



C. Commitment **P.** Precedes **R.** Resources

Extending and Keeping Christmas Alive Through Commitment

We all know the feeling of waiting—those extended seasons that test our patience and faith, like Advent, where we long for God to answer, to show up, and to make a way. And when God finally moves, when the breakthrough happens, we don't want it to be a fleeting moment. We want to savor it, to dwell in it, to experience the joy and fulfillment for more than just a brief season.

But isn't it true that in life, so often, our successes and victories feel like they only come in short, fleeting bursts? We find ourselves yearning for something more—for a season of fulfillment that doesn't just end as quickly as it began. That longing leads us to ask: What would it look like to have an extended Christmas?



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We all want something more. We're tired of fleeting moments of joy, success, and breakthroughs that vanish as quickly as they appear. We want an extended Christmas—a season where God's peace, joy, and power don't just show up for a moment but linger, grow, and transform our lives.

But here's the truth: extended seasons of fulfillment only come after extended seasons of commitment. That's why Christmas Needs CPR—Commitment Precedes Resources.

So here's the question we need to answer as we step into 2025: What are the commitments we're avoiding that keep us from accessing the life God has for us?

1. **Are we avoiding the commitment to consistency—showing up fully and faithfully, even when it feels inconvenient?** (January: What Does True Commitment Look Like?)
2. **Are we avoiding the commitment to perseverance—pushing past setbacks, distractions, and challenges instead of giving up too soon?** (February: Commitment Means Refusing to Be Derailed)
3. **Are we avoiding the commitment to trust—choosing God's word over our fears, feelings, and doubts?** (March: Commitment Means Trusting God Over Your Emotions)
4. **Are we avoiding the commitment to sacrifice—letting go of comfort, habits, or relationships that block us from God's purpose?** (April: Commitment Means Sacrifice Before Success)

God's resources—His joy, peace, provision, purpose, and power—flow through our commitment. Without CPR, Christmas becomes fleeting. But with CPR, Christmas becomes extended and lives beyond the seasonal excitements of our answered prayers.

This year, from January to April, we're dedicating ourselves to a trimester-long focus: "We Want an Extended Christmas, but Christmas Needs CPR." This is more than a teaching series—it's a call to action, a season of transformation. We're moving from Advent waiting to New Year commitment, and as we push through this season together, we'll discover what it means to truly live with more of Jesus.

Our first trimester of 2025 is about learning how Commitment Precedes Resources so we can live in the divine overflow of an extended Christmas that lives beyond a month of conjured up seasonal excitement.

January:

What Does True Commitment Look Like?



The Magi's Journey to Worship Jesus

(Matthew 2:1-12)

January Weekly Themes: The Magi's Commitment to the Journey

Week 1: Commitment Requires Faith in the Unseen

The Magi followed a star without guarantees, trusting God to lead them. Their journey inspires us to step out in faith, even when the destination is unclear. True commitment begins with trusting God's promises, knowing that He is faithful to lead us toward His purpose. Embrace faith today—don't wait for clarity when God is calling you forward.

- *The Magi followed the star without knowing exactly where it would lead. Their faith teaches us to trust God when the path ahead is unclear.*

Week 2: Commitment Perseveres Through Opposition

The Magi faced Herod's deceit and the challenges of a long journey, yet they remained undeterred. Their perseverance teaches us to push through fear, opposition, and setbacks, knowing that God's purpose is greater than any obstacle. When challenges arise, trust God to guide and protect you as you stay committed to His call.

- *They overcame Herod's manipulation and the difficulties of the journey. This mirrors the resilience we need to stay faithful amidst challenges.*

Week 3: Commitment Values the Journey Over the Destination

The Magi's journey was as important as their arrival. They grew in faith and discernment along the way. This reminds us that God uses the process to shape us. Commitment isn't just about reaching the goal but about allowing God to refine us through the journey. Trust Him and enjoy the process—He's working in every step.

- *The Magi's growth along the way reflects how God shapes us through commitment, not just the outcome.*

Week 4: Commitment Leads to True Worship

The Magi's journey culminated in worship—they gave Jesus their best gifts and their hearts. Their story reminds us that true commitment always leads to worship, where we offer God our lives in gratitude and surrender. When we give our all to Him, we experience His presence in transformative ways. Worship Him today with your whole heart.

- *Their ultimate goal wasn't just to reach Jesus but to worship Him. Commitment is fulfilled in giving our best to God.*

The Magi's Journey

Mary & Joseph's Journey

The Shepherds' Journey

Anna's Prophecy



Week 1 (January 6 - 10): Commitment Requires Faith in the Unseen

Monday: Trust the Star	Matthew 2:2 – “We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi followed a star without knowing the outcome. Faith often requires trusting God’s direction before understanding His plan.
Tuesday: Walk by Faith	Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi’s faith pleased God and guided them to Jesus. Follow Him with unwavering faith in the unseen.
Wednesday: Guided by God’s Hand	Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi trusted God to guide their journey. Trust Him to lead you to His purpose.
Thursday: Trust Over Certainty	2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we live by faith, not by sight.”	Devotional Thought: Faith is about trusting God, even when the path ahead isn’t clear.
Friday: Rewarded by the Savior	Matthew 2:11 – “They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi’s faith led them to the ultimate reward—Jesus. Faithful commitment always brings us closer to Him.

Week 2 (January 13 - 17): Commitment Perseveres Through Opposition

Monday: Discern and Persevere	Matthew 2:3 – “When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi navigated Herod’s deceit with discernment. Stay committed even when faced with opposition.
Tuesday: Protected by God	Psalms 32:7 – “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble.”	Devotional Thought: God shielded the Magi as they obeyed His call. Trust Him to protect you when challenges arise.
Wednesday: Obedience Over Fear	Isaiah 41:10 – “Do not fear, for I am with you.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi obeyed God despite fear of Herod. Trusting God’s presence gives you courage.
Thursday: Stay the Course	2 Timothy 1:7 – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid.”	Devotional Thought: The Spirit empowers us to persevere through fear and challenges. Stay the course in God’s power.
Friday: Deliverance Through Discernment	Matthew 2:12 – “They returned to their country by another route.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi discerned God’s warning and obeyed. Commitment means listening to God’s guidance.

Week 3 (January 20 - 24): Commitment Values the Journey Over the Destination

Monday: Embrace the Process	James 1:4 – “Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi’s journey shaped them. Trust God to mature you through the process of commitment.
Tuesday: Growth in the Journey	Philippians 1:6 – “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.”	Devotional Thought: The journey itself refines you. Stay committed as God completes His work in you.
Wednesday: Trusting God’s Timing	Ecclesiastes 3:1 – “There is a time for everything.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi’s journey required patience. Trust God’s timing for the fulfillment of His promises.
Thursday: Lessons on the Path	Psalm 25:4 – “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.”	Devotional Thought: God teaches us as we walk with Him. Embrace the lessons He gives during the journey.
Friday: Journey to Worship	Matthew 2:10 – “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.”	Devotional Thought: The journey to Jesus brought joy to the Magi. Commitment brings us closer to Him.

Week 4 (January 27 - 31): Commitment Leads to True Worship

Monday: Give Your Best	Matthew 2:11 – “Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”	Devotional Thought: The Magi’s gifts represented their best. True worship requires giving your all to Jesus.
Tuesday: Worship in Spirit and Truth	John 4:24 – “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”	Devotional Thought: Worship is an act of spirit-led commitment. Let your life be an offering to God.
Wednesday: Sacrifice as Worship	Romans 12:1 – “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.”	Devotional Thought: Worship isn’t just a song; it’s a surrendered life. Commit your whole being to Him.
Thursday: Joy in Worship	Psalm 100:2 – “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”	Devotional Thought: True commitment leads to joyful worship. Rejoice in giving your all to God.
Friday: Worship Transforms	2 Corinthians 3:18 – “We are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.”	Devotional Thought: Worship transforms us into Christ’s image. Let your commitment to worship shape your life.

February:

Commitment Means Refusing to Be Derailed



Mary and Joseph's Journey to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)

Commitment is tested by distractions, fear, and challenges, and requires faith and resilience. Mary and Joseph's journey to Egypt shows us that true commitment means trusting God even when obedience disrupts comfort or requires sacrifice. We must remain committed by refusing to let obstacles, fear, or discomfort derail us from God's purpose.

February Weekly Themes: Refusing to be Derailed

Week 1: Commitment Requires Urgent Obedience

When Joseph received the angel's command to flee to Egypt, he obeyed immediately, trusting God's guidance without hesitation. His urgent obedience reminds us that true commitment often requires immediate action, even when it disrupts our plans. Today, listen for God's direction and respond with faith, trusting that His timing is perfect.

- **Joseph's immediate response to the angel's command highlights the need for decisive faith. True commitment acts when God speaks.**

Week 2: Commitment Means Leaving Comfort Behind

Mary and Joseph left their home and stability to protect Jesus. Their journey shows that commitment often requires stepping away from what feels safe and familiar. God calls us to trust Him in the unknown, knowing that He will sustain and guide us. Release your hold on comfort today, and embrace the adventure of faith.

- **The couple left their home and stability for an uncertain journey. This demonstrates the trust needed to follow God into the unknown.**

Week 3: Commitment Trusts God Amid Threats

Herod's hostility forced Mary and Joseph to depend completely on God for safety. Their faith inspires us to trust God's provision when circumstances feel threatening or uncertain. When you feel vulnerable or overwhelmed, lean into God's presence and remember that His plans for you are secure.

- **Herod's pursuit made the journey dangerous, but they trusted God's plan and protection.**

Week 4: Commitment Is Sustained by God's Faithfulness

The journey to Egypt was long and uncertain, but Mary and Joseph were sustained by their trust in God's faithfulness. Commitment isn't about our strength but His. When you feel weary, remember that God never fails to uphold those who trust Him. Rest in His faithfulness today, and keep moving forward.

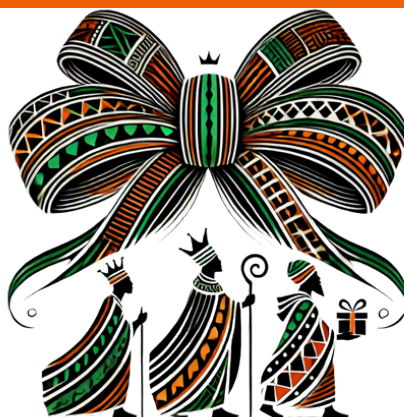
- **The entire journey was marked by their reliance on God's unwavering faithfulness, a model for enduring difficult seasons.**

The Magi's Journey

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Week 1 (February 3 - 7): Commitment Requires Urgent Obedience

<p>Monday: Obedience Without Hesitation</p>	<p>James 1:22 – “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Joseph didn’t delay when the angel spoke. Immediate obedience shows trust in God’s plan, even when it interrupts your comfort. Act when God calls, knowing His direction is always timely and purposeful.</p>
<p>Tuesday: Faith in the Unseen Path</p>	<p>Hebrews 11:8 – “By faith Abraham obeyed when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Joseph had no idea how long they would be in Egypt, but he trusted God to reveal the next step. True commitment means moving forward in faith, even when you don’t see the full picture.</p>
<p>Wednesday: God’s Protection in Obedience</p>	<p>Psalms 91:1 – “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Leaving everything behind was risky, but Joseph trusted God’s warning to protect his family. Obedience activates God’s promises. Trust Him to safeguard you as you follow His lead.</p>
<p>Thursday: Courage to Follow</p>	<p>Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Obedience requires courage, especially when the path ahead is uncertain. Like Joseph, trust that God equips you for every step of the journey He calls you to take.</p>
<p>Friday: Obedience Unlocks Blessings</p>	<p>Isaiah 1:19 – “If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Joseph’s obedience preserved Jesus’ life and fulfilled prophecy. When you obey God, even in small things, you open the door for Him to work powerfully through your life.</p>

Week 2 (February 10 - 14): Commitment Means Leaving Comfort Behind

<p>Monday: Trust in Transition</p>	<p>Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Leaving their home for Egypt disrupted Mary and Joseph’s life, but they trusted God in the transition. Let go of the familiar to embrace the greater purpose God has for you.</p>
<p>Tuesday: Discomfort for a Greater Purpose</p>	<p>Romans 8:18 – “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Obedience often requires stepping out of your comfort zone. Like Mary and Joseph, trust that God’s plans outweigh temporary discomfort.</p>
<p>Wednesday: Faith in the Unknown</p>	<p>Isaiah 41:10 – “Do not fear, for I am with you.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Mary and Joseph didn’t know what Egypt held, but they trusted God’s provision. Release fear of the unknown and trust God to provide as you follow His direction.</p>
<p>Thursday: Sacrifice Leads to Growth</p>	<p>James 1:2-4 – “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Stepping away from comfort stretches your faith and deepens your trust in God. The journey to Egypt wasn’t easy, but it prepared Mary and Joseph for what was ahead.</p>
<p>Friday: Secure in God’s Plan</p>	<p>Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Even when they left everything behind, Mary and Joseph were secure in God’s purpose. Sacrifice is never wasted when you’re following His call.</p>

Week 3 (February 17 - 21): Commitment Trusts God Amid Threats

<p>Monday: Trust in His Protection</p>	<p>2 Thessalonians 3:3 – “But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Herod’s threat loomed over Mary and Joseph, but they trusted God’s guidance. When you feel surrounded by challenges, remember that God is your fortress and shield.</p>
<p>Tuesday: God’s Plans Cannot Be Overthrown</p>	<p>Proverbs 19:21 – “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Herod tried to stop God’s plan, but his efforts failed. Trust that no enemy can derail what God has purposed for your life. Stand firm in His promises.</p>
<p>Wednesday: Faith Over Fear</p>	<p>2 Timothy 1:7 – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Mary and Joseph could have been paralyzed by fear, but they chose faith. Don’t let fear keep you from trusting God’s ability to bring you through every trial.</p>
<p>Thursday: God’s Guidance in Danger</p>	<p>Psalms 32:8 – “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The angel’s warning directed Joseph’s steps and protected Jesus. When danger arises, trust God to provide wisdom and clarity to navigate through safely.</p>
<p>Friday: Confidence in God’s Sovereignty</p>	<p>Romans 8:31 – “If God is for us, who can be against us?”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Even in the face of threats, God’s sovereignty ensured Mary and Joseph’s safety. Trust that He is in control, no matter what opposition you face.</p>

Week 4 (February 24 - 28): Commitment Is Sustained by God’s Faithfulness

<p>Monday: Faithful Through the Journey</p>	<p>Hebrews 10:23 – “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: God was faithful to guide Mary and Joseph every step of the way to Egypt. Trust His faithfulness to sustain you in the journey He’s called you to.</p>
<p>Tuesday: Provision in the Wilderness</p>	<p>Philippians 4:19 – “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: In Egypt, God provided for Mary and Joseph in an unfamiliar land. Trust that He will meet your needs, even in seasons of uncertainty or challenge.</p>
<p>Wednesday: Strength for the Long Haul</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:29 – “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The journey to Egypt wasn’t easy, but God gave them strength to endure. His faithfulness empowers you to stay committed, no matter how long the journey.</p>
<p>Thursday: God’s Covenant of Love</p>	<p>Psalms 100:5 – “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: God’s faithfulness is rooted in His love for us. Just as He kept His promise to protect Jesus, He is faithful to fulfill His covenant in your life.</p>
<p>Friday: Rest in His Faithfulness</p>	<p>Lamentations 3:22-23 – “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Commitment is sustained by knowing that God never fails. When you feel weary, rest in His unchanging character and let His faithfulness renew your strength.</p>

March: Trusting God Over Your Emotions



The Shepherds Trusting the Angel's Message (Luke 2:8-20)

The shepherds' immediate response to the angel's announcement shows the power of trusting God over emotions. They set aside fear, doubt, and hesitation to follow God's call. Faith, not feelings, keeps us committed to God's purpose. Trusting God over emotions allows us to see His promises fulfilled and to share in His joy and glory.

March Weekly Themes: Faith Over Emotions

Week 1: Faith Overrides Fear

The shepherds were terrified when the angel appeared, but their fear didn't stop them from obeying the message to seek the Savior. Instead, they let faith override their fear, trusting that God's message was worth following. When we choose faith over fear, we position ourselves to witness God's promises in action.

- **Let faith lead you when fear threatens to paralyze you. God's plans are always greater than your fears, and He will meet you on the other side of your trust.**

Week 2: Obedience Despite Negative Perceptions

The shepherds left their flocks, their livelihood, and what made sense in the moment to follow the angel's message. To others, this may have seemed foolish or irresponsible, but their obedience led them to Jesus. When we obey God despite what others think or how situations appear, we step into His greater purpose for our lives.

- **Don't let appearances or opinions hold you back. God's path often defies logic, but obedience always leads to blessings beyond what you can imagine.**

Week 3: Persist When Your Efforts Don't Change Your Emotional State

The shepherds had no guarantee of what they'd find when they reached Bethlehem, yet they persisted in their journey. Similarly, our emotions may not immediately align with our obedience, but faithfulness isn't about feelings—it's about trusting that God is at work, even when we don't see or feel the results.

- **Keep going when your emotions say stop. Trust that God is moving behind the scenes, shaping something extraordinary as you stay committed to His call.**

Week 4: Anchor Your Emotions in God's Truth

The shepherds' joy at seeing Jesus stemmed from their faith in God's promise, not their feelings during the journey. They anchored their trust in the truth of God's Word delivered through the angel. When we build our lives on God's promises, we find peace and stability, no matter what emotions arise.

- **Anchor your heart in the unchanging truth of God's Word. Let His promises guide you, providing clarity and joy, even when emotions fluctuate.**

The Magi's Journey

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Week 1 (March 3 - 7): Commitment Requires Urgent Obedience

<p>Monday: Fear Has No Final Say</p>	<p>Isaiah 41:10 – “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds may have initially felt afraid when the angel appeared, but God’s reassurance turned their fear into faith. Trust God’s presence to sustain you when fear arises.</p>
<p>Tuesday: Courage Over Fear</p>	<p>2 Timothy 1:7 – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds overcame fear to follow God’s word. Courage is not the absence of fear but the decision to trust God more.</p>
<p>Wednesday: Faith That Acts</p>	<p>Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds acted on faith without seeing the full picture. Faith means stepping forward, trusting God’s promise even when you don’t understand it all.</p>
<p>Thursday: God’s Peace Over Fear</p>	<p>John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: God’s peace calms fear. Just as the angel declared peace to the shepherds, God’s promises bring calm to anxious hearts.</p>
<p>Friday: Trust in God’s Plan</p>	<p>Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds trusted the angel’s message and followed God’s plan. Let your trust in God’s faithfulness outweigh the fear of the unknown.</p>

Week 2 (March 10 - 14): Obedience Despite Negative Perceptions

<p>Monday: Trust Beyond What You See</p>	<p>Isaiah 30:21 – “Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds trusted the angel’s word over their doubts or circumstances. Trust God to guide you, even when His path doesn’t align with what you see or feel.</p>
<p>Tuesday: Walk in Faithful Obedience</p>	<p>Hebrews 11:8 – “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out... not knowing where he was going.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Like Abraham, the shepherds obeyed God without guarantees. Faithful obedience means stepping forward, trusting that God’s promises will come to pass.</p>
<p>Wednesday: God’s Truth Over Feelings</p>	<p>Numbers 23:19 – “God is not human, that he should lie... Does he promise and not fulfill?”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds might have felt unworthy, but they trusted God’s message. Anchor yourself in His truth, knowing His word is always reliable.</p>
<p>Thursday: Obey in the Face of Doubt</p>	<p>Judges 6:14 – “Go in the strength you have and save Israel. Am I not sending you?”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: Gideon doubted, but God’s assurance gave him courage to obey. Like the shepherds, trust God’s strength to fulfill what He’s calling you to do.</p>
<p>Friday: Faith That Pleases God</p>	<p>Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please God.”</p>	<p>Devotional Thought: The shepherds pleased God through their faith and obedience. Trusting God over your emotions demonstrates true commitment to His plans.</p>

Week 3 (March 17 - 21): Persist When Your Efforts Don't Change Your Emotional State

Monday: Obedience Over Emotions	Psalm 119:105 – “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds might not have felt instantly different, but they obeyed God’s word. Trust His guidance, even when your emotions lag behind.
Tuesday: Trust in God’s Process	Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest.”	Devotional Thought: Emotional transformation often takes time. Trust that God is working as you remain faithful to His call, even when results aren’t immediate.
Wednesday: Keep Going in Faith	Habakkuk 2:3 – “For the revelation awaits an appointed time... Though it linger, wait for it.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds continued their journey despite uncertainty. Persist in obedience, trusting God’s promises will be fulfilled in His perfect time.
Thursday: Strength in Obedience	Deuteronomy 31:8 – “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you.”	Devotional Thought: God’s presence strengthens us when our emotions fail. Like the shepherds, rely on His constant presence to sustain you through obedience.
Friday: Hope That Sustains	Romans 8:25 – “But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”	Devotional Thought: Trusting God means persisting with hope, even when your emotional state doesn’t match your faith. Let His promises sustain you.

Week 4 (March 24 - 28): Anchor Your Emotions in God’s Truth

Monday: Steady in God’s Word	Matthew 7:24 – “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds anchored their trust in God’s message, not their feelings. Build your life on the unshakable foundation of God’s Word.
Tuesday: God’s Truth Prevails	John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds’ response shows how God’s truth overrides fear or doubt. Let His truth reframe your emotions and redirect your path.
Wednesday: Light for the Journey	Psalm 18:28 – “You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”	Devotional Thought: God’s Word illuminates our way, even in emotional darkness. Anchor yourself in His promises and walk in His light.
Thursday: Stability in His Promises	Joshua 23:14 – “Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds trusted the angel’s promise of peace and salvation. Rest in the stability of God’s fulfilled promises and let them guide your emotions.
Friday: God’s Word Transforms	Romans 12:2 – “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”	Devotional Thought: The shepherds’ encounter with Jesus transformed their perspective. Let God’s Word renew your mind and emotions, grounding you in His truth.

April: Commitment Means Sacrifice Before Success



Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)

Anna's unwavering commitment demonstrates that sacrifice often precedes success. Her life of prayer, fasting, and devotion in the temple reflects a heart surrendered to God's purpose. Though she endured loss and loneliness, her faithfulness was rewarded when she encountered Jesus. Spiritual success is born from sacrificial living—trusting God through the waiting, surrendering our plans, and dedicating ourselves fully to His purpose.

April Weekly Themes: Sacrifice & Surrender Before Success

Week 1: Let Go of Your Own Plans

Anna could have chosen a different path after losing her husband, but instead, she surrendered her life to God's plan. Her faithfulness allowed her to witness the Messiah and share His arrival. Letting go of our own plans creates space for God to accomplish His divine purpose in us.

- **Release control and trust God's direction. His plans far exceed what you could ever imagine, leading to a purpose greater than your own desires.**

Week 2: Deny Yourself Daily

Anna's life of fasting and prayer shows that daily self-denial isn't about losing but about gaining closeness to God. Her consistent surrender deepened her faith and prepared her for the extraordinary moment of seeing Jesus. True commitment requires a daily choice to prioritize God's will over our preferences.

- **Each day offers an opportunity to align with God's purpose through surrender. Make self-denial your daily act of worship, trusting that it brings you closer to His promises.**

Week 3: Trust God's Process Over Instant Results

Anna waited decades in the temple, trusting that her sacrifices would not be in vain. Her faith in God's process allowed her to experience the joy of seeing His promises fulfilled. Sacrifice often requires patience, knowing that God's timing is always perfect.

- **Trust that your sacrifices today are preparing you for God's blessings tomorrow. His process shapes your faith and aligns you with His perfect will.**

Week 4: See Sacrifice as a Pathway to Abundance

Anna's sacrifices led her to a moment of extraordinary abundance—encountering the Savior and proclaiming His arrival to others. What seemed like loss in her life became the key to spiritual fulfillment and impact. Sacrifice in God's kingdom is never wasted; it always leads to a greater harvest.

- **Embrace sacrifice as the pathway to experiencing God's abundance. Trust that what you give up for Him will be returned to you in ways far beyond your imagination.**

The Magi's Journey



Mary & Joseph's Journey



The Shepherds' Journey



Anna's Prophecy



Week 1 (April 7 - 11): Let Go of Your Own Plans

Monday: His Plans Are Higher	Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s life shows that surrendering our plans to God allows Him to work out a divine purpose greater than anything we could imagine.
Tuesday: Release Control	Proverbs 16:9 – “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”	Devotional Thought: Letting go of control doesn’t mean giving up; it means allowing God to guide you to His perfect outcome.
Wednesday: Seek His Will First	Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first his kingdom...”	Devotional Thought: Like Anna, prioritize God’s will over your own ambitions, trusting that He will provide all you need.
Thursday: God Writes Better Stories	Isaiah 55:8-9 – “For my thoughts are not your thoughts...”	Devotional Thought: Trusting God’s plans means surrendering your limited understanding and embracing His infinite wisdom.
Friday: Trust in the Lord’s Leading	Psalms 37:5 – “Commit your way to the Lord...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s faithfulness teaches us that surrendering to God opens the door to His greater purposes.

Week 2 (April 14 - 18): Obedience Despite Negative Perceptions

Monday: Follow His Example	Luke 9:23 – “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s life of self-denial reflects Jesus’ call to daily surrender. True discipleship starts with placing God’s will above our own.
Tuesday: Sacrifice Is Worship	Romans 12:1 – “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s daily devotion in the temple reminds us that sacrifice is an act of worship that draws us closer to God.
Wednesday: Strength Through Surrender	2 Corinthians 12:9 – “My grace is sufficient for you...”	Devotional Thought: Self-denial doesn’t weaken us—it creates space for God’s strength to work powerfully in our lives.
Thursday: Humility Brings Fulfillment	Philippians 2:7-8 – “He made himself nothing...”	Devotional Thought: Following Christ’s example of humility leads to spiritual fulfillment and deeper connection with God.
Friday: Daily Faithfulness	Revelation 2:10 – “Be faithful, even to the point of death...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s daily surrender brought eternal reward. Commit to daily faithfulness, trusting God’s eternal promises.

Week 3 (April 21 - 25): Trust God's Process Over Instant Results

Monday: Patience in the Process	James 1:3-4 – “The testing of your faith produces perseverance...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s decades of prayer show us that waiting isn’t wasted—it refines us for God’s greater purposes.
Tuesday: God’s Timing Is Perfect	Ecclesiastes 3:11 – “He has made everything beautiful in its time.”	Devotional Thought: Sacrifice often feels like delay, but God’s timing always brings beauty out of the waiting.
Wednesday: All Things Work Together	Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good...”	Devotional Thought: Trust that your sacrifices and struggles are part of God’s perfect plan to bring good into your life.
Thursday: Faith Grows in the Waiting	Habakkuk 2:3 – “For the revelation awaits an appointed time...”	Devotional Thought: The waiting period refines your faith, preparing you for the fulfillment of God’s promises.
Friday: Hold On to Hope	Psalms 27:14 – “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s unwavering hope teaches us that God rewards those who trust Him through the waiting.

Week 4 (March 28 - May 2): See Sacrifice as a Pathway to Abundance

Monday: Sacrifice Produces Harvest	John 12:24 – “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s sacrifices were like seeds that produced an abundant spiritual harvest when she encountered Jesus.
Tuesday: Abundance Through Obedience	Deuteronomy 28:2 – “All these blessings will come on you...”	Devotional Thought: Obedience to God’s call, no matter the cost, opens the door to His abundant blessings.
Wednesday: God Multiplies What You Surrender	Matthew 14:19-20 – “They all ate and were satisfied...”	Devotional Thought: God takes what you sacrifice and multiplies it for His glory, just as He did with Anna’s faithfulness.
Thursday: Giving Brings Blessing	Luke 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you...”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s life shows us that giving fully to God leads to an overflowing return of joy and fulfillment.
Friday: Life Through Surrender	Matthew 16:25 – “Whoever loses their life for me will find it.”	Devotional Thought: Anna’s sacrifices brought her the joy of seeing the Messiah. Your surrender leads to life and abundance in God’s kingdom.



CPR Teaching Concentration

Trimester Theme: Keeping Christmas Alive Commitment Proceeds Resources (CPR)

The CPR concentration focuses on helping participants deepen their understanding of commitment by aligning their lives with God's will, allowing them to access the spiritual resources necessary to thrive. This approach integrates the overarching biblical narratives (Magi, Mary and Joseph, Shepherds, and Anna) into practical applications, using reflection, discussion, and actionable challenges to foster spiritual growth.

Teaching Strategies for Sunday School

- Start with the Narrative: Open with the week's biblical narrative, helping participants visualize and connect emotionally with the story.
- Bridge to Application: Relate the narrative to modern life challenges (e.g., fear of the unknown, emotional distractions, delayed success).
 - Call to Action: Each teaching session ends with a call to action:
 - Commit to obeying God even when it's hard.
 - Surrender distractions or comforts.
 - Trust God over your emotions.
 - Embrace sacrifice as a path to spiritual abundance.

Sample CPR Weekly Schedule for Teaching Program

- Day 1: Introduction to the weekly theme with Scripture study.
- Day 2: Reflection on personal barriers (journaling or prayer activity).
- Day 3: Bible Study - Small group discussion on challenges to commitment.
- Day 4: Applying commitment through action (individual or group challenge).
- Day 5: Review and encouragement to prepare for Sunday's teaching.

Weekly Teaching Concentrations

Week 1: What Does True Commitment Look Like?

- Biblical Narrative: The Magi's Journey (Matthew 2:1-12)
- Key Question: What does it mean to give everything in pursuit of God?
 - Teaching Points:
 - Faith in unseen outcomes.
 - Embracing the journey over the result.
 - Overcoming obstacles like fear and deception.
 - Discussion:
 - Why is it difficult to commit fully without seeing the results?
 - How do we navigate challenges like the Magi did?
 - Practical Application:
 - Identify one area where you've held back from committing fully and take a step of faith this week.

Week 2: Commitment Means Refusing to Be Derailed

- Biblical Narrative: Mary and Joseph's Journey to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
- Key Question: How can we remain focused on God's call despite challenges?
 - Teaching Points:
 - Urgent obedience: Acting promptly on God's instruction.
 - Leaving comfort behind to follow God's purpose.
 - Trusting God amid threats or difficulties.
 - Discussion:
 - What distractions most often derail your commitment?
 - How can you practice resilience in obedience, like Mary and Joseph?
 - Practical Application:
 - Identify one "comfort" you need to surrender to remain focused on God's call.

Week 3: Commitment Means Trusting God Over Emotions

- Biblical Narrative: The Shepherds' Response to the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)
- Key Question: How can we prioritize faith over feelings in our commitment?
 - Teaching Points:
 - Immediate obedience to God's call, even when it disrupts routine.
 - Trusting God's promises over negative emotions.
 - Finding joy in sacrificial obedience.
 - Discussion:
 - How do emotions like fear or doubt affect your willingness to obey God?
 - What can you learn from the shepherds' immediate response?
 - Practical Application:
 - Write down one negative emotion you often battle and replace it with a Scripture-based truth this week.

Week 4: Commitment Means Sacrifice Before Success

- Biblical Narrative: Anna the Prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)
- Key Question: What role does sacrifice play in spiritual success?
 - Teaching Points:
 - Faithful commitment despite loss or delay.
 - Trusting God's timing over immediate results.
 - Seeing sacrifice as a pathway to abundance.
 - Discussion:
 - Why is it hard to see sacrifice as valuable in today's culture?
 - How did Anna's life demonstrate the reward of long-term faithfulness?
 - Practical Application:
 - Choose one "sacrifice" (time, comfort, resources) to offer to God this week and journal the outcome.