

# Life Group Devotion

## FEAR NOT - Week of December 14

*Waiting for the shoe to drop* is an old expression that means after a long day at work, when Daddy gets home, we hear one boot hit the floor. Then, we wait to hear the second boot drop. In the interim, waiting for the second boot to drop, fear can strike: *Oh my, have I been doing what Daddy told me to do?... Think about us as children of God today, living in the second advent. Christ came in humility some 2000 years ago. Yet, when Christ returns things will be quite different (see Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 1:17-18). While some children of God look forward to the Lord's return, others 'waiting for the second boot to drop' live in fear or indifference. The level of (or lack of) excitement will be largely due to whether we have been about our father's business (Luke 12:35-38).*

When Daddy is home, all is well. There is an assurance of his safety and protection. Like a child who has been diligently engaged in work, chores, studies, helping with their siblings ... Daddy will be honored when he returns. However, like a disobedient child who has been loafing, wasting time, fighting with siblings, playing pranks, getting into mischief ... Daddy's return will catch the child by surprise? And like a healthy parent, our Heavenly Daddy will hold us accountable. He will set things right when he comes home. Have we honored him, even in the face of fear? If we have, then we have nothing to fear. Hope of his return keeps us on the right path because we know he will make things right.

### Read Daniel 6:1-14

Daniel is faithful to his Lord. Even in his exile, waiting for the second boot to drop, Daniel does not live in fear. Daniel honors the king, king Darius, yet Daniel's ultimate allegiance is to his Heavenly Father, God Most High. Notice how when his faith is challenged, as jealous colleagues craft a sly scheme to get Daniel killed, Daniel remains faithful and obedient.

- Though king Darius had failed to see through the deception and unwittingly signed into law a declaration that for thirty days anyone praying to any being, other than the king, would be fed to the lions, what does Daniel do, according to v10?

- Because a law of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked, Darius was torn up. He tried to fix it, but he could not (v14). What do you do when you try to fix a mistake of your own making ... and yet, cannot? What do we learn about the mess we make of things?
- What do we learn about what our Heavenly Daddy can do when *HE* gets home?

### Read Daniel 6:15-28

- How do we know Darius truly loved and respected Daniel, according to vv18-20?

What happened!?

*Daniel answered, "Long live the king! My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty" (v21-22).*

- Deep down, when we go astray, we want to know we are loved enough to be held accountable. On the other hand, when we have been faithful, it is good when the LORD shows up and stands by us. Share briefly how your Heavenly Daddy brings joy and comfort to you in times of suffering.
- What does Romans 5:3-5 say about suffering?

In closing, read of another time the LORD sends his angel to interrupt fear.

### Read Matthew 1:18-25

Thankfully, Joseph responds to this messenger from heaven with faith and obedience. Read together the Plain Truth:

Trusting God strengthens our endurance and grows our character.  
So hope allows us to face our fears.

Joseph would have many fears to face and each time the Lord would help him (see Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23). Similarly, Jesus himself would have to stay focused on the hope set before him, not the schemes of hometown skeptics or jealous religious leaders. Several times, people tried to kill Jesus before he chose to lay down his life and carry the cross (see Luke 4:28-30; John 8:58-59, 10:31-33).

There is a watching world around us. Will we be faithful and true children of the Most High God when our faith is tested? May we trust God in the bleakest of trials and courageously continue to point to Emmanuel, *God with us*! Jesus Christ alone is the Savior of the world.

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne” (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

### One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

December 14: Jonah 1:1-4-11, Revelation 5:1-14, Psalm 133:1-3, Proverbs 29:26-27  
December 15: Micah 1:1-4:13, Revelation 6:1-17, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 30:1-4  
December 16: Micah 5:1-7:20, Revelation 7:1-17, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 30:5-6  
December 17: Nahum 1:1-3:19, Revelation 8:1-13, Psalm 136:1-26, Proverbs 30:7-9  
December 18: Habakkuk 1:1-3:19, Revelation 9:1-21, Psalm 137:1-9, Proverbs 30:10  
December 19: Zephaniah 1:1-3:20, Revelation 10:1-11, Psalm 138:1-8, Prov. 30:11-14  
December 20: Haggai 1:1-2:23, Revelation 11:1-19, Psalm 139:1-24, Proverbs 30:15-16

# Fear Not

for a Savior is born

**Text:** Daniel 6:16-28, Romans 5:3-5, Matthew 1:18-21

## Plain Truth

\_\_\_\_\_ God strengthens our  
\_\_\_\_\_ and grows our  
\_\_\_\_\_, so hope allows us to \_\_\_\_\_  
our fears.

1. Salvation history \_\_\_\_\_ “Fear Not!”
2. When facing \_\_\_\_\_ and national \_\_\_\_\_ –  
Fear not.
3. When facing \_\_\_\_\_ – Fear not.
4. When your life goes \_\_\_\_\_ – Fear not.

**December 14, 2025**