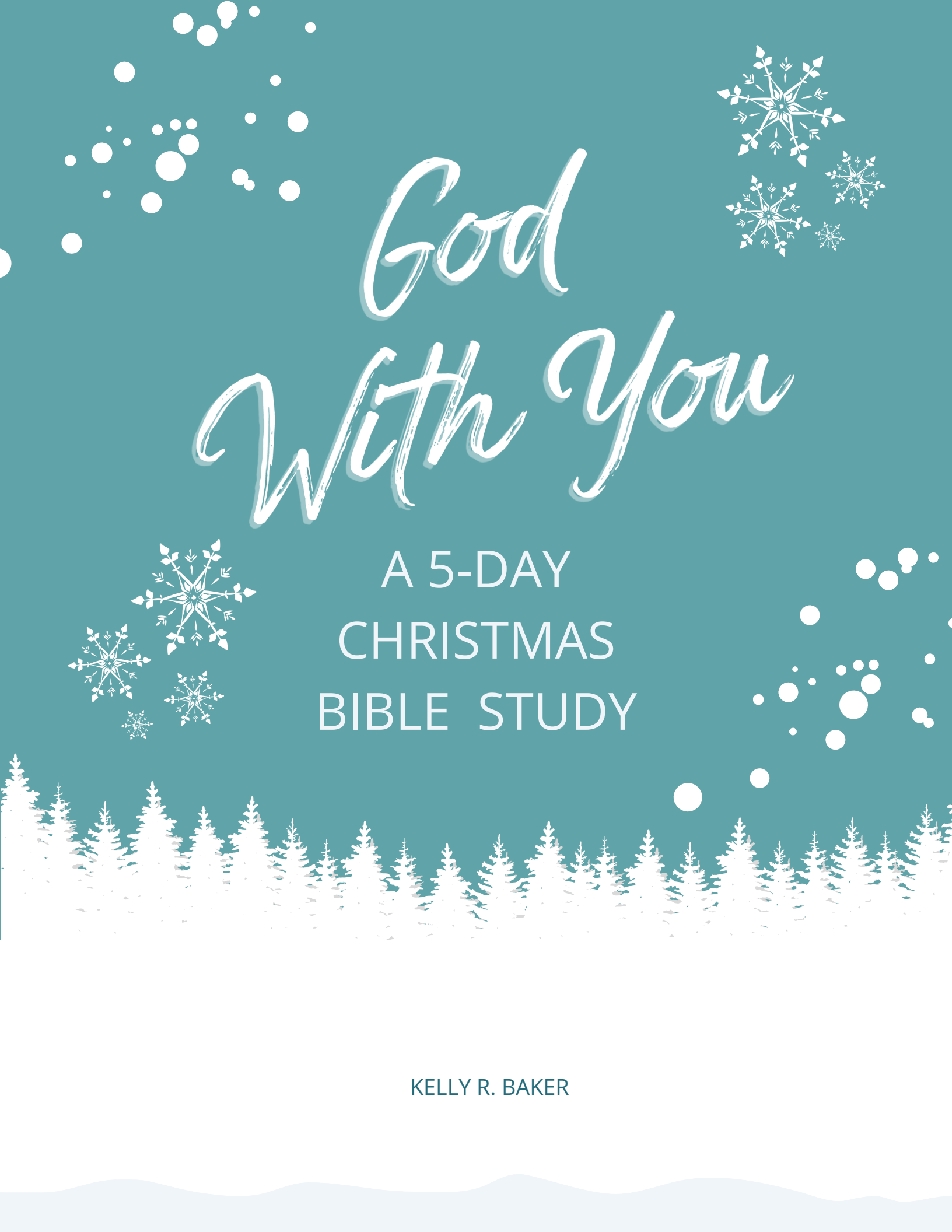
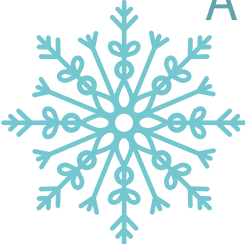


The background is a solid teal color. It is decorated with various white elements: snowflakes of different sizes and shapes are scattered throughout, particularly in the top right and middle left areas. Numerous small white circles of varying diameters are also scattered across the background, some appearing as simple dots and others as slightly larger, soft-edged circles. At the bottom of the page, there is a dense, continuous line of white evergreen tree silhouettes. Below this line, there are stylized, wavy white shapes representing snow-covered ground or hills.

# God With You

A 5-DAY  
CHRISTMAS  
BIBLE STUDY

KELLY R. BAKER



# God With You

## A 5-Day Christmas Bible Study

by Kelly R. Baker

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"THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"  
WHICH IS, BEING INTERPRETED, "GOD WITH US."  
MATTHEW 1:23



Hi there, friend!

I'm so happy to see you joined us for *God With You: A 5-Day Christmas Bible Study*. It might not seem like the little decision to go through this study will make a difference for you this December, but it will.

It's easy to allow the busyness of the season to replace an intimacy with God. We might even start slipping into the train of thought that we "should" spend time with God because we're "supposed to." Even that can rob a freshness with Him. You know?

Have you ever arrived in January and felt like you needed a fresh start with God because time with Him went by the wayside as soon as the holidays came? I have!

That's why for this holiday season, I'm offering this Bible study as a way for us to keep nourished. When we are nourished, we are strong, and we can overcome all that comes our way!

Does that sound good? Great! I'm thrilled you have a plan for this holiday season.

You can use this study once a week, twice a week, or choose to go through it in a 5-day stretch. Whichever way you choose, essentially it's a helpful tool to feed your spirit.

And don't forget to add one of the bonus wallpapers for your phone to help you focus on Jesus all December long.

In this study, we'll dive into Scripture and see how God is with you just like He was individually with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds.

I'm so excited! Let's do this!

Keep thriving,  
Kelly



# DAY 1: THE PROMISE OF GOD WITH YOU

**Read:** John 14:16-18

Life is uncertain. The future looks clouded. Decisions remain yet unmade.

And since we're in this "unprecedented" time, all of the unsettling circumstances can make us feel lost. Have you ever felt like that in this past year?

Oh friend, if you only knew the host of problems and challenges my family is facing.

But I know I'm not alone. All around me may seem unreliable, but my God is faithful.

This Christmas season, I'm choosing to remember the faithfulness of God. And while that settled in my heart as a beautiful comfort, God placed the phrase "God with you" on my heart.

He's reaching down to us in this unknown season with reassurance. Doesn't that sound good?

Let me explain more of what I mean.

## **Emmanuel, God with Us**

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14**

**Now all this has happened that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,**

**"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall give birth to a son.**

**They shall call his name Immanuel,"**

**which is, being interpreted, "God with us." Matthew 1:22-23**

Jesus came. He's **God with us**.

Sometimes we hear that and fail to take it to a personal level. But God is personal.

The Holy Spirit came upon:

- Mary (Luke 1:35)
- Jesus (Luke 3:22)
- God's people (Acts 1:8)

Jesus ascended. He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in you so you're not alone as you walk with God (John 14:16-18, 26). Isn't that wonderful?

## God with You

One morning I looked at the trees outside in the light of the dawn. I noticed how crooked the branches appeared. We have a forest of tall trees out back, and I stared at the many winding branches extending out from the massive trunks.

The twisted branches reminded me of how our lives often seem askew with problems. It was a visual of how they represent life's complexities.

But just as each tree is firmly rooted in the ground, a Believer's life is rooted in an individualized relationship with Jesus. The roots of the tree sustains every part of it, the same way Jesus is the anchor for *each part of life*.

Can you see the power of this in your life?

He is **God with you!**



# Day 1: Isaiah 41:10

**Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness. Isaiah 41:10**

*Write*

*Reflect*

What are you currently doubting God about? Can you pinpoint the seed of doubt regarding that area (i.e. what started you doubting)?

*Declare*

I love this verse! In it, God promises us, His people. He gives you these powerful promises! Personalize it and declare it:

- He is with me!
- He is my God!
- He will strengthen me!
- He will help me!
- He will uphold me!

*Pray*

Father God, thank You for being with me in all these ways. And because You care about the details of my life (those winding, crooked parts of the branches), I know You are with me. You never forsake me. I choose to be with You every day, too.

# DAY 2: ZECHARIAH'S ADMONITION

**Read:** Luke 1:5-23 (-25)

Recently I received an email that made my heart sink. Just a few days prior, I was rejoicing for what I thought was God's provision. But the email that showed up in my inbox left me feeling frustrated and bewildered. Things were not as they seemed after all.

After speaking to a multitude of counselors to gain wisdom on how to move forward, there was still a nagging something left in my heart. The frustration was somewhat soothed but then disappointment overtook the bewilderment. After opening the cupboards of my heart and scrutinizing the contents, doubt was left hanging.

Did one email take away God's promise to me? I had to admit...no, that wasn't the case. Could this have happened to reveal the lack of trust in God? Possibly.

The doubt wasn't going to go away on its own. I had to pray like the man did in Mark 9:24, "I believe. Help my unbelief!" And then I needed to change garments. I had to choose to cast down doubt and put on faith instead.

## God with Zechariah

I love how the NLT says, "One day" in verse eight of our passage. Zechariah was just having an ordinary day, going about his usual duties when God showed up in a big way in his life.

Zechariah's prayer was heard. God was with him; He sent the angel Gabriel to give Zechariah the message that his prayer was heard (v. 13).

I don't know about you, but...I think if an angel appeared telling me that God had heard my request and explained how it was all going down, I don't think there'd be any room for doubt! And when you look at Bible verses about doubting (see below), I'm getting the impression that we should make no room for doubt.

But the heart is "desperately wicked, who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). So we need to deal with it.

The truth is, God speaks to me all the time and makes Himself plain. Yet I doubt. Do you?

Zechariah's story is a cautionary account to remind us that God is with us, hearing our prayers, and answering us. Yes, my friend, we can fully trust Him.

## **7 Bible Verses About Doubt (and what to do instead)**

### **Matthew 14:31**

**Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"**

Since Jesus asked him why, I will ask myself why I doubt whenever it creeps into my heart.

### **Matthew 21:21**

**Jesus answered them, "Most certainly I tell you, if you have faith and don't doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you told this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it would be done.**

Faith is the opposite of doubt. It's great to "put on" faith after "putting off" doubt.

### **Mark 11:23**

**For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening, he shall have whatever he says.**

What we say is going to affect whether we doubt or believe!

### **Acts 10:20**

**But arise, get down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.**

If God's behind it, we can rest assured.

### **Romans 4:20**

**Yet, looking to the promise of God, he didn't waver through unbelief, but grew strong through faith, giving glory to God.**

Don't waver!

### **1 Timothy 2:8**

**I desire therefore that the men in every place pray, lifting up holy hands without anger and doubting.**

Keep praying!

**James 1:6**

**But let him ask in faith, without any doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed.**

Pray in faith!

I challenge you to memorize one of the verses above on doubt!



## Day 2: Luke 1:19

The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God.

I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.” Luke 1:19

Write

Consider

Note the following points:

- V. 6. Zechariah was righteous before God
- V. 13 He'd already been praying
- V. 15 God gave him additional instructions referring to the answer to his prayer
- V. 13-17 The angel revealed what would happen
- V. 18-20 Beware the consequence of doubt
- V. 24 What God says will come to pass

Reflect

What are you currently doubting God about? Can you pinpoint the seed of doubt regarding that area (i.e. what started you doubting)?

Pray

Father God, I give You all my doubtful thoughts. I refuse to let it hinder me any longer. Instead, I choose to trust in You Lord with all my heart and lean not to my own understanding as it says in Proverbs 3:5.

## DAY 3: MARY'S FAITH

**Read:** Luke 1:26-56; 2:5-7

Isn't it scary to step out in faith?

One thing I have to keep telling myself when I need to step out in faith is that I'm not walking alone. Nor are you. Emmanuel, God with you. Remember?

God is walking right beside you, holding your hand, and strengthening you. Cool, yeah?

**For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, 'Don't be afraid. I will help you.' Isaiah 41:13**

The angel Gabriel visited Mary and that short meeting changed the course of history forever. Even though this big "impossibility" was presented to her, she still believed. She said, "let it be done" (Luke 1:38).

Zachariah asked "how" and Mary asked "how." What's the difference?

Zachariah asked with doubt, and Mary asked with faith. Her question of how was asked in more of a "I know this will happen. What's the plan?" kind of way. Zechariah's question of how was followed with more of a "wha—?? We're old, dude. Beyond the natural way of things. You know that, right?"

On the outside, his wording can still seem pretty innocent. But we know God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

Mary allowed the Holy Spirit to come upon her to do what God wanted done. What if she didn't believe God's plan for her? But God had already picked the perfect person; He must have looked at her heart and saw faith.

I'm grateful for her faith-filled obedience!

I'd like to be like that. It's important, right?

So during this Christmas season, I'm making no room for doubt, and soaking in Bible verses on faith! Will you join me?

## 19 Bible Verses on Faith and Believing

### Romans 10:17

So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

### Luke 17:6

The Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

### Hebrews 12:2

Looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Matthew 17:20

He said to them, “Because of your unbelief. For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

### Mark 11:22-23

Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. 23 For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn't doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening, he shall have whatever he says.

### Mark 11:24

Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them.

### Habakkuk 2:4

...the righteous will live by his faith.

### Matthew 9:28

When he had come into the house, the blind men came to him. Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They told him, “Yes, Lord.”

### Romans 3:22

Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all those who believe. For there is no distinction.

**Luke 7:9**

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude who followed him, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel.”

**Mark 9:23**

Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

**Luke 8:48**

He said to her, “Daughter, cheer up. Your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”

**Acts 6:8**

Stephen, full of faith and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

**Psalms 119:66**

Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments.

**Mark 5:36**

But Jesus, when he heard the message spoken, immediately said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Don’t be afraid, only believe.”

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:6**

Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

**Romans 10:8-9**

But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart;” that is, the word of faith which we preach: 9 that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.



## Day 3: Luke 1:28

**Having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, you highly favored one! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women!” Luke 1:28**

*Write*

*Reflect*

With what can you choose to walk in faith and believe God? Write it with this statement: I choose to have faith in God about (fill-in-the-blank) because He is with me.

*Discover*

Look at our key verse of Luke 1:28 again. The angel calls Mary “highly favored.” Look up Ephesians 1:6. Who did God give the same kind of acceptance and blessing? (It’s even the same Greek word!)

*Pray*

Pray four or five of the Bible verses about faith and believing over yourself.

# DAY 4: DIFFICULT DECISIONS LIKE JOSEPH?

**Read:** Matthew 1:18-25

My two oldest sons are in that stage of life where they're making difficult decisions about their future. Just before the beginning of the school year, they had pretty much decided which career path to take.

But near the end of the first quarter, they both were back to rethinking their decisions. We made slight adjustments in their classes and took personality tests. They were just left with more questions.

That unsettled feeling nagged at them. And me too.

My second oldest went full circle with considering a different career path, but within a week landed right back where he started. (That was a relief to me!)

But my oldest? He's still not come to a decision, and for a couple days was super distracted by it.

I reminded him that difficult choices usually take some time while we pray for God's will.

Have you been in place like this before? When you're praying, "God please help me make the right decision"?

## **Joseph's Tough Decision**

Joseph was from the lineage of those listed in the first chapter of Matthew that preceded Jesus (see verses 16-17). But although he was in this "special" lineup, he was a normal human...just like you and me.

Mary and Joseph were already engaged. In that time and culture, engagement meant that the woman was already considered to be that man's lawful wife.

He had all but decided to break the engagement (or rather, divorce her) when he learned of Mary's pregnancy but was still mulling it over.

He wasn't hasty. And that's a good practice for us too. It's better to pray and hear from God first, right?

God spoke to him through a dream, revealing His will. The angel of the Lord said, “do not be afraid to take to yourself Mary as your wife” (Matthew 1:20).

### **An Angel in My Dream**

Several years ago, I had a dream with what seemed to be an angel in it. In the dream I had been looking right and left and then I happened upon an elderly, distinguished looking man in the corner of the room...

He said to me with a rebuke in his tone:

You know the Bible says, **“Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.”**

And then I woke up...

But this certainly didn't happen because I was super spiritual or anything. On the contrary, I hadn't been living right for God. I was in the midst of a hard season and wasn't responding to it well. So the dream was a rebuke.

I recognized the passage but didn't have it memorized. After looking it up (it's Proverbs 4:25-27, KJV), I wrote in my journal:

“I believe these verses mean to look at your life. Look at what you are doing. Meditate on whether it's the right thing to do or not....Then make a decision about what you are going to do. And stick with it!”

### **God With Joseph, God With You**

God is paying attention to our lives, friend.

Just like He did with Joseph, God is with us through difficult decisions, leading us to what we should do.

I love how God touches our individualized lives and is faithful through every hard circumstance. He's not a friend to flee when trials come but is instead “a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

He is there. Fully present. Emmanuel. God with us.

What a comfort that is during difficult days!

## Day 4: Matthew 1:20

But when he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take to yourself Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:20

Write

Reflect

It's at the turning point right before a new year when we want to reevaluate our goals, schedules, habits, etc. What difficult decision(s) are you facing in the new year?

Discover

Look up the following verses that will remind you that God is with you through tough choices:

- Hebrews 4:16
- Matthew 7:7-11
- Philippians 4:6-7

Pray

Father God, thank You for Your continued faithfulness, and that You are with me. Thank You for your Word which says I can come boldly to You, ask, seek, and knock, and receive Your peace. Just as You were with Joseph during his difficult decision, I know You are with me with every tough choice I need to make. You will reveal Your will and plan. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# DAY 5: RESPONDING LIKE THE SHEPHERDS

**Read:** Luke 2:1-20

God is with you as you go about life. But He's not just present. He desires a real relationship with His people.

He's also speaking. The question is, how can we respond to God's voice?

Today we're looking at how the shepherds responded when God spoke.

They were staying in the fields for their customary care of sheep, when an angel appeared to them, lighting up the night sky.

Although shepherds are used to danger, they were afraid. But they were probably in shock right after that because of the astonishing message.

*The Savior is here? The One we've been waiting for, for so many generations? And God is sharing it with us?...Wow!*

And as if the moment couldn't be any more magnificent, the sky filled with an angelic display that fully outshined any fireworks display you've ever seen—giving all glory to God!

So let's dive into this a little bit more and take a cue from the shepherds. Here are three ways they responded to God's voice.

## #1. Respond to God's Voice with Attentiveness

Shepherds were low on the social scale. It doesn't matter who you are. There is no respect of persons with God (Romans 2:11).

You don't have to have been a Christian for 20 years, or be a pastor, or a missionary. If you have received Jesus as Savior, then you're His own son or daughter.

Jesus Himself promised that His sheep would hear His voice! **"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27**

Others in that day and culture were low on the social scale too. So why did God choose the particular group of the shepherds to share the Good News?

Shepherds are attentive. God wants to share what He's doing with His people. I wonder if He chose Shepherds because He knew they would listen?

Listening cannot be passive.

We must choose to listen to God with attentiveness and act on what He says.

## **#2. Go and Share**

Can you imagine if the shepherds saw the divine display, heard the message from the angel, and stayed in the field?

What if one shepherd said, "Hey, nobody is going to believe us. They will think we're crazy. We'd better keep this to ourselves!" And then the rest listened to him?

But the shepherds were ready to share what God had entrusted with them.

How many times have we been afraid to share what God says:

- Involving our personal walk
- About salvation
- Regarding revelation from a verse

The angel said, "you will find." God expected them to get up and go!

Never let the lies of fear silence you.

You will overcome by the word of your testimony! And someone may come to know Christ because of you!

I'm praying for all my readers and KRB Insiders that you would obey God with your whole heart. And that you would share whatever is burning in your heart about Him with others.

## **#3. Glorify and Praise God**

After the shepherds had found Jesus in the manger and returned back to their field, they responded to God by glorifying and praising Him for all that they had heard and seen.

God doesn't actually need your praises.

He is still clothed in glory and splendor whether we praise Him or not.

**But Psalm 66:8 says, “Praise our God, you peoples! Make the sound of his praise heard.”**

When you do that you acknowledge that He alone is God.

Those shepherds didn’t reject God’s message or Jesus Himself. They had willing hearts to be used by God to help share the wonderful Good News that Jesus had been born.

The first half of the above verse says to praise God. What could that look like for you?

The second half of the verse says to praise with a volume level that can be heard. Does God want you to amplify your voice in a greater way to give him glory?

**I will praise you, Lord my God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever more.**  
**Psalm 86:12**



## Day 5: Luke 2:9

Behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:9

Write

Reflect

The shepherds didn't know their lives were going to be changed forever after God interrupted their ordinary day. But as we've seen throughout this study, God speaks to His people individually.

We remember He's with us when we recognize He is speaking to us personally. Is there something written above that spoke to your heart?

Respond

How could you be more attentive to His voice? What distractions could you remove? What is God speaking to you? Who does God want you to share it with?

Pray

Father God, may I be one that will respond to your voice like the shepherds with attentive ears and a willing heart. Thank You for sending Jesus my Savior. Help me share the good news of salvation with all who will listen. And for all You are and all You are doing, I give You glory and praise. In Jesus' name. Amen!

## About the Author



*Kelly R. Baker*

Kelly R. Baker is a Bible study teacher, writer, mentor, and the founder of the Blogger Voices Network. She serves with her husband in leading the worship ministry at their church. You will probably find her sneaking a bite (or more) of organic dark chocolate in between wrangling her four homeschooled kids. She'd love to thrive in Christ together with you. She promises if you live yielded, you'll see the fruit.

Connect with her at <https://kellyrbaker.com>.

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