



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: The Greatest Story Ever Told

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 12/21/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: The Greatest Story Ever Told

Devotional: Christmas isn't just another holiday story—it's the greatest story ever told because it's absolutely true. Every year, we gather to celebrate something that actually happened over 2,000 years ago, yet its effects ripple through our lives today. This isn't mythology or wishful thinking; it's historical reality that changed everything. What makes this story so incredible is that God chose to enter our world not through fanfare and royal announcements, but through the most humble circumstances imaginable. No red carpets, no media coverage, no palace births. Instead, a stable, a young couple, and the most unlikely first witnesses you could imagine. The truth of Christmas means that God didn't stay distant from our struggles. He didn't observe our pain from afar. He stepped into our mess, our ordinary days, our broken world. This baby in Bethlehem was God saying, "I'm coming to be with you, to understand you, to save you." Today, as you go about your routine—whether it's work, school, or daily responsibilities—remember that the God of the universe cares about your ordinary moments. He sees your struggles, your dreams, your fears. The same God who orchestrated that first Christmas night is actively involved in your story today. Your life matters to Him, and He has a purpose for every ordinary day you live.

Bible Verse: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' - John 3:16

Reflection Question: How does knowing that Christmas is a true historical event that still impacts lives today change the way you view your own daily circumstances and struggles?

Quote: The greatest story ever told. It's the greatest because it's the truth. We feel the effects even today. We see the effects. We have the effects today.

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Christmas isn't just a beautiful story, but the truth that changes everything. Help me to see Your presence in my ordinary days and trust that You are actively working in my life, just as You worked through that first Christmas night. Amen.

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Day 2: Heaven's Unexpected Messengers

Devotional: Imagine being a shepherd on what seemed like any other night. You're doing your job, watching sheep, probably tired and maybe a little bored. Then suddenly, the sky explodes with light and an angel appears with news that will change the world forever. This wasn't a dream or imagination—this was God breaking into ordinary time with extraordinary news. The shepherds were the last people anyone would expect to receive such an announcement. They were society's outcasts, considered untrustworthy and unclean. Their testimony wouldn't even hold up in court. Yet God chose them to be the first to hear about the birth of His Son. This tells us something profound about God's heart—He delights in using the unexpected, the overlooked, the ordinary. God could have announced Jesus' birth to kings, priests, or scholars. Instead, He chose working-class people who were just trying to make it through another night. This wasn't an accident; it was intentional. God wanted to show that His good news is for everyone, especially those who feel forgotten or insignificant. Perhaps you feel overlooked today. Maybe you think your voice doesn't matter or that God couldn't possibly use someone like you. The shepherds' story reminds us that God specializes in choosing the unexpected. He sees potential where others see problems, and He delights in using ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.

Bible Verse: 'But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" - Luke 2:10-11

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life do you feel overlooked or insignificant, and how might God want to use those very areas for His purposes?

Quote: How could it be that an angel would come and show up and tell us such news? It was the long awaited Savior on that seemingly ordinary night.

Prayer: Father, thank You for choosing the unexpected and using ordinary people like me. Help me to see myself through Your eyes and trust that You can use my life, even when I feel insignificant. Open my heart to hear Your voice today. Amen.

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Day 3: From Outcasts to Evangelists

Devotional: The shepherds couldn't keep quiet about what they had experienced. After encountering the baby Jesus, they became the first evangelists, telling everyone they met about the Savior who had been born. Their hearts were so full of joy and wonder that sharing the good news wasn't a burden—it was a necessity. Think about this: these men who were considered unreliable witnesses became the first to proclaim the gospel. They didn't have seminary training or speaking credentials. They simply had an encounter with Jesus that transformed their hearts. Some people believed them, others probably thought they were crazy, but they couldn't stop talking about what they had seen and heard. This is what happens when we truly encounter Jesus. It's not about having all the right words or perfect theology. It's about having hearts so full of His love and grace that we naturally want to share it with others. The shepherds didn't worry about their reputation or whether people would believe them—they were compelled by love to tell their story. You might feel like you don't have the right background or education to share your faith. But the shepherds remind us that God uses ordinary people with extraordinary experiences of His love. Your story matters. Your encounter with Jesus, however simple it might seem, has the power to impact others. Don't underestimate what God can do through your willingness to share.

Bible Verse: 'The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.' - Luke 2:20

Reflection Question: What has your personal encounter with Jesus been like, and how can you share that experience with others in your daily life?

Quote: We could not keep that to ourselves. We told everyone that we came in contact with. Did some of them believe? Yes. Did some of them doubt us? Sure. But we had to do what was in our heart.

Prayer: Lord, fill my heart with such joy and gratitude for what You've done in my life that I can't help but share it with others. Give me courage to tell my story and trust You with the results. Help me to be a faithful witness like those first shepherds. Amen.

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Day 4: From Ordinary to Extraordinary

Devotional: That night changed everything for the shepherds. They went from being ordinary workers to being part of the greatest story ever told. But here's the beautiful thing—their circumstances didn't change. They were still shepherds the next day. They still had the same job, the same social status, the same daily challenges. What changed was their perspective and their purpose. This is how God works in our lives. When we encounter Jesus, He doesn't necessarily change our circumstances immediately, but He transforms our hearts and gives us new purpose. The shepherds discovered that their ordinary lives had extraordinary meaning because they were part of God's plan. Maybe your life feels mundane or routine. Perhaps you're wondering if what you do really matters in the grand scheme of things. The shepherds' story reminds us that there are no ordinary people in God's kingdom—only ordinary people whom God uses for extraordinary purposes. Your job, your family responsibilities, your daily interactions—all of these become opportunities to reflect God's love and share His truth. You don't need to wait for your circumstances to change to live an extraordinary life. When Jesus enters your heart, every ordinary moment becomes an opportunity for His glory to shine through you.

Bible Verse: 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' - John 10:10

Reflection Question: How can you begin to see your current circumstances and daily responsibilities as opportunities for God to work through you in extraordinary ways?

Quote: And so that night changed everything from ordinary to extraordinary, from something very mundane to something exceptional.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for coming to give me abundant life. Help me to see that my ordinary days can be extraordinary when lived for You. Transform my perspective and fill my life with Your purpose and joy. Amen.

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Day 5: You Are the Reason He Came

Devotional: If you've ever felt like an outsider, like you don't quite fit in, or wondered if your life really matters, remember this: you are exactly the reason Jesus came to earth. The shepherds were outsiders too—society's forgotten people whose voices didn't count. Yet God chose them to be the first to hear the good news because Jesus came specifically for people like them... and like us. Jesus didn't come for the perfect, the powerful, or the put-together. He came to seek and save the lost, to bring hope to the hopeless, and to offer abundant life to anyone who feels empty or forgotten. The God of heaven knows every detail about you—He even knows the number of hairs on your head. You matter to Him more than you can imagine. When Jesus enters your life, you're no longer walking alone. Yes, you'll still face struggles and problems, but you'll have the presence and power of God with you. You'll discover a fullness of love and joy that the world can't give or take away. Your life has meaning and purpose because you are deeply loved by the Creator of the universe. This Christmas season, don't let feelings of inadequacy or insignificance rob you of the joy that's yours in Christ. You are not forgotten. You are not overlooked. You are the very reason the Son of God left heaven's glory to be born in a stable. That's how much you matter to Him.

Bible Verse: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' - Luke 19:10

Reflection Question: How does knowing that you are personally the reason Jesus came to earth change the way you see yourself and your worth?

Quote: And you may come in here thinking, who cares about my life? Well, the God of heaven cares about you. He cares so much about you, he's got your hair numbered.

Prayer: Father, thank You for loving me so much that You sent Your Son for me personally. Help me to truly believe that I matter to You and that my life has purpose and meaning. Fill me with Your love and joy today. Amen.

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