

WEEK 3: SILENT NIGHT

Week Three Introduction

Playlist (listen all week): *Silent Night* by For King + Country ... and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* by Elevation Worship

This week, we **DELIGHT** in a God who moves in triumph.

For most of the world, it was a silent night. To a select few it was booming with voices of Heaven proclaiming the Good News and singing Alleluia. Christ the Savior is born. It was the dawn of Redeeming Grace.

Join the triumphant songs of Heaven. With Angelic Hosts, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. His birth shook the world. His life rattled views, perception, and tradition. His Light beamed across the darkness. His death shattered the hold of darkness. His love reconciled the world. His resurrection quaked all of heaven and earth.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! (Glory to God in the Highest!)

This week, we embrace **PEACE** that only comes through Jesus.

Week Three Liturgy

**Read at any point throughout week three.*

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. *Amen.*

Select Prayer from *Revised Common Lectionary*

December 15 — In the Silence, there is Holy.

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of delighting in a Trinitarian God who gives: Silence. Holy. Calm. Bright. Heavenly Peace.

In a chaotic world and chaotic season, make it a priority to be silent. There is a lot of noise. A lot vying for our attention. A lot of activity. Be still. Calm your senses. Listen for the voice of the Lord. Listen for the proclamations of Heaven. Listen for the nudge of the Spirit.

Read: Psalm 46:10-11

Optional Engagements

- **Silence:** Find Silence. Peace. Stillness. In that space, recognize the Lord is with you. Honor the Lord who loves you with your stillness.
- **Meditate:** In your silence be keenly aware of the Light that has dawned / of the Glory of God / of Jesus / of what is growing inside you through the power of the Holy Spirit / of what new thing is being birthed.
- **Activity/Family Activity:** Engage with your senses—inside or outside. Take a moment of stillness focusing on each one of the senses. What do you smell? What do you hear? What do you see? What do you feel? Put your hand on your chest. Feel your breathing. Feel your heartbeat. Thank God for the stillness and beauty you can experience with all your senses.
- **Breath Prayer:** Still me. Lord, be exalted.
- **Blessing:** Read this blessing to yourself or speak this blessing over someone else.
 - The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Numbers 6:24-26**

Playlist: *Be Still* by Hillsong Worship / *In the Secret* by Shane and Shane / *The Blessing* by Elevation Worship

December 16 — Breathe

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of delighting in a Trinitarian God who gives: Silence. Holy. Calm. Bright. Heavenly Peace. Breath.

In a busy and overly commercialized season, take the time to breathe. Allow the Lord to still your soul as you rest in Him. God shows up more clearly in the silence... in the breath.

Read: Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Lord, you are the air I breathe. Your holy presence lives in me. You are the song I sing. With every breath I take, I praise you.

Optional Engagements

- **Breathe:** Take slow, deep breaths. Breathe the very name of God. YHWH
- **Breath Prayers:** Take time repeating some breath prayers.
 - Son of God, love's pure light.
 - Help me rest, give me peace.
 - Out of darkness, into Light.
 - Fill me, Spirit, with your love.
 - Jesus, let me feel your love.
 - Center me, Lord.
- **Meditate:** Slowly focus on each stanza – Breath of Heaven / hold me together / be forever near me / Breath of Heaven / lighten my darkness / pour over me Your holiness / for You are holy / Breath of Heaven
- **Activity/Family Activity:** Focus on your breath together. 1. Take deep breaths. 2. Inhale 4 seconds - hold 7 seconds - exhale 8 seconds. Repeat. 3. Belly Breathing - Inhale deeply through your nose and allow your breath to flow into your belly. Feel your stomach rise with your hand. 4. Lion's Breath – Inhale through your nose and exhale forcefully through your mouth. 5. Teddy Bear Breathing – Lie on your back, place a hand on your chest and a stuffed animal on your belly button. Inhale slowly through your nose, hold breath for 3 seconds and exhale slowly.
- **Pray:** Lord, my desire is to honor you. With all my heart, I worship you. All I have within me, I give You praise. All that I adore is in You. I give You my heart. I give You my soul. I live for you alone. Every breath I take – every moment I'm awake – have Your way in me.

Playlist: *Everything That Has Breath* by Jesus Culture / *Praise* by Elevation Worship / *This is the Air I Breathe* by Elevation Worship / *I Give You My Heart* by Hillsong Worship

December 17 — Silent is Not Absence.

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of delighting in a Trinitarian God who gives: Silence. Holy. Calm. Brightness. Heavenly Peace. Presence.

Do not confuse a “Silent Night” with the absence of God. God is always working. Always moving. What seemed like a normal, silent night was about to burst forth with Light and Life. An explosion of epic, heavenly proportion. As you move through your “silences” hold firmly to the knowledge that the Lord does not sleep.

Read: John 5:16-17 / Psalm 121:1-8

Optional Engagements

- **Pray:** Envision the areas you are asking for and waiting for God to move. Hold them in your mind. As you do, picture God surrounding – completely encircling – that thing. Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore. (Psalm 125:2)
- **Ponder/Journal:** Where have you seen God in your life recently? Be very specific and give thanks. The more you attune yourself to Heaven, the more you will notice God and His goodness. As you make it a habit to celebrate that good, the more God you will see.
- **Create/Family Activity:** Create a wreath or take one of your wreaths. On the wreath, write attributes and characteristics of God. On the inside of the wreath, put your name(s) or a picture of you/your family. Acknowledge with yourself or family that God, in all His goodness, is surrounding you.
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - I lift up my eyes to you.
 - You watch over my life.

Playlist: *Quiet* by Elevation Worship / *Surround Us, O Lord* by The Zoe Group / *Joy in the Morning* by Tauren Wells

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

December 18 —Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King”

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of proclaiming with the Heavenly Hosts the glory and goodness of our Trinitarian God. All glory be unto King Jesus.

Read: Daniel 7:13-14 / Matthew 6:9-13 / Revelation 17:14

Jesus is King! The King of kings. He reigns eternal. His dominion is an everlasting dominion. His Kingdom will never be destroyed. Let us be a people who, in humility, frequently enters the throne room and sits at King Jesus’ feet. He is worthy of all glory. He is the author of your story. He is deserving of all praise, love and adoration. Let us be a people who ushers in more and more of His Kingdom. Let His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Let His Kingdom come in you. Let His Kingdom come in your family. Let His Kingdom come in your heart, mind, and body. As called, chosen and faithful followers—fill your heart with His love. As called, chosen and faithful followers—overflow with Him. As called, chosen and faithful followers—further Jesus’ Kingdom today. Pray for Heaven to invade earth in a radical way.

Optional Engagements

- **Ponder:** What would it look like for His Kingdom to come more in you? In your family? In your heart, mind, and body?
- **Action:** Speak to yourself in a mirror, “I am a called, chosen and faithful follower of the King of kings.”
- **Meditate:** Take time thinking about the Kingship of Jesus – Yahweh is the King / Yahweh is my King / forever and ever / that's how long You're worthy / rose as a lion / came as a lamb / serving humbly / with human hands / lifts my burdens / so I can stand / lives like a shepherd / loves like a friend / cares like a father / with holy hands / holding me close / He won't let go / Hallelujah
- **Meditate:** In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light / 'Til from Heaven You came running / there was mercy in Your eyes / to fulfill the law and prophets / to a virgin came the word / from a throne of endless glory / to a cradle in the dirt / praise the Father / praise the Son / praise the Spirit / three in one / God of glory / Majesty / praise forever to the King of kings
- **Family Activity:** Create crowns. Ideas: paper plates or paper. Color. Add jewels or stickers. Write “King Jesus” on the crown.
- **Family Activity:** Discuss what Jesus is king of. What is Jesus like as a King? How is Jesus’ Kingdom different from other worldly Kingdoms?

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- **Pray:** King of kings, build Your kingdom here. Let the darkness fear. Show Your mighty hand. Heal us. Set Your church on fire. Change the atmosphere. Come set Your rule and reign in our hearts again. Increase in us. Unveil why we're made. Come set our hearts ablaze with hope –like wildfire in our very souls. Holy Spirit, come invade us now. We are Your Church and we need Your power in us. We seek Your kingdom first. We hunger and we thirst. We refuse to waste our lives, for You're our joy and prize. Let us see captive hearts released – the hurt, the sick, the poor at peace. We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause. We are Your church. Please revive this earth. Unleash Your kingdom's power—reaching the near and far. No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts. You made us for much more than this. Awake the kingdom seed in us. Fill us with the strength and love of Christ. Amen
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Lord, You reign.
 - Your Kingdom Come.
 - Blessed are you, Lord God. King of the Universe.

Playlist: *King of Kings* by Hillsong Worship / *King of Heaven (Reign Jesus Reign)* by Maverick City Worship / *Build Your Kingdom Here* by Rend Collective / *Here as in Heaven* by Elevation Worship

December 19 —Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled.

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of proclaiming with the Heavenly Hosts the glory and goodness of our Trinitarian God.

Peace on earth due to the Heavenly Father's desire to show us mercy upon mercy. Jesus displayed a remarkable kind of humble mercy as He willingly chose incarnation and tribulation. Mercy mild from beginning to end – from birth in a lowly stable to a humiliating death on a cross to redeem us. Mercy. Reconciliation. Peace.

Read: Colossians 1:19-20 / Romans 5:1-11

Reconciliation: bringing again into unity, harmony, peace, or agreement what has been alienated.

Through Christ's death and resurrection, God and sinners have been reconciled! On account of reconciliation, there is peace on earth. You are no longer a stranger with God and separated from Him, but your identity is a child of God. How great is the love the Father has lavished on you, that you should be called a child of God! (1 John 3)

Optional Engagements

- **Ponder:** Do you fully believe you have been reconciled to God through Christ? How are you a minister of reconciliation? Who in your life needs to hear the message of reconciliation?
- **Meditate:** to reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost / to redeem the whole creation / You did not despise the cross / for even in your suffering / You saw to the other side / knowing this was our salvation / Jesus for our sake you died / praise the Father / praise the Son / praise the Spirit / three in one / God of glory / Majesty / praise forever to the King of kings
- **Action:** Be reconciled to God. Accept God's grace.
- **Action:** Is there someone you need to reconcile with? Pursue reconciliation. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18
- **Family Activity:** Role-play healthy ways to reconcile with people: how to apologize / how to accept apology / how to pursue God in relationship, in hurt, and in the restoration process
- **Prayer:** Lord I come, I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest. Without You, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart. Lord, I need you. Every hour, I need You. You are my one defense—my righteousness. Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are. Where You are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. Teach my song to rise to You, when temptation comes my way. When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay. Lord, I need You.
- **Breath Prayer:** I am reconciled with God. / Peace on earth. Peace in me. / Shalom

Playlist: *Lord, I Need You* by Matt Maher / *Friend of God* by Israel Houghton / *King of Kings* by Hillsong Worship

December 20 — Joyful, all ye nations, rise. Join the triumph of the skies.

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of proclaiming with the Heavenly Hosts the glory and goodness of our Trinitarian God.

Christ Jesus became man for us. He lived the human experience for us. He triumphed over sin and death. We are new because of Him. We are His precious children of Light. We are victorious in Christ. Therefore, rise each day in strength of mind and jubilant posture. Join the triumph of the skies. All of Heaven is continually singing. Day and Night, the Heavenly Hosts never stop praising the Lord.

Read about the songs of Heaven in Revelation 4

All of Heaven is bursting with shouts of praise to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Let every breath, every thought, every inclination of your heart, every word, every deed echo the songs of Heaven. Holy is the Lord.

Optional Engagements

- **Action:** Proclaim out loud to God: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”
- **Meditate:** Holy, Holy, Holy! / All the saints adore Thee / casting down their golden crowns around the crystal sea / cherubim and seraphim / falling down before Thee / which were and art and evermore shall be
- **Imagine:** Imagine Heaven – the scene, the splendor, the Heavenly Hosts, the Saints, Jesus Christ the Messiah seated at the right hand of God the Father.
- **Ponder:** Holy: being separate or set apart. How is God’s holiness related to other attributes of His? How does God’s holiness impact my daily life?
- **Ponder:** How can you make it a daily habit to “join the triumph of the skies” and give God all the glory? You become more like that which you worship.
- **Family Activity:** Make a praise door. Cut out hearts from paper. Write on the hearts things you love about God. Cover a door in your house with them so you can easily see them throughout the week. Keep adding to it!
- **Activity/Family Activity:** Spend time singing worship songs. Worship in freedom. Sing loud. Dance before God!
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Who was, and is, and is to come.
 - You are worthy. Receive glory and honor and power.

Playlist: *Echo Holy* by Red Rock Worship / *Hymn of Heaven* by Phil Wickham / *Agnus Dei* by Hillsong Worship, Passion / *Another Glimpse* by Sean Curran / *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty* by The Hymnal Project

**December 21 — Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth; Born to give them second birth.**

Immerse yourself in the pursuit of proclaiming with the Heavenly Hosts the glory and goodness of our Trinitarian God.

Jesus was born so that we could be born again. Jesus died so that death would no longer have a hold on us. Jesus was raised to life in order that we might also be resurrected. “Death is not the end. Fear is not your future. Sickness is not your story. Heartbreak is not your home.” The Trinity is. Darkness wants you to feel broken, empty, lost, lonely, lacking and dead. But the truth is in Jesus. In Jesus, you are whole, filled, found, communed, overflowing and alive. So, say hello to peace, joy, love, strength, and hope. Those are yours in Christ Jesus. It's a new horizon.

Read: John 11:25-27 / John 14:1-7

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” (from Isaiah 25:8) “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” (from Hosea 13:14) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Jesus is YOUR resurrection and your life. So stand firm. Give yourself fully to the work of the Lord.

Optional Engagements

- **Meditate:** The One who wore our sin and shame / now robed in majesty / the radiance of perfect love / now shines for all to see / Your Name is Victory / all praise will rise to Christ our King / by Your Spirit I will rise from the ashes of defeat / the resurrected King is resurrecting me / In Your Name I come alive / to declare your victory
- **Activity:** Stand in a posture of victory. As you do, imagine the victory of Christ. Imagine the abundant life you have been given in Christ. Proclaim, “In the name of Jesus, I am alive.”
- **Ponder/Journal:** How can you live more aligned with these truths – 1) death has no hold on me and 2) the Resurrected King is resurrecting me? How can you live more from the victory and abundance that comes through Jesus?
- **Ponder:** What is “the work of the Lord” that He has for you today? Search for it, and search for Him as you go throughout your day.
- **Family Activity:** Paint rocks with encouraging “life” messages on them. Examples: Jesus loves you / Jesus is life / You are loved / Peace / Joy / Love ... Go and place your rocks on a trail or at a park for others to find.

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- **Pray:** Lord, you pulled me from the clay and set me on a rock. You call me by Your Name and make my heart whole again. Once I was broken, but You loved my whole heart through. Sin has no hold on me, because Your grace holds me now. Your grace owns the ground where the grave did. My shame remains left for dead in Your wake. I am healed. I am forgiven. Death has no hold on me. Your grace holds me now.
- **Breath Prayer:**
 - Hello Jesus. Hello peace. Hello joy. Hello love. Hello strength. Hello hope.

Playlist: *Resurrecting* by Elevation Worship / *Whole Heart (Hold Me Now)* by Hillsong