

November 2018

## Women's Ministries Newsletter

### Psalm 66


Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise!  
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!  
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.  
All the earth worships you  
and sings praises to you;  
they sing praises to your name." Selah  
Come and see what God has done:  
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.  
He turned the sea into dry land;  
they passed through the river on foot.  
There did we rejoice in him,  
who rules by his might forever,  
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—  
let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah  
Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.  
For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
You brought us into the net;  
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;  
you let men ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.  
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will perform my vows to you,  
that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,

## Remember

with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.  
I cried to him with my mouth,  
and high praise was on my tongue.  
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me!

This Thanksgiving—no matter what's going on in your world—pause and remember. Remember who God is and what He has done. In His goodness and wisdom and sovereignty, He leads us into the fire (v. 10-12), through the testing (v. 12), and brings us out to a place of abundance (v. 12). You may find yourself in any one of those three stages today. But wherever you are, take joy that our God hears, tends to, and loves us (v. 18-19). And then go tell. Testify to what He has done for your soul!

"Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to the Word as our authority, we're passionate about nurturing a culture in which Titus 2 discipleship (*older teaching younger*) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women of all ages to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ."



## Advent Resources

Advent calls us to worshipful waiting and joy-filled expectation. We provide these recommendations as a means of helping you and your family to pause, contemplate, and enjoy a meaningful advent season.

### **Come, Let Us Adore Him: A Daily Advent Devotional**

*by Paul David Tripp*

This year, don't let Christmas sneak up on you again.

The wonder and awe of the Christmas season can easily get overshadowed by lights, tinsel, bows, and paper—not to mention last-minute trips to the mall and visits to the in-laws. In all the hustle and bustle, we often lose sight of what's most important. This book of daily readings for the month of December will help you slow down, prepare your heart, and focus on what matters most: adoring our Savior, Jesus.

### **Grafted In**

*by Amy Gannett (Advent study)*

This 25-day study focuses on exploring the members of Christ's family tree. By diving deeper into specific names in the Matthew 1:1–17 genealogy of Jesus—including Jacob, Tamar, Ruth, and Rahab—Grafted In reminds readers of the truth that, "through Jesus Christ, we have been grafted in to the family of God." Featuring Scripture-reading assignments, interactive theological commentary, questions for reflection, responsive prayer points, and a "family tree" illustration, Grafted In is a great Advent resource for personal or group study.

### **The First Songs of Christmas: A 31-Day Advent Devotional**

*by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth*

The first songs of the first Christmas are some of the first words of the New Testament. Depending on how you count them, the first two chapters of the gospel of Luke record six of these songs.

These five (or six) songs, the original songs of Christmas, are different from many of the ones that get the majority of airplay this time of year. They're not self-centered; they're God-centered. They speak less to what Christmas does for us and more to what Christmas reveals about the greatness, glory, and goodness of God. They unfold His redemptive plan for the work and His eternal purpose for the ages.

The First Songs of Christmas 31-day Advent devotional was written to help you make the most of this season of Advent. In fact, each day revolves around a single line from one of the songs recorded in Scripture surrounding the first Christmas.

### **Treasuring God In Our Traditions**

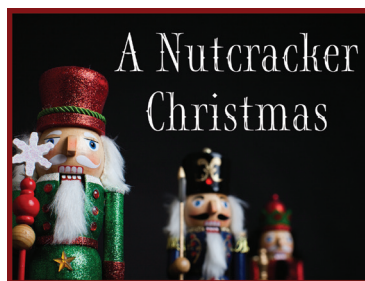
*by Noel Piper*

Treasuring God in Our Traditions presents the importance of passing along Christ-centered traditions and a Bible-saturated legacy in Christ to future generations; how the "everyday" routines of life and the "especially" celebrations of holidays and dates can be practically passed down to future generations. When parents and grandparents seek to pass along the treasure of God to their children and grandchildren, they will develop and deepen their love for Him.

### **The Littlest Watchman: Watching and Waiting for the Very First Christmas**

*by Scott James*

This Advent children's book tells the story of Benjamin, a fictional boy in first-century Bethlehem whose job as a watchman is to stare at a "boring old tree stump" and wait for a sign that will signal the arrival of a King who will restore the broken world. Even though the waiting is long (it's been hundreds of years of silence since the prophecies about the "stump"), Benjamin is patient, waiting and longing for the Messiah's arrival.



We're grateful for the vast array of people who give of their time, energy, and talents to help us provide a beautifully festive morning of celebration on the first Saturday of December each year. At the time of this writing, the special

music is being prepared and our guest speaker, Dr. Pam MacRae, is spending time in the Word, seeking to listen to what God has for her to share with each of you. The kitchen crew is hard at work, making their shopping lists, and planning a delicious meal that will delight your tastebuds. And the table designers are making repeated trips to the craft store, desiring to provide a sensory experience that makes their guests experience beauty at every level. Oh, the details are many. But we're painfully aware that all the details are for naught if not bathed in prayer. More than delicious food or decorations that impress, we long for the Holy Spirit to be at work: to illuminate the dark corners of our hearts that we pretend aren't such a big deal; to convict us of sin and show us all the things we adore besides Jesus; to bring women from darkness to light, mourning to dancing, death to life. Oh, friends, will you please pray with us for the Ladies' Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 1? We long for this gathering of women to bring glory to Christ alone.