

A FOUR-PART CHRISTMAS SERIES

Sermon Outline Collection

From anticipation to adoration, follow the promise of Christ through waiting, announcement, arrival, and worship.

01 **The Anticipation**
Luke 1:5-25; Isaiah 9:2-7

02 **The Announcement**
Luke 1:26-38

03 **The Arrival**
Luke 2:1-7, 11

04 **The Adoration**
Matthew 2:1-11

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Concise preaching outlines with Scripture references and brief point summaries. Develop each message for your own congregation.

WEEK 01 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Anticipation

Primary Scripture: Luke 1:5-25; Isaiah 9:2-7

Central idea: God is at work in seasons of darkness and waiting. His promises invite hope, steady obedience, and openness to His purposes.

Opening direction: Set Israel's longing for the promised Savior alongside Zechariah and Elizabeth's personal waiting. Christmas begins with people looking for God to act.

1. Anticipation Is Born in the Darkness

Isaiah 9:2

Isaiah announces light to people living in darkness. Hope rests in God's promise before circumstances change; His people can trust Him while they wait.

2. Anticipation Grows in the Ordinary

Luke 1:8-10

Zechariah is faithfully carrying out his priestly service when God intervenes. Ordinary obedience matters, even when there is no visible sign of what God is preparing.

3. Anticipation Makes Room for God's Interruption

Luke 1:11-13

Gabriel announces that Zechariah's prayer has been heard. The promised birth of John connects a personal longing with God's larger redemptive purpose.

Closing response: Bring your waiting and unanswered prayers to God. Continue in faithfulness, trusting His timing and remaining open to His work.

Scripture references
Isaiah 9:2-7 (especially v. 2); Luke 1:5-25 (especially vv. 8-13).

WEEK 02 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Announcement

Primary Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Central idea: God's message to Mary begins with grace and calls for a response of trust in what only His power can accomplish.

Opening direction: Gabriel is sent to Nazareth with news that changes Mary's life. The promised Savior will come through a person and place the world would easily overlook.

1. God's Announcements Begin with Grace

Luke 1:28

Mary receives the assurance of God's favor and presence before hearing her assignment. God's initiative rests on His grace rather than human achievement.

2. God's Announcements Interrupt the Ordinary

Luke 1:26-29

God sends Gabriel into Mary's life in Nazareth, and his greeting troubles her. His purposes can reach into familiar settings and redirect the course of a life.

3. God's Announcements Always Carry Impossible Promises

Luke 1:34-37

The promised conception is beyond Mary's ability. Gabriel points her to the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High; fulfillment depends on God rather than human strength.

Closing response: Mary responds with willing submission in Luke 1:38. Invite a response of obedience to God's word even when the way forward is not fully understood.

Scripture references
Luke 1:26-38 (especially vv. 26, 28-29, 34-38).
Scripture allusion in the introduction: John 1:46 (Nazareth).

WEEK 03 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Arrival

Primary Scripture: Luke 2:1-7, 11

Central idea: Jesus arrives in humble circumstances with a saving purpose. His coming challenges our expectations and calls us to receive Him as Savior and Lord.

Opening direction: A Roman census brings Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. Luke places Jesus' birth within ordinary human events, where God's saving purpose unfolds.

1. God Arrives in Unexpected Ways

Luke 2:6

Jesus is born while Joseph and Mary are in Bethlehem. God's work does not wait for circumstances to look ideal or meet our expectations.

2. God Arrives in Unlikely Places

Luke 2:7

Mary lays her Son in a manger because there is no room for them in the inn. The humble setting reminds us that overlooked places and difficult circumstances do not limit God.

3. God Arrives with an Unstoppable Purpose

Luke 2:11

The child is announced as Savior, Christ, and Lord. His mission is to redeem and transform lives; receiving Him involves more than adding religious activity to an otherwise unchanged life.

Closing response: Invite people to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. Make room for His transforming work, including when it comes through unexpected circumstances.

Scripture references
Luke 2:1-7, 11 (opening reading: vv. 1-5; point texts: vv. 6, 7, 11).

WEEK 04 | PREACHING OUTLINE

The Adoration

Primary Scripture: Matthew 2:1-11

Central idea: The coming of Jesus calls for a response: seek Him, surrender to His authority, and offer Him your best.

Opening direction: The Magi come from the east to worship Jesus. Matthew describes their visit to a house; he does not specify their number or Jesus' exact age at the visit.

1. Adoration Seeks the King

Matthew 2:1-2; Matthew 10:39

The Magi act on their desire to find and worship Jesus. Seeking the King requires a willingness to leave comfort and surrender competing priorities.

2. Adoration Bows Before the King

Matthew 2:10-11

Their joy leads them to fall before Jesus in worship. Adoration acknowledges His authority and moves beyond admiration into personal surrender.

3. Adoration Offers Our Best

Matthew 2:11

The Magi open their treasures and present costly gifts. Their generosity prompts us to consider how obedience, time, trust, and possessions can express devotion to Christ.

Closing response: Ask what is still being held back from Jesus. Call for a concrete response of seeking, surrender, and generous obedience.

Scripture references
Matthew 2:1-11 (especially vv. 1-3, 7, 10-11); Matthew 2:16 (visit timeline context); Matthew 10:39.