compare with **Isaiah 7:14**.

What does the title *Immanuel* mean, and why is it central to the Christmas story?

How does this verse connect the Old Testament promises to their fulfillment in Christ?

5. Read **Matthew 1:24–25**.

How does Joseph respond to the angel's message?

What does this teach us about faith and obedience, even when we don't fully understand God's plan?

6. The passage contains both **divine initiative** (“what is conceived is from the Holy Spirit”) and **human obedience** (“Joseph did what the angel commanded”).

Why do we need both in God's redemptive work — His power and our faithful response?

### **Application Questions**

7. Read **Philippians 2:5–8**.

What do these verses tell us about the humility of Jesus in becoming human?

How should His example shape the way we serve others this Christmas?

8. Read **John 1:14**.

What does it mean that “the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us”?

How does this truth bring comfort when life feels lonely, uncertain, or overwhelming?

9. Matthew 1 shows that God kept His promises in His perfect way and time.

Where might you need to trust God's timing or direction right now?

How can the story of Joseph and Mary help you respond in faith?

### Additional Passages to Consider

- **Luke 2:1–7** – The fulfilment of the birth.
- **Micah 5:2** – The ruler born in Bethlehem.
- **Galatians 4:4–5** – God sent His Son in the fullness of time.
- **2 Corinthians 5:19** – God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ.

### Closing Challenge

God entered the ordinary — a carpenter, a young woman, a humble village — to bring salvation to the world.

As you prepare for Christmas, remember:

- **Jesus' name** means *"The Lord saves."*
- **Immanuel** means *"God with us."*

This week, reflect on how those two truths — **God saves** and **God is with us** — can transform your outlook, your worship, and your relationships.

"The God who came near to Joseph and Mary is still with us today."



## *Prayer Points*

## 9. Visit of the Magi | Sun 14 Dec

### Bible Study: The Visit of the Magi – Worship the King

**Main Passage:** Matthew 2:1–12

**Supporting Passages:** Isaiah 60:1–6; Micah 5:2; Psalm 72:10–11; Philippians 2:9–11

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#### Introduction Question

1. Who or what do people in our world tend to worship or pursue most passionately?  
Why do you think we often give our best attention and energy to things that don't last?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Matthew 2:1–2**.  
Who were the Magi, and what did they come seeking?  
What does their long journey reveal about their desire to find the truth?

3. Read **Matthew 2:3–8**.

How do Herod and the religious leaders respond to news of Jesus' birth?

What contrast do you see between their reaction and that of the Magi?

4. Read **Micah 5:2** (quoted in Matthew 2:6).

What does this prophecy tell us about the kind of King who would be born in Bethlehem?

Why is it significant that Jesus' birthplace was humble rather than powerful?

5. Read **Matthew 2:9–10**.

What emotions did the Magi experience when they saw the star again?

How does their joy challenge the way we sometimes approach worship?

6. Read **Matthew 2:11–12**.

What do the Magi's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh symbolise?

What do these offerings tell us about who they believed Jesus to be?

### **Application Questions**

7. The Magi sought the King, while Herod resisted Him.

What are some modern forms of "Herod's reaction" — ways people feel threatened by Jesus' authority?

How can we guard our hearts from similar resistance?

8. The Magi gave their treasures in worship.

What might it look like for you to offer your *best* to Christ this Christmas — your time, resources, or devotion?

9. Read **Philippians 2:9–11**.

One day every knee will bow before Jesus.

How does this promise give us both urgency and joy in our worship and witness today?

### **Additional Passages to Consider**

- **Isaiah 60:1–6** – Nations coming to the light, bringing gold and incense.
- **Psalms 72:10–11** – Kings bringing gifts to the true King.
- **Numbers 24:17** – A star will rise from Jacob.
- **Revelation 21:24–26** – The nations bringing their glory to the Lamb.

### **Closing Challenge**

The Magi remind us that true wisdom leads to worship.

They travelled far, gave generously, and bowed humbly before the newborn King.

This week, ask God to renew your wonder and worship of Jesus — not as an idea or tradition, but as the living King who deserves your all.

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” — *Matthew 2:10*

## *Prayer Points*

## 10. The Flight to Egypt | Sun 21 Dec

### Bible Study: The Flight to Egypt – God's Protection in a Broken World

**Main Passage:** Matthew 2:13–18

**Supporting Passages:** Hosea 11:1; Jeremiah 31:15–17; Psalm 91:1–2; John 10:10

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#### Introduction Question

1. Can you think of a time when God protected or guided you through a painful or confusing situation?  
What did you learn about His character through that experience?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Matthew 2:13–15**.  
What does the angel command Joseph to do, and how does Joseph respond?  
How does this show Joseph's faith and obedience?

3. Read **Hosea 11:1**, which Matthew quotes in verse 15.  
What was the original context of that verse, and how does Matthew apply it to Jesus?  
What does this tell us about Jesus as the true and faithful Israel?

4. Read **Matthew 2:16**.  
What does Herod's action reveal about the darkness and fear that sin brings into the world?  
How does this connect to John 10:10 — "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy"?

5. Read **Matthew 2:17–18** and **Jeremiah 31:15–17**.  
What is the significance of Rachel "weeping for her children"?  
How does the Jeremiah prophecy give both lament and hope?



6. Throughout this passage, how does God demonstrate His sovereignty and care even amid suffering and evil?  
What does this teach us about His presence in our world today?

### **Application Questions**

7. The Christmas story includes both **great joy** and **great sorrow**.  
Why is it important to remember that God's plan of salvation unfolds even in pain and injustice?  
How might this shape the way you comfort others at Christmas?
8. Joseph obeyed immediately when warned by the angel.  
What does this teach us about trusting God when His commands are costly or inconvenient?

9. Read **Romans 8:28**.

How can you find assurance that God's purpose will prevail, even when you cannot see how?

### **Additional Passages to Consider**

- **Psalm 46:1–2** – God is our refuge and strength.
- **Isaiah 53:3–5** – The Man of Sorrows who carries our pain.
- **John 16:33** – In this world you will have trouble, but take heart.
- **Revelation 21:4** – God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

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### **Closing Challenge**

The Christmas story isn't just about lights and laughter; it's also about a **God who enters our suffering**.

He protects, redeems, and fulfills His promises, even when evil seems to win.

This week, remember:

- God's plans can't be stopped.
- God's people are never abandoned.
- God's promises always lead to hope.

"Out of Egypt I called my Son." — *Matthew 2:15*



## 11. Return to Nazareth | Wed 24 Dec

### Bible Study: The Return to Nazareth – God's Plan Never Fails

**Main Passage:** Matthew 2:19–23

**Supporting Passages:** Exodus 4:19; Isaiah 11:1; Luke 2:39–40; John 1:45–46

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#### Introduction Question

1. Have you ever had a season where you felt “off course” — like life wasn't turning out the way you expected?  
How did God use that time to shape you or draw you closer to Him?

#### Comprehension Questions

2. Read **Matthew 2:19–20**.  
What parallels do you see between God's message to Joseph here and His earlier commands (vv. 13–15)?  
How does this remind you of God's faithful protection and perfect timing?

3. Read **Matthew 2:21–22**.

Why does Joseph settle in Galilee instead of returning to Judea?  
What do you learn from Joseph's continuing obedience and discernment?

4. Read **Exodus 4:19**.

How does this verse echo God's words to Joseph in verse 20?  
What pattern does this reveal about God's care for His chosen servants across Scripture?

5. Read **Matthew 2:23**.

What does Matthew mean when he says, *"He shall be called a Nazarene"*?

(See Isaiah 11:1 — *"a branch [netser] will spring up from the stump of Jesse."*)

How does this prophecy highlight the humility and simplicity of Jesus' beginnings?

6. Read **John 1:45–46**.

What was the reputation of Nazareth in Jesus' day?

Why do you think God chose such an insignificant town for His Son to grow up in?

### **Application Questions**

7. God led Joseph and his family through danger, exile, and obscurity — yet every step fulfilled prophecy.

How does this encourage you when your own life feels uncertain or out of control?

8. Jesus' upbringing in Nazareth reminds us that God values humility and faithfulness over fame or comfort.

How can you cultivate that same humility in your service or family life?

9. Read **Romans 8:31–32**.

What comfort do you find in knowing that God's plan for your salvation — like His plan for His Son — can never fail?

### Additional Passages to Consider

- **Isaiah 9:1–2** – Light dawns in Galilee of the nations.
- **Luke 2:39–40** – The child grew and became strong.
- **Psalms 33:11** – The plans of the Lord stand firm forever.
- **Proverbs 3:5–6** – Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

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### Closing Challenge

From the palace of Herod to the obscurity of Nazareth, God's plan never once wavered.

The same God who guided Joseph guides us — sometimes through detours, sometimes through silence — but always toward His good purposes.

This week, remember:

- God is working even in *ordinary places*.
- God's timing is never off.
- God's plans never fail.

“He will be called a Nazarene.” — *Matthew 2:23*

## *Prayer Points*