

The First Big Step Commitment

Abide and Pray

Week 7

- Sunday, Dec 5** **Deuteronomy 18:15-18**
For Reflection: How is Jesus like Moses? Where do you find a slavery or a Pharaoh in your life?
Lagniappe: Acts 3:17-26¹
- Monday, Dec 6** **Isaiah 40:1-8**
For Reflection: What do you need to do to prepare the way for Jesus this Christmas? What rough spots in your life, in your experience, or even in your community need to be made smooth? How will you/God do it?
Lagniappe: Mark 1:1-8
- Tuesday, Dec 7** **Isaiah 43:15-21**
For Reflection: How is God making a way in your wilderness? What new thing is he doing? How was the Christmas story a radically new thing?
Lagniappe: Matthew 9:16-17
- Wednesday, Dec 8** **Jeremiah 23:5-6**
For Reflection: What personal and/or societal injustice do you most long to see rectified?
Lagniappe: 1 Corinthians 1:28-31
- Thursday, Dec 9** **Isaiah 7:1-14**
For Reflection: What causes you the most fear right now? Which promises of God keeps you anchored when afraid?
Lagniappe: Matthew 1:23
- Friday, Dec 10** **Micah 5:1-5a²**
For Reflection: A lot happens in 5 verse: Israel moves from being besieged by a terrifying army, to living in peace and security because of a good shepherd. When and where have you felt besieged? When and where have you felt secure? What is your situation today?

¹ Read chapter 3 for the whole context- clearly Peter thought Moses' words were fulfilled in Jesus. Also, John 1:21, 6:14, and 7:40 will give you a sense that the people thought Moses might have been talking about or looking for Jesus.)

² Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Thursday's passage has a lot of similarities with today's. Both start with despair, hope comes with a birth, both promises are not completely fulfilled for 700-ish years.

Lagniappe: John 10:11-18

Saturday, Dec 11

Mark 1:1-5

For Reflection: Who are the people in your life that paved the way for you – especially in regard to faith? Who are you helping along the way?

Lagniappe – Malachi 3:1³

³ No worries Malachi is the easiest minor prophet to find – Malachi is the last book in the OT. An interesting fun fact: Malachi's name means "My Messenger" in 3:1 Malachi speaks of a "my messenger" ... is he speaking of himself as the messenger, or John, the Baptist, or both? Mark thinks he is speaking of John the Baptist, at least in part.