

VOLUNTEER DEVOTIONAL



STUDY

This Christmas, what if you looked at the story of Jesus from a different point of view? Halo is a series from the Gospels that focuses on the angels who came with some far-reaching news. Their words have the potential to change how they view Jesus' birth, God's timing, and their ability to share the good news.

So, when's the last time you thought about how these truths impact you? God's timing may not make much sense to you right now. You may not feel adequate to share about Jesus and God's story. It could feel like God is far from you and the least interested in your rescue. Actually, God wants to speak to you and encourage you, too.

To get ready for this series, **spend a few minutes reading the stories we'll be teaching students this month.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) about Jesus being "God with us" through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: God's timing is always right. Luke 1:8-24; Romans 13:11-12; Psalm 27:14

WEEK 2: Jesus is always good news. Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-24; John 10:10

WEEK 3: We can always share God's story. Luke 2:8-18; Matthew 11:2-5; 1 Peter 3:15

WEEK 4: God is always ready to rescue. Matthew 2:11-18; Psalm 80:1-7, 91:14-15

PRAY

Have you ever heard of "semantic satiation?" It's a phrase that describes something that can happen when you hear a word or a phrase repeatedly. Sometimes those words or phrases temporarily lose their meaning and the result is hearing a message that is meaningless, too. If you've heard the Christmas story a few times, you might be experiencing this and not realize it. Instead of hearing Charlie Brown's teacher's version replayed in your mind, pause to reflect on how you might tune in to what God could be saying to you this year. Look at the words the angels spoke to people in the Christmas story and ask God for a fresh perspective and dose of hope as you read them.

Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now? Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

So what's your next step? If you're waiting on God during this season, maybe it's time to begin trusting that God's timing is always right. Do you need to receive the good news of Jesus in a fresh way? Do you need to take the next step in sharing God's story with someone around you? Or, is it time to reach back to God for your rescue?

Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.