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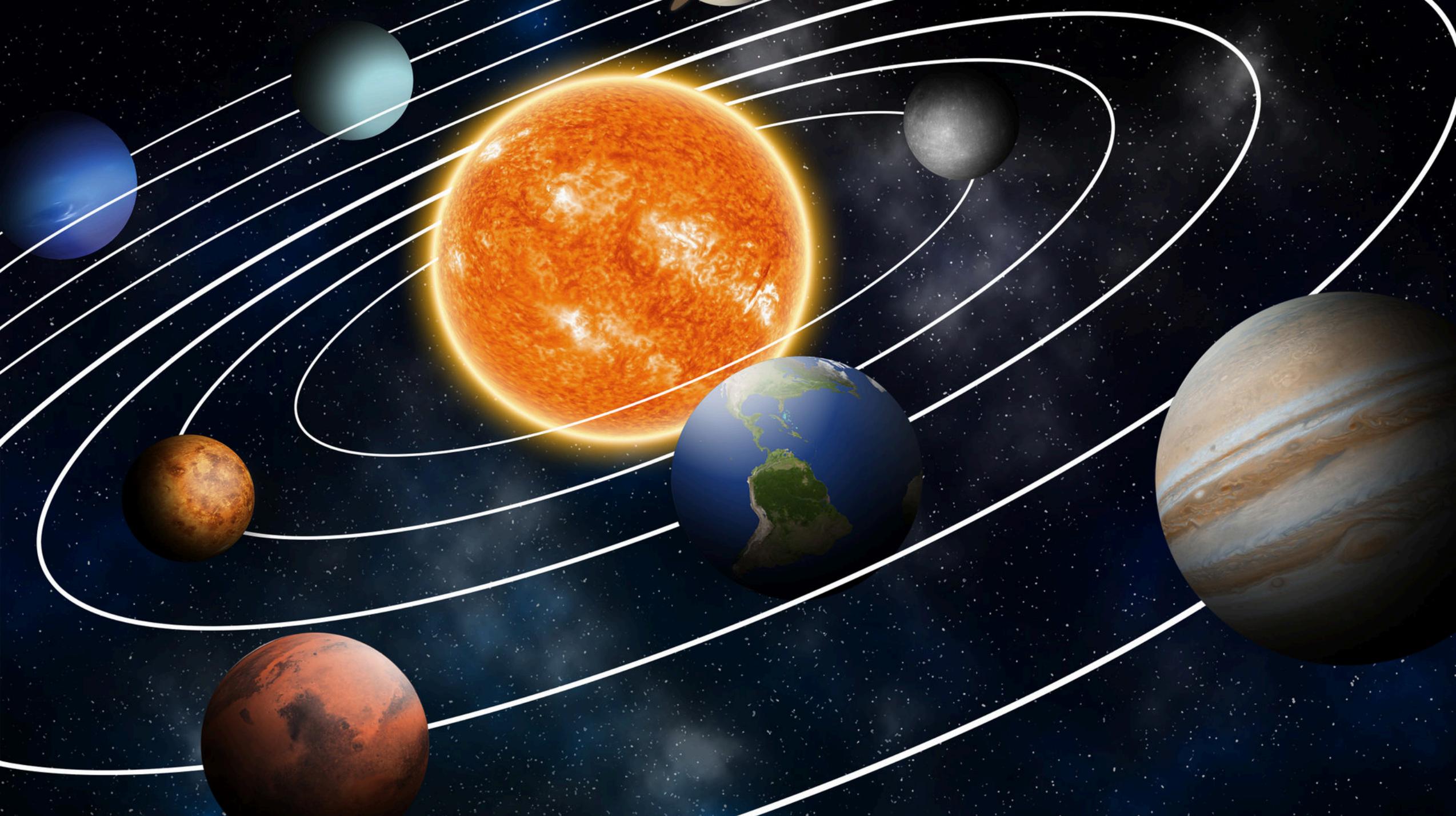
# Advent

Lesson 1













*kalends* = 1<sup>st</sup> of month

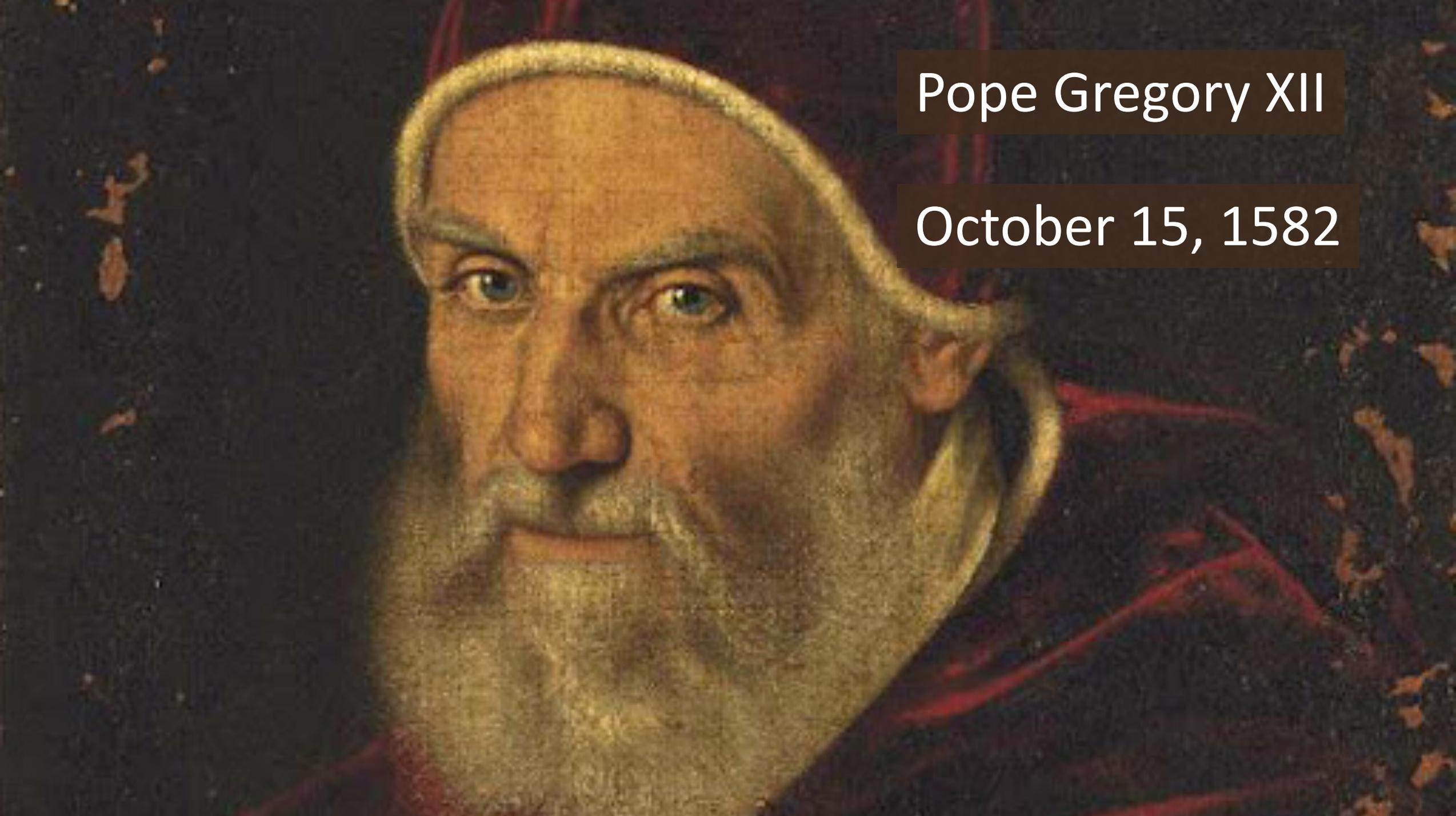
*ides* = middle of month



We can do better!





A detailed portrait of Pope Gregory XII, an elderly man with a long, full white beard and hair. He is wearing a dark red or maroon cap with a white fur-like trim. The background is dark and textured, possibly a book cover or a wall with some reddish-brown streaks. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of his beard and the details of his face.

Pope Gregory XII

October 15, 1582

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# Advent

Lesson 1



Adventus – "arrival"

# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come

Advent



God has Plans



John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

John 1:6-8 Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος, ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσιν δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός.

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*hina* - ἵνα : expresses purpose.  
“in order to” or the reason why

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This is NOT you!



# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come

God has HIS  
timing



Advent



# The importance of reliance



Lk 1:5-7 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah... And he had a wife... and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Lk 1:5-7 Ἐγένετο ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου βασιλέως τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἱερεὺς τις ὀνόματι Ζαχαρίας. . . καὶ γυνή. . . καὶ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς Ἐλισάβετ. ἦσαν δὲ δίκαιοι ἀμφοτέροι ἐναντίον τοῦ θεοῦ, πορευόμενοι ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐντολαῖς καὶ δικαιώμασιν τοῦ κυρίου ἄμεμπτοι. καὶ οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τέκνον, καθότι ἦν ἡ Ἐλισάβετ στεῖρα, καὶ ἀμφοτέροι προβεβηκότες ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις αὐτῶν ἦσαν.

# Self-Sufficient

This is NOT you!



# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come

We Rightly Rely on God



A top-down view of a diverse group of people sitting around a wooden table. They are holding hands in a circle, and several open Bibles are spread out on the table. The scene is lit with soft, natural light, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. The people are of various ethnicities and ages, all appearing to be engaged in a shared activity of prayer or study.

# Amazing Things Happen when People Pray

Lk 1:8-11 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

Lk 1:8-11 Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἱερατεύειν αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ τάξει τῆς ἡμερησίας αὐτοῦ ἔναντι τοῦ θεοῦ, κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἱερατείας ἔλαχεν τοῦ θυμιᾶσαι εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὸν ναὸν τοῦ κυρίου, καὶ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος ἦν τοῦ λαοῦ προσευχόμενον ἔξω τῆ ὥρα τοῦ θυμιάματος. ὤφθη δὲ αὐτῷ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐστῶς ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου τοῦ θυμιάματος.

Lk 1:8-11 Now while he was **serving** as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

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This is NOT you!

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Incense was offered every morning and evening,  
day in, day out, week after week, while months, years,  
decades, and centuries rolled by.  
It was service. It was a normal occurrence.





# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come

A top-down view of a diverse group of people sitting around a wooden table. They are holding hands in a circle, and several open books are scattered on the table. The scene suggests a group prayer or a service activity. The text is overlaid on a dark blue rounded rectangle in the center of the image.

Amazing Things Happen  
when People Pray and Serve

# Move from Fear to Faith



Lk 1:12-13 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Lk 1:12-13 καὶ ἐταράχθη  
Ζαχαρίας ἰδὼν καὶ φόβος  
ἐπέπεσεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. εἶπεν δὲ  
πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ ἄγγελος·  
μὴ φοβοῦ, Ζαχαρία,  
διότι εἰσηκούσθη ἡ δέησίς σου,  
καὶ ἡ γυνή σου Ἐλισάβετ  
γεννήσει υἱόν σοι  
καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ  
Ἰωάννην.

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How's your  
memory?



God's memory is  
*beyond*  
photographic!



# Move from Fear to Faith



# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come



Lk 1:14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth...

Lk 1:14 καὶ ἔσται χαρὰ σοι καὶ ἀγαλλίασις καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπὶ τῇ γενέσει αὐτοῦ χαρήσονται



# Three Focuses



Arrival in  
Bethlehem



Arrival in  
your life



Arrival to  
come



A lit candle in a dark holder is the central focus, casting a warm glow. To the left, a gift box wrapped in shimmering gold paper is partially visible. The background features dark green pine branches, suggesting a winter or holiday setting. The overall atmosphere is cozy and contemplative.

Light for  
Today

Live with purpose

Serve and pray

Faith over fear

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# Advent

Lesson 1

Time for church!



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