

MERRIEST *Christmas*

CALENDAR

INTRODUCING OTHERS
TO THE GIFT
OF JESUS



THE CHAPEL

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ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE.

1 Peter 3:15



SEE YOUR CALENDAR DIFFERENTLY THIS CHRISTMAS

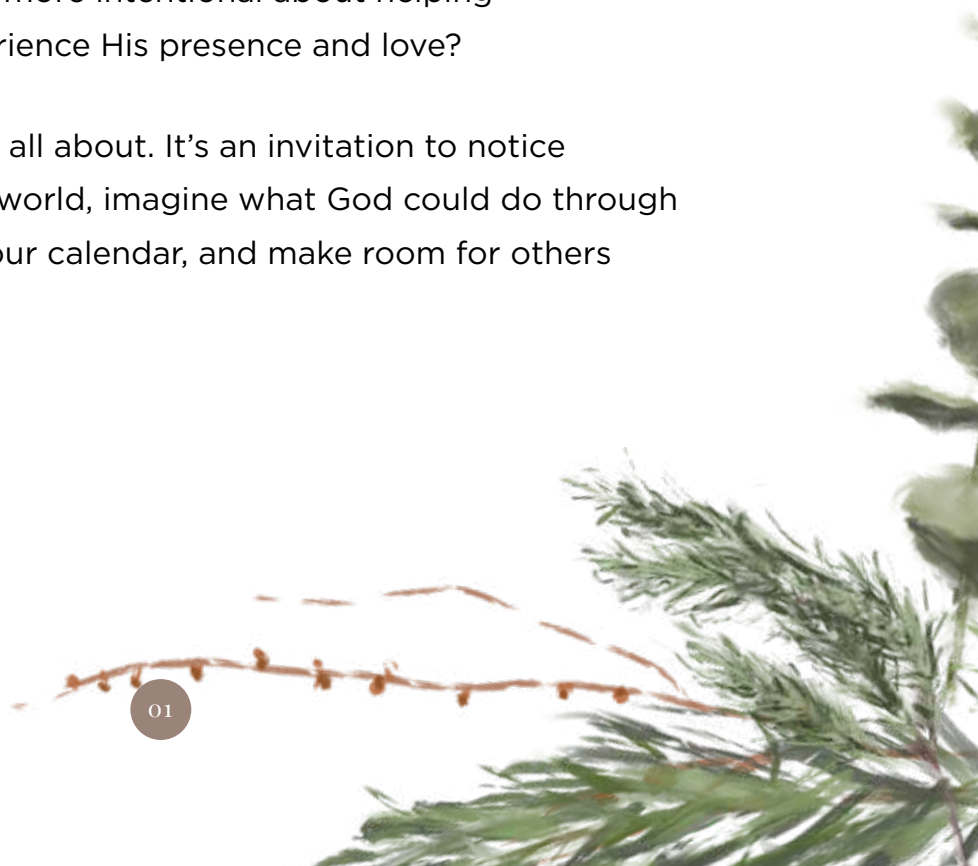
December always fills up fast. Between parties, gifts, traditions, and endless to-do lists, our calendars can leave little room for what Christmas is really about—helping others come alive to God.

But what if making a difference this Christmas wasn't about doing more, but inviting God into what you're already doing?

Christmas is the story of a God who came near. And what if, this Christmas, we became more intentional about helping the people around us experience His presence and love?

That's what this calendar is all about. It's an invitation to notice the people already in your world, imagine what God could do through the moments already on your calendar, and make room for others to experience Him.

Let's get started!



Part One:

NOTICE
the People in Your World

God is already at work in the lives of the people around you. Before adding anything to your Christmas calendar, take a moment to notice what's already there. As you walk through the next few pages, ask God to open your eyes to the people and relationships you might otherwise overlook.



BEGIN WITH YOUR EVERYDAY PLACES

Think about your daily schedule: your workplace, favorite coffee shop, the school pick-up line, the gym, the grocery store, your neighborhood sidewalks, or the sidelines of your kids' after-school activities. These ordinary places are often where extraordinary relationships grow over time.

List the places you regularly go and the people you tend to see there. You may know some of them well and others only by name.

EVERYDAY PLACES	WHO WILL BE THERE?

As you look over your list, is there someone you sense God drawing your attention to?

LOOK AT WHAT'S ALREADY ON YOUR CALENDAR

Even during the holidays, regular commitments continue. Think about the appointments, school activities, work events, and other plans already on your calendar.

Write them down, along with the people you expect to see. What opportunities for connection might already be built into your schedule?

APPOINTMENTS, EVENTS, ETC.	WHO WILL BE THERE?

As you look over your list, is there someone God is bringing to mind?

CONSIDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND GATHERINGS

Think about the things you do because it's Christmas: baking cookies, decorating the tree, attending O Holy Night of Worship, exchanging gifts with coworkers, hosting a meal, looking at lights, or celebrating with neighbors and friends.

List the traditions, gatherings, and experiences you plan to enjoy. Who will be part of them?

TRADITIONS & HOLIDAY PLANS	WHO WILL BE THERE?

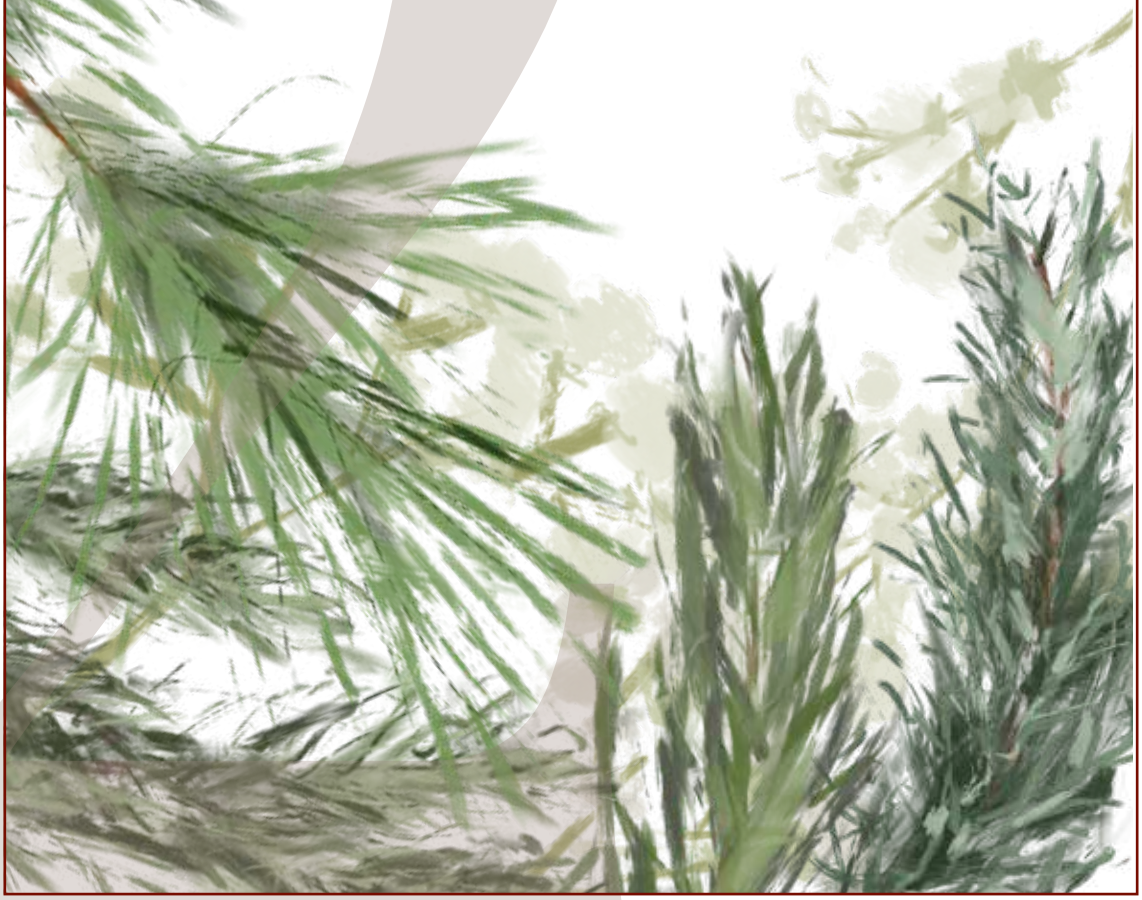
As you look over your list, is there someone God is bringing to mind?

Part Two:

IMAGE

What's Possible with God

You've noticed the people and places already in your world. Now, bring them before God. Ask Him to grow your love for these people, help you see where He might be at work, and show you one simple way to respond.



WHO IS GOD BRINGING TO MIND?

Look back over the people and places you identified in Part One. Which names continue to come to mind? You may know their stories well, or you may barely know them. Either way, God knows and loves each of them.

Take some time to write about each person God highlighted to you below.

FIRST PERSON:

SECOND PERSON:

THIRD PERSON:

ask:

Where might they need hope, peace, joy, or healing?

GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

God is already at work in the lives of the people around you, even in ways you may not be able to see. Spend a few moments praying for each person you've named. Ask God to help you recognize His love for them, become more aware of what He might be doing, and see how you could be part of it.

FIRST PERSON:

- *God, what are you doing in this person's life?*

FIRST PERSON:

- *God, what are you doing in this person's life?*

FIRST PERSON:

- *God, what are you doing in this person's life?*



GOD, HOW CAN I HELP?

Sometimes love looks like meeting a practical need. Other times, it looks like listening, offering encouragement, extending an invitation, or simply helping someone feel seen and valued. Ask God to show you one simple way you could intentionally love or encourage each person this Christmas.

1

- *How can I help?*

2

- *How can I help?*

3

- *How can I help?*





Use this calendar to map out your December.
Put a star next to the events where God has brought someone to mind.

Hang this calendar somewhere you'll see. Let it remind you to pray
and stay attentive to what God is already doing in the lives of the people around you.

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
O Holy Night of Worship The Chapel Grayslake 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve Gatherings at The Chapel 24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Part Three:

DISCOVER

Opportunities for Meaningful Moments



BE PRESENT. LISTEN WELL. SHARE HIS LOVE.

Meaningful conversations often begin with simple moments of connection.

As you spend time with the people God has brought to mind, remember that you don't have to manufacture a spiritual moment. Your invitation is to be present, listen with genuine curiosity, and remain attentive to what God might be doing.

The following tool offers a simple way to approach conversations with intention. It's not a script or a checklist, but a reminder that a little curiosity, an extra question, and a willingness to listen can open the door to meaningful connection.

Sometimes the most powerful way to share God's love is to help someone feel genuinely seen and heard.



01
SURFACE
Begin with genuine curiosity.
"How has your week been?"

02
SERIOUS
Listen for what matters.
"What is this stage of life like for you?"

03
SPIRITUAL
Look for opportunities to pray, share, or invite.
"Would it be okay if I prayed for your right now?"

01 SURFACE – *Begin with genuine curiosity.*

It's natural for conversations to begin at the surface. Start there, but stay curious. Ask about their life, listen well, and pay attention to what might be going on beneath the surface.

EXAMPLES: *"What are you doing this weekend? What do you do for work? What are you excited about right now?*

02 SERIOUS – *Listen for what matters.*

Going deeper can be as simple as asking one more question. Move from asking what someone is doing to how they are experiencing it. Ask what they're enjoying, what's been difficult, what they're looking forward to, or what's been taking up space in their mind.

Don't rush through this part of the conversation; this is where meaningful relationships grow.

EXAMPLES: *Why do you enjoy that? How are you experiencing this busy stage of life? Is there anything about that that is difficult?*

03 SPIRITUAL – *Look for opportunities to pray, share, or invite.*

As a conversation goes deeper, pay attention to where God might already be at work. You don't need to force a spiritual moment. Listen for natural opportunities to pray, share, or invite someone to encounter God.

PRAY: *If they share something they're carrying, offer to pray with them.*

SHARE: *When it fits share how God has met you in something similar or how you've experienced Him recently.*

INVITE: *Consider what invitation might fit the person's needs and the context of the conversation. It could be an invitation to spending more time together, exploring something about God, or an invitation to come to church with you at The Chapel!*

EXAMPLES: *"I would love to pray for that. Can I do that now?"*
"Recently, I've been very anxious about the future too. For me, understanding more about who Jesus is has really helped."
"I have found a lot of new friends at church after joining a group. Would you like to come to church with me on Christmas Eve?"

PREPARE FOR MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

Think about the people God has brought to mind. You don't need to plan every word. Instead, consider how you can approach your next interaction with genuine curiosity, care, and openness to God.

FIRST PERSON:

What's one question I could ask to get to know them better?

What would I like to learn more about in their life?

Is there a natural opportunity to encourage, serve, pray for, or invite them?

SECOND PERSON:

What's one question I could ask to get to know them better?

What would I like to learn more about in their life?

Is there a natural opportunity to encourage, serve, pray for, or invite them?

THIRD PERSON:

What's one question I could ask to get to know them better?

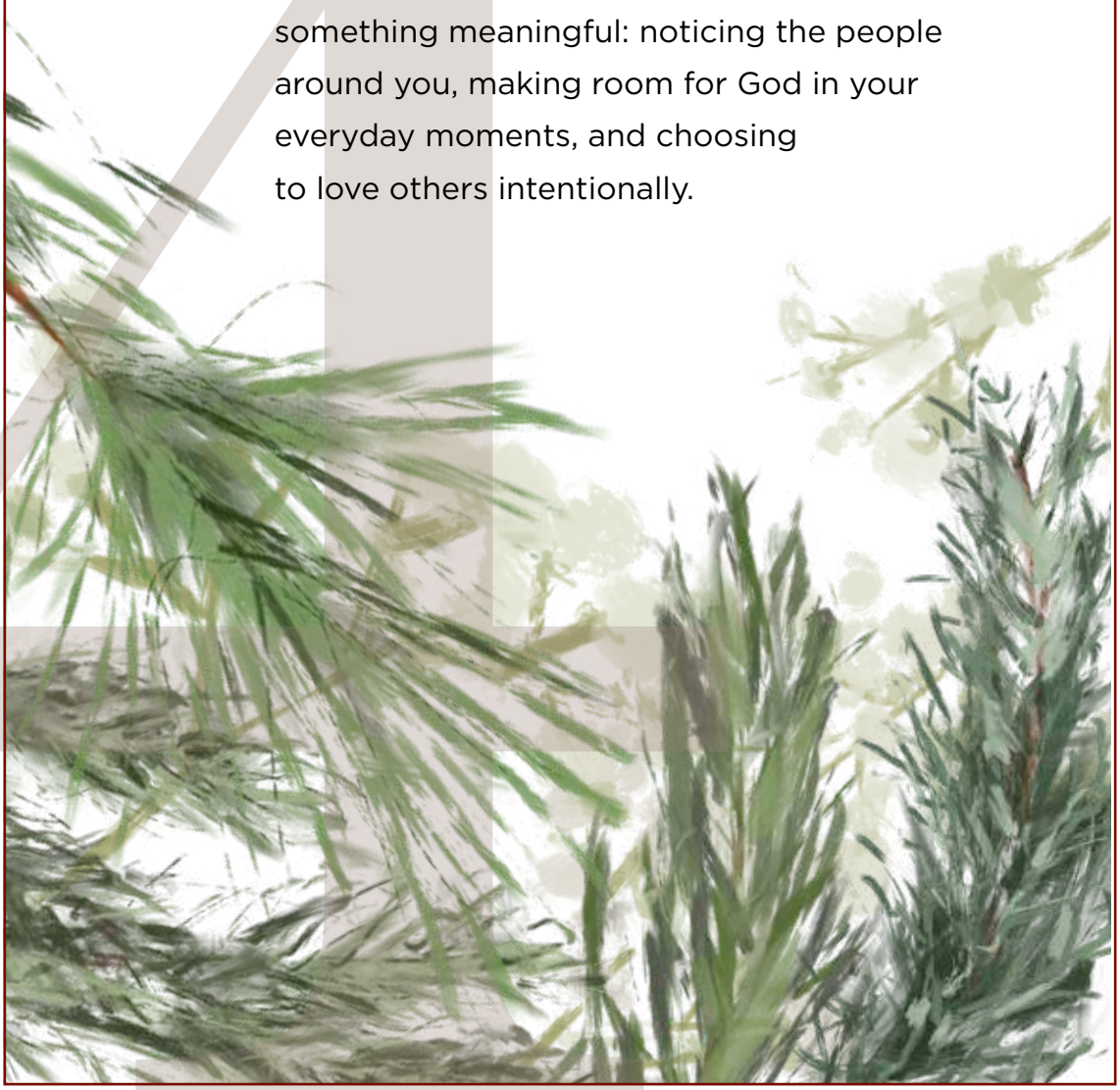
What would I like to learn more about in their life?

Is there a natural opportunity to encourage, serve, pray for, or invite them?

Part Four:

REFLECT
With God

Over the last month, you've been practicing something meaningful: noticing the people around you, making room for God in your everyday moments, and choosing to love others intentionally.



CELEBRATE WHAT HAPPENED & CONSIDER WHAT'S NEXT

Whatever your experience has been this month, take time to look back with gratitude and consider what God might be inviting you into next.

Maybe you had a conversation you didn't expect. Maybe a friendship grew deeper. Maybe you saw God answer a prayer or were surprised by an opportunity to encourage someone. Or maybe nothing outwardly remarkable happened, but you began to see your everyday life differently.

Remember, the relationships you've invested in don't end when Christmas does. And neither does God's work.

LOOK BACK – *Give God Praise for the Ways He Was at Work*

What stands out about your interactions with people this month? What did you learn about them? Where did you notice God's presence? What surprised or encouraged you?

LOOK AHEAD – *Consider What Might Come Next*

Who would you like to keep praying for? Is there a conversation to continue, a need to follow up on, or a relationship you want to invest in? Ask God to guide your next step.

LOOK BACK & LOOK AHEAD

FIRST PERSON:

LOOK BACK
Where did I see God at work in this relationship?

LOOK AHEAD
How might I continue praying, connecting, or caring?

SECOND PERSON:

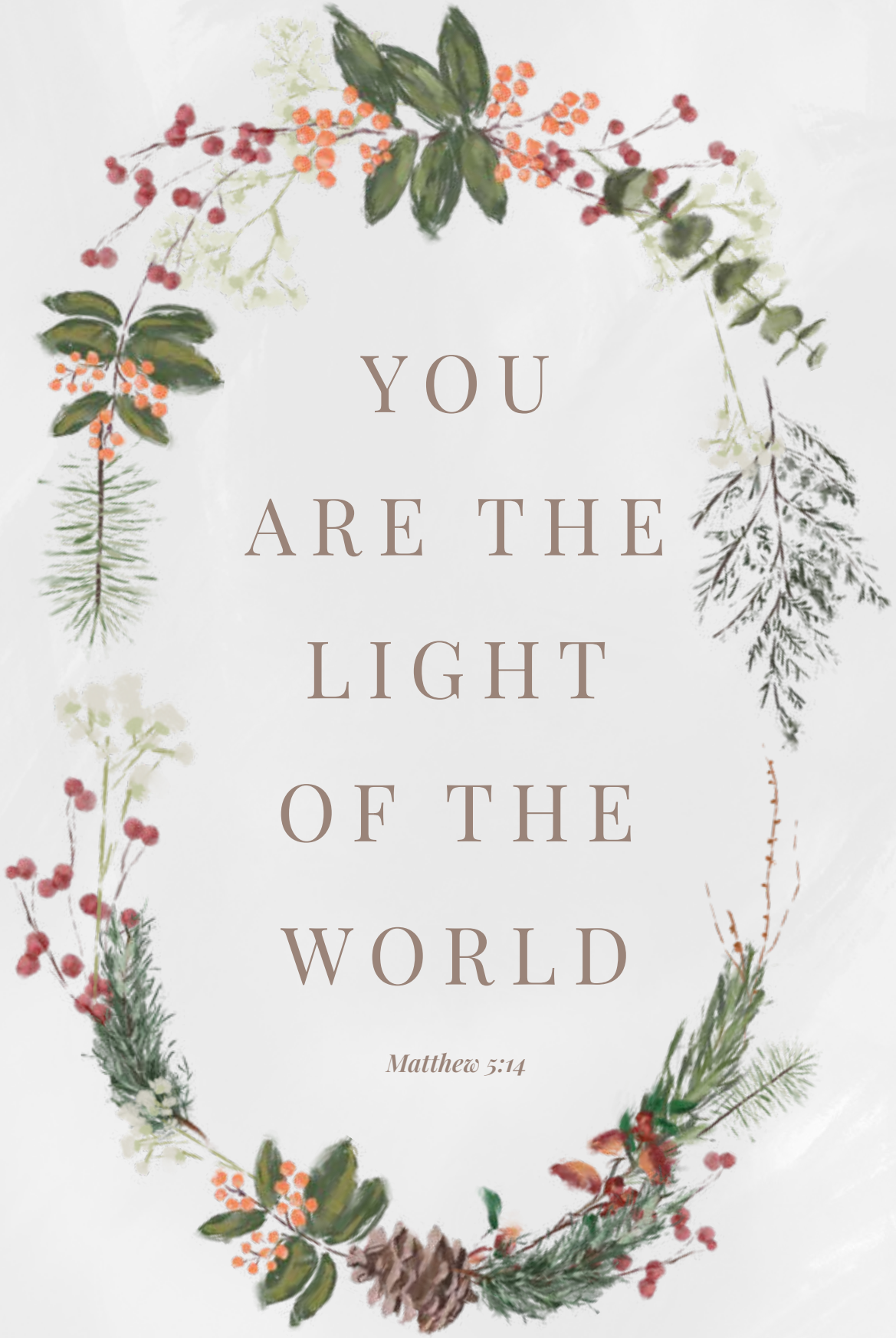
LOOK BACK
Where did I see God at work in this relationship?

LOOK AHEAD
How might I continue praying, connecting, or caring?

THIRD PERSON:

LOOK BACK
Where did I see God at work in this relationship?

LOOK AHEAD
How might I continue praying, connecting, or caring?


YOU
ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD
Matthew 5:14

HOW WAS GOD AT WORK IN YOU?

You've reflected on the people God brought to your attention. Now, zoom out and think about how God was at work in you. What did God show you about Him or yourself as you moved through December, more aware of His presence working in and through you to help the people around you come alive to God?

What surprised you?

Was there anything you noticed, experienced, or learned that you didn't expect?

What did you discover about God?

What did you learn about God's character or what it looks like to partner with Him in what He's doing?

What changed in you?

Did you begin to see things differently? How did God stretch your comfort zone or help you grow?

How do you want to continue doing?

What from this experience do you want to continue practicing as you move into the next season?

Do you have a story to share?

Scan the QR code to tell us about it.

KEEP LIVING WITH GOD

Partnering with God in everyday spaces isn't just an exercise for Christmas. Every season is filled with places you already go, things you already do, and people God deeply loves. As you move into what's next, keep inviting God into it all. Ask Him to help you see what He sees, love the people in front of you, and recognize where He is already at work — because life with God isn't something separate from the life you're already living. It's learning to live all of it with Him.

MERRIEST *Christmas*
AT
THE CHAPEL