

PEOPLE THAT GOD CHOOSES AND USES

Advent 2019

December 22, 2019

HOW TO BE BLESSED BY GOD THIS CHRISTMAS:

1. Like Joseph and Mary: Cooperate with God's plan for my life.

Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to divorce her secretly. But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream.... When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel told him to do. He married Mary. But Joseph did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And he named him Jesus. – Matthew 1:19-25 ERV

2. Like the Shepherds: Celebrate God's presence here with us.

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding trough. When they had seen him, they...went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It had been just as the angel had told them. – Luke 2:16, 20 NCV

"The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us." – Matt. 1:23 NCV

3. Like Mary: Contemplate frequently on God's Word.

After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about the child. All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. – Luke 2:17-19 NLT

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. – Joshua 1:8 NLT

4. Like the Wise Men: Dedicate my time and gifts to Jesus.

When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." ...They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. – Matt. 2:2, 11 NCV

Give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hand of God, to be used for his good purposes. – Rom. 6:13 LB