

## Jesus' Coming Announced Throughout Scripture

My childhood Christmas memories include the annual Christmas Eve program...a time when every child made their way to the microphone to recite their 'piece'...the portion of the Luke 2 Christmas story that had been assigned to them. It's a beautiful passage and the repetition engraved the words on my heart. Yet the Christmas story is bigger than Luke 2. What's more, the Gospel story doesn't really begin with the Gospels! Consider this: 2000 years ago as two heavy-hearted travelers were walking to Emmaus they were met by the risen Jesus who set their hearts ablaze as he revealed how **ALL** of Scripture testifies about himself (Luke 24:27). That's what an encounter with the living Word of God does. That's what happens when the Spirit reveals the Word that became flesh: dull hearts burn with passion, heavy hearts swell with hope, parched lives gush with living water, and dry bones come to life.

When we read the Bible we're not merely reading a collection of disconnected stories each with a nice moral lesson to follow. We're reading one story, the greatest story ever written. And we're not just passive readers who read for knowledge; rather we're participants in the unfolding plot. Each day this week our scripture readings are from both the Old and New Testaments. As you read, consider applying S.O.A.P. through the following questions and ask the Holy Spirit to set the words on fire within you:

**S = Scripture** Read the assigned scripture for that day.

**O = Observations** How does the Old Testament passage point to Jesus? What links do you see between the two passages?

**A = Application** What words or phrases is the Holy Spirit setting on fire in you? What hope and truth are these passages speaking into your life today?

**P = Prayer** Write out a prayer based on your reading and reflection.

### Daily Devotionals

Sunday	Genesis 22; John 3:16
Monday	Genesis 3; 2 Samuel 14:14; Ephesians 2:13
Tuesday	Exodus 12:1-30; Matthew 26:17-30; I John 2:1-2
Wednesday	Exodus 32; Romans 3:23-26
Thursday	Isaiah 42:1-9; Luke 7:18-23
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-5; Luke 2:8-20; Mark 1:1-13
Saturday	Isaiah 61; Revelation 21:1-8; 22:20-21
Sunday	John 14:15-23