

find your way again? Has there been a time when that happened for you?

*My Faith Journal*, December 14, 2008

**Pageant Sunday**

8:30 – “DNA”

**Saturday, 12/20/08 – Read John 3:16-21**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: Light can sometimes be difficult for us. When light is too bright, it hurts our eyes and we look away. Too much sunshine can give us a sunburn. Sometimes the light exposes something we'd rather leave out of sight. Is there one hidden thing in your life that needs to be brought into the Light? ... Is there one truly trustworthy person with whom you could share it? ... This is not spiritual exhibitionism; it's not parading ourselves for all to see. But sometimes there is something hidden that needs to be shared with one safe and trustworthy person. In your prayer today, ask God to help you identify it.

**Sunday, 12/21/08 – Read Ephesians 5:8-15**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The coming of Christ is the coming of Light. When the Word became flesh (when the Word becomes flesh), the brilliance of God's light blazed forth into the world. All our Christmas decorations, all our twinkling little lights, are pointers which can direct us toward the shining of Christ's light. ... Have you experienced that this year when you've looked at the decorations? What were the feelings? Do you have a sense that Christ is shining on you?

**What do I hear God saying to me today?**

**What action do I intend to take this week?**

*Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life experience. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.*

**Word Become Flesh: Walk in the Light**

**Monday, 12/15/08 - Read John 1:14, 16-18**

My Observations \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: What we celebrate at Christmas is not just the birth of a baby -- as extraordinary as a baby's birth truly is! In the birth of Jesus, something more happened: God came to live among us. The Word of God, the Self-Expression of God, took up residence in human life. This is deeply mysterious. None of us really understands it at a rational or logical level. It's a mystery we ponder the way we wonder at the beauty of a sunset, the distance between stars, or the magnificence of a newly-born human. ... For a moment today, ponder that mystery for yourself and write down your thoughts and feelings.

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**Tuesday, 12/16/08 - Read 1 Corinthians 12:27 and John 14:11-12**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: In Jesus of Nazareth, the Word became flesh. A mystery to be sure. But it's even more mysterious than that! God's Word is still becoming flesh ... today ... in you ... in the faithful community. Today's readings remind us that we are Christ's body, the flesh in which God's Word resides. And Jesus himself insisted that we would continue his works. ... Christmas reminds us BOTH of God's coming into the world in Jesus AND of God's Word continually, and even today, becoming flesh in us. Christmas happened then; and Christmas is happening now. What's your response to this idea?

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**Wednesday, 12/17/08 - Read 1 John 1:5-10 (the first letter of John; not the gospel)**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: So ... what's it mean? How do we live as the embodiment of Christ, as God's Word made flesh, here and now? Today's reading suggests we "walk in the light"? What do you think it means to walk in the light? For yourself, name just one thing you'd be doing while walking in the light.

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**Thursday, 12/18/08 - Read 1 John 2:8-11**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Today's reading gives us another hint to help us follow up on yesterday's question: Walking in the light or living in the light has everything to do with loving a brother or a sister. Notice that (in today's reading) the loving is directed to one brother or one sister -- not to all brothers or all sisters. Who is that one person in your life right now toward whom your love needs to be expressed? When you are living in the light, how do you respond to that one person?

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**Friday, 12/19/08 - Read John 12:35-36**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_  
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A Question to Answer: Do you have a sense of direction in your life? That doesn't necessarily mean a detailed plan; it may be a general direction. The reading suggests that walking in the light and trusting the light (living the way of Divine Love) helps us know where we are going. Is that your experience? ... That doesn't mean that we don't sometimes get disoriented and uncertain of our next steps. What's it like for you when you get disoriented and uncertain? Does trusting the light help you