

**MLK WEEKEND OF SERVICE
DECEMBER 15-17**

Join us on MLK weekend as we help to fight world hunger in partnership with Rise Against Hunger! At this family-friendly event, you will package meals to feed a family of four for 4 days.



SIGN UP TODAY!



CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Eve Services (12/24)
- United Worship Gatherings (12/26 and 1/2)
- SALT Meeting (1/9)

For more details about these and other events, scan or visit ssbc.org



Thank you for your tithes and offerings and gifts to Advent Conspiracy and the Invested Initiative. As 2021 comes to a close, remember that your contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 to appear on your 2021 contribution statement. To give:

- Visit www.ssbc.org/giving
- Mail to 1435 Atlantic Blvd., 32207
- Bring it to the church office (Place it in the locked mailbox if brought after office hours. We are closed on December 27-28, and 31.)



search **SSBCJax** to connect with us on social media!

Out of Bethlehem
Gary Lee Webber
December 19, 2021

Forced to flee from Bethlehem in order to save Jesus' life, Joseph and Mary once again pack their meager belongings to head into the unknown. Meanwhile, every mother left behind would weep for their murdered children and wonder how the angels' promise of peace on earth could possibly be true. Join us for week three of *Christmas in Exile* where we explore how grief and loss are often magnified at Christmas time and how Jesus meets us in the sorrow.

Passage:

Matthew 2

Principle:

The _____ of the empire is overcome by the _____ of the Kingdom.

Kingdom advancement requires _____ to the empire's schemes.

_____ persists in the empire but is _____ in the Kingdom.

Jesus delivers us from _____ in the empire to _____ in the Kingdom.

Practice:

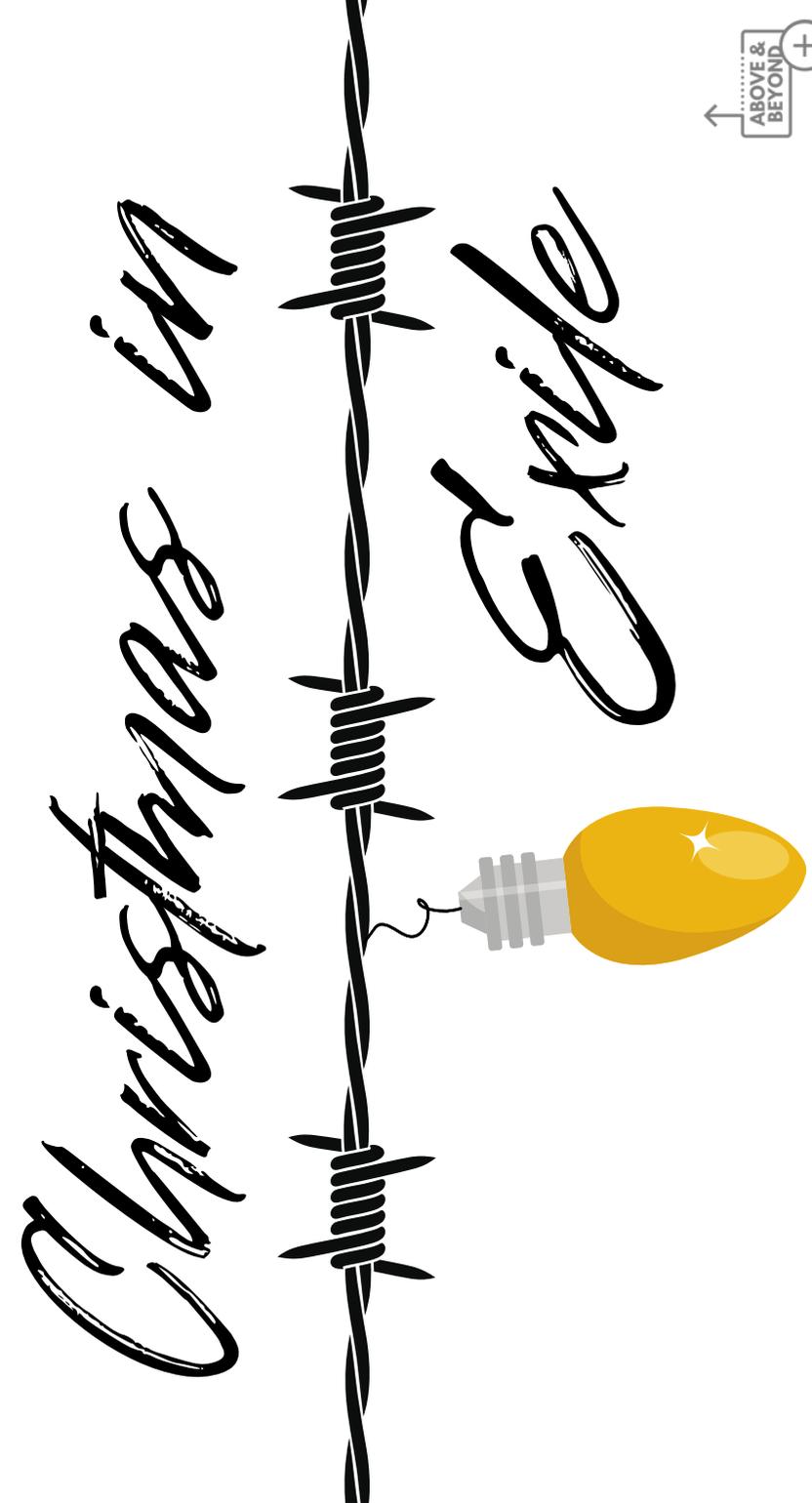
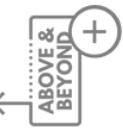
_____ the impact of the empire.

_____ the efforts of the empire.

_____ the exile.



Southside Baptist/Aspire Church
1435 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-396-6633 | ssbc.org



We're glad you've chosen to worship with us! If you're here for the first time, you are our special guest. Fill out the information on the other side of this card and visit The Landing (located just outside the sanctuary in the main hall) where we have a gift for you!

Welcome to Southside Baptist/Aspire Church!

tear here to use as a bookmark in your daily reading.



Small Group Questions

Use this outline for personal reflection, as a couples or family devotion, or with a small group.

Southside's small groups focus on the neighborhoods in which we live. We have groups that meet on campus, online, and in homes across our city. Visit ssbc.org/SmallGroups to find yours!

HANGOUT (warming up to the topic):

1. What is a prophet? What is a prophecy?

2. Matthew quotes several Old Testament prophets in his account of the Christmas story, but Luke does not. What does this suggest about Matthew and Luke and their intended audiences?

HEAR (listening to God through Scripture):

3. Read Matthew 2:1-6 and Micah 5:1-5a.

- Long before Jesus' birth, Bethlehem was already considered an important town to the Jewish people. Why? (*1 Samuel 17:12*) What is the connection between David and Jesus? Why is that important?
- When a Jewish rabbi quoted the Old Testament, he would often only quote a small portion of the passage and assume his listeners were familiar with the entire passage. Accordingly, Matthew only quotes a portion of Micah's prophecy about Jesus. What else does Micah say in this passage that directly points to the events of Jesus' birth?
- Even though Mary and Joseph had not planned for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, clearly God had a plan. Have you ever made plans only to discover that God had different plans for you all along? If so, what did you learn from that experience?

4. Read Matthew 2:19-23.

- What events led to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? What events led to Jesus living in Egypt? How did Jesus end up in Nazareth?
- Read John 1:43-46 & John 7:40-52. John's Gospel doesn't include a narrative of Jesus' birth, but John does include several important references to Jesus' hometown. What misconception did Nathanael share with Pharisees about Jesus' origins?
- Clearly, Nathanael and the Pharisees had respect and knowledge of the Scriptures, so how could they have made this mistake?

5. If knowledge of the Scripture was not enough for Nathanael and the Pharisees to recognize Jesus, is knowledge of the Bible enough to know Him today? Why, or why not? What is needed for someone to recognize Jesus?

Huddle (making it personal and praying together - in huddles):

6. Have you ever had a misconception about God, His purposes, or His ways? If so, how did you overcome that misconception? Are there ways you may be misunderstanding Jesus now? How would you know? Talk about it, invite accountability, and pray together.

Daily Readings:

Use this chronological reading of the Christmas story for your personal quiet time or with friends and/or family through Advent.

- Day 1: Micah 5
- Day 2: John 1
- Day 3: John 7
- Day 4: Luke 2:21-39
- Day 5: Matthew 2:1-12
- Day 6: Matthew 2:13-23
- Day 7: Luke 2:39-52

← tear here to use as a bookmark in your daily reading.

Suggested Resources:

Welcoming the Stranger,

by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Hwang

Undaunted, by Zoya Phan

From Every People and Nation,

by J. Daniel Hays

The Music of Christmas,

by Gary & Sheri Webber

Saving Christmas sermon series,

ssbc.org/sermon-series/saving-christmas/

Let's Connect!

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fill out the information below and place it in the offering basket at the end of service or **connect with us digitally** by texting VIP to 904-441-8650.

GUESTS: Bring this card with you and join us at The Landing (located just outside the sanctuary in the main hall) following worship today. We'd love to meet you!

Name:

Phone:

Email:

I would like more information about:
