Simply Still

A SILENT NIGHT OF WORSHIP ADVENT 2025 IN PLACE OF THIS YEAR'S USUAL TEA, DINNER OR LADIES' NIGHT OUT, WHY NOT CONSIDER HOSTING A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GATHERING THAT REFRESHES A WOMAN'S SOUL - SIMPLY STILL.

THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A SACRED SPACE WHERE YOU CAN INVITE WOMEN TO PAUSE, REFLECT, AND EMBRACE THE STILLNESS THAT INVITES GOD'S PRESENCE AND RESTORES A FRESH WONDER OF HIS GREATEST GIFT – JESUS.

Hosting Ideas

WHERE TO HOST YOUR EVENT:

KEEP IT SIMPLE! SIMPLICITY IS THE BEAUTY OF THIS EVENT. HOST YOUR GATHERING IN A SPACE SUCH AS THE SANCTUARY OR ANOTHER WORSHIPFUL, INTIMATE ENVIRONMENT IN YOUR CHURCH.

ATMOSPHERE & DÉCOR:

DIM LIGHTING WITH JUST THE LIGHTS FROM THE CHRISTMAS TREE. YOU CAN ADD LANTERNS OR BATTERY-OPERATED CANDLES IF YOU NEED MORE LIGHTING. USE QUIET INSTRUMENTAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN THE BACKGROUND AS THE WOMEN ENTER THE SPACE.

ASSEMBLE WOMEN OUTSIDE THE MEETING SPACE FIRST, WITH THE DOORS TO THE EVENT AREA CLOSED. ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO POWER OFF THEIR ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE ENTERING. INVITE WOMEN TO ENTER IN SILENCE AND SPREAD OUT AROUND THE ROOM TO SIT ALONE. PLAN AN UNCOMPLICATED PROGRAM IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF SIMPLY STILL.

Worship Introduction

"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD!" PSALM 46:10

IN THE MIDDLE OF A SEASON THAT OFTEN RUSHES US - WHERE LISTS ARE LONG, CALENDARS ARE FULL, AND HEARTS CAN FEEL HURRIED - GOD OFFERS US A DIFFERENT INVITATION:

Be still.

THIS SIMPLE COMMAND ISN'T JUST ABOUT SILENCE - IT'S ABOUT TRUST. IT'S ABOUT LETTING GO OF CONTROL, STEPPING OUT OF THE NOISE, AND REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS GOD ... AND WE ARE NOT.

TONIGHT, WE ARE CREATING SPACE TO DO JUST THAT.

TO BREATHE. TO SLOW DOWN. TO REFLECT. TO REST IN THE PRESENCE OF A GOD WHO IS ALREADY NEAR.

AS WE PAUSE TOGETHER IN THIS SEASON OF ADVENT, WE REMEMBER THAT STILLNESS IS NOT EMPTY. IT IS FULL OF PEACE, HOPE, WONDER AND PRESENCE.

LET'S BEGIN WITH HEARTS THAT ARE WILLING TO BE QUIET ...
AND OPEN TO WHATEVER GOD WANTS TO SAY.



PONDER:

"BUT MARY TREASURED ALL THESE THINGS, GIVING CAREFUL THOUGHT TO THEM AND PONDERING THEM IN HER HEART." LUKE 2:19

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ANGELS' SONG, THE SHEPHERDS' EXCITEMENT, AND THE WONDER OF CHRIST'S BIRTH, MARY RESPONDED WITH SOMETHING RARE: SHE PAUSED. SHE DIDN'T RUSH TO EXPLAIN OR UNDERSTAND. SHE TREASURED. SHE PONDERED. SHE HELD THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WORK QUIETLY AND DEEPLY IN HER HEART.

THIS ADVENT SEASON, WE ARE INVITED TO DO THE SAME. TO PAUSE IN THE MIDST OF THE BUSYNESS. TO NOTICE THE SACRED MOMENTS. TO LISTEN FOR GOD'S WHISPER IN QUIET PLACES. TO TREASURE WHAT HE IS DOING, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND.

"PONDER" IS NOT PASSIVE - IT'S A HOLY STILLNESS THAT WELCOMES GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE. IT MEANS HOLDING SACRED THINGS CLOSE, EVEN WHEN THEY DON'T YET MAKE SENSE. IT MEANS SITTING IN WONDER RATHER THAN RUSHING TO CERTAINTY.

SIT WITH ONE OF THE PROMPTS PROVIDED AND JOURNAL YOUR HONEST REFLECTION.

Journal Prompts:

- WHAT ARE THE "THINGS" YOU ARE TREASURING THIS SEASON?
- WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WANT TO PONDER QUIETLY WITH HIM TODAY?
- HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW MARY'S EXAMPLE OF QUIET FAITH AND WONDER?
- WHAT ARE THE PROMISES OR TRUTHS YOU WANT TO HOLD ON TO THIS SEASON?
- WHAT IS GOD SHOWING YOU ABOUT HIMSELF IN THIS SEASON?
- WHAT ARE YOU CARRYING IN YOUR HEART THIS SEASON THAT NEEDS GOD'S PRESENCE AND PEACE?
- WHAT MIGHT GOD BE INVITING YOU TO SLOW DOWN AND NOTICE THIS CHRISTMAS?
- WHAT "SMALL" MOMENT THIS WEEK REVEALED SOMETHING SACRED TO YOU?
- WHAT IS GOD WHISPERING TO YOUR HEART IN THIS SEASON?
- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING ON GOD FOR RIGHT NOW?

PRAYER ORNAMENT:

CREATE A PERSONALIZED ORNAMENT THAT INCLUDES A WRITTEN PRAYER OR NAMES OF PEOPLE YOU ARE PRAYING FOR THIS SEASON.

INVITE THE LADIES TO COME AND PLACE THEIR PRAYER ORNAMENTS ON THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

NOTE: CLEAR PLASTIC FILLABLE ORNAMENTS CAN BE PURCHASED ON AMAZON OR AT A LOCAL CRAFT STORE.

HAVE STRIPS OF PAPER OR SCROLL-STYLE PARCHMENT PAPER FOR THE WOMEN TO WRITE THEIR PRAYER ON. PROVIDE A SELECTION OF RIBBON OR TWINE FOR HANGING.



"NAMES OF JESUS" REFLECTION WALL:

CREATE A DISPLAY OF NAMES OF JESUS: WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE, EMMANUEL, LIGHT OF THE WORLD, LAMB OF GOD, SAVIOR, ETC.

EACH NAME IS MORE THAN A TITLE - IT'S A PROMISE, AN INVITATION, AND A DECLARATION OF THE HOPE WE HAVE IN HIM.

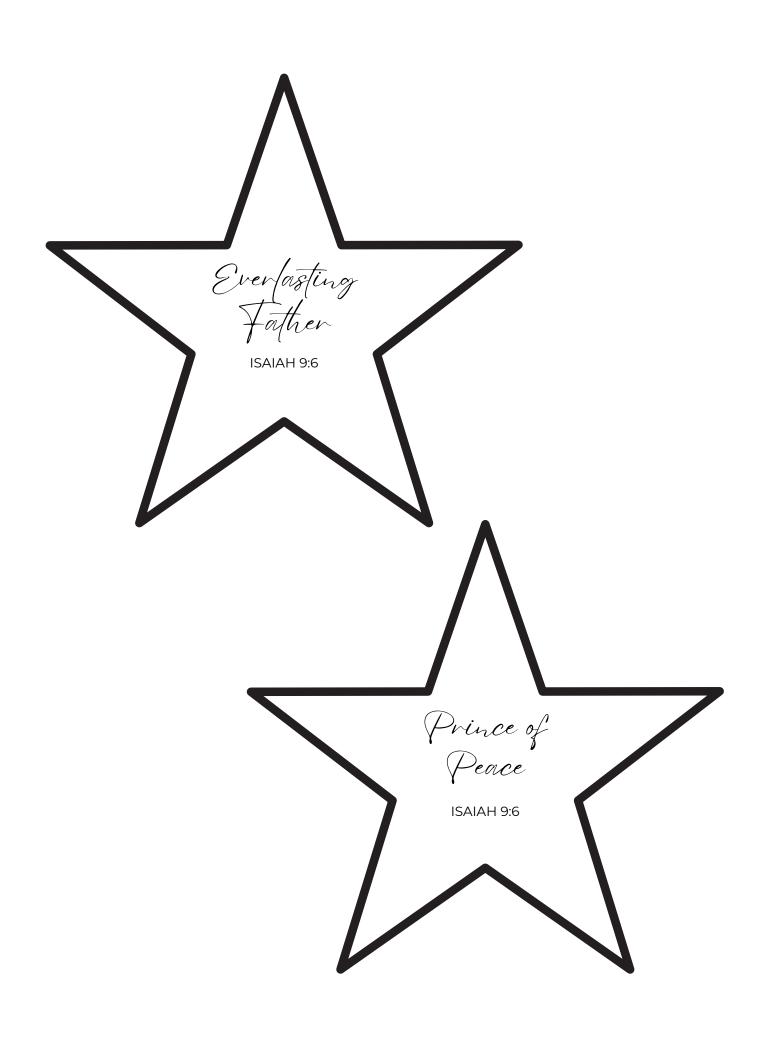
INVITE WOMEN TO REFLECT ON WHICH NAME SPEAKS MOST TO THEM. PROVIDE CARDS WHERE THEY CAN WRITE A NAME-BASED PRAYER.

EXAMPLE: "THIS CHRISTMAS, I NEED YOU TO BE MY [NAME OF JESUS] BECAUSE ..."



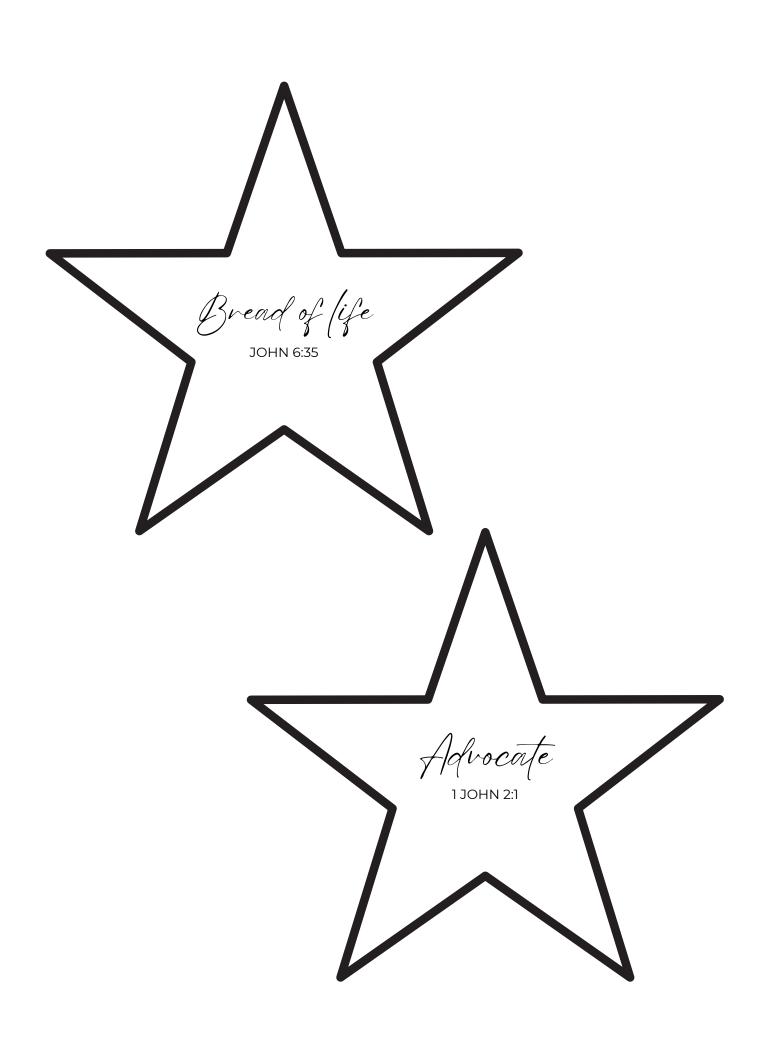






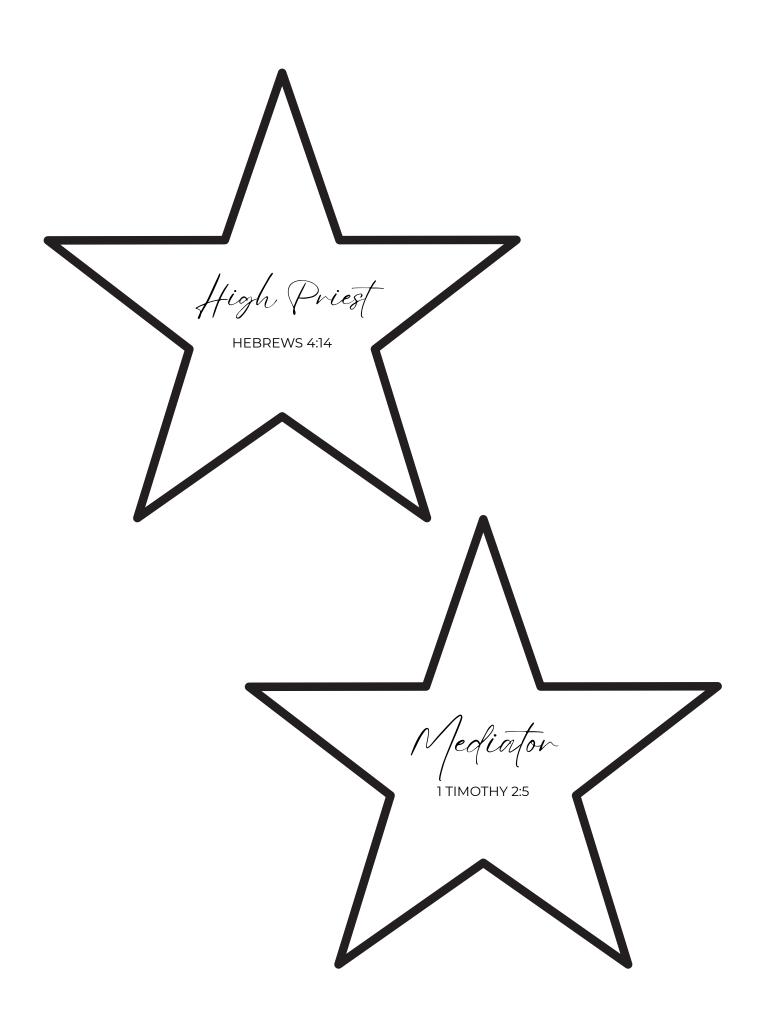












BREATH PRAYER:

IN BREATH PRAYERS WE PRACTICE THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF "BEING STILL" IN ORDER TO DRAW CLOSE TO GOD. WE SLOW DOWN OUR BREATHING BECAUSE THIS LITERALLY CALMS OUR PHYSICAL BODY, AND WE FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD.

CHOOSE YOUR BREATH PRAYER FROM THE CARDS PROVIDED.

SIT COMFORTABLY.

BREATHE IN DEEPLY AND SLOWLY THROUGH YOUR NOSE AND FEEL YOUR LUNGS FILL COMPLETELY.

THEN SLOWLY BREATHE OUT. EMPTY YOUR LUNGS SLOWLY AND FULLY.

MEDITATE ON THE WORDS OF THE SCRIPTURE AS YOUR BREATHE.

REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES, CALMING YOUR BODY AND MIND WITH EACH INTENTIONAL BREATH.

LET YOUR SOUL REST. LET YOUR HEART BE CONNECTED TO THE ONE WHO IS ALWAYS NEAR. MEDITATE ON THE WORDS AND LISTEN TO WHAT GOD MAY BE TELLING YOU THROUGH HIS WORD AS YOU PRAY TO HIM.

OTHER:

CHOOSE TO PLAY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (WORSHIPFUL CAROLS/SONGS) IN THE BACKGROUND. *SPOTIFY PLAYLIST PROVIDED.

INCLUDE A DEVOTIONAL, USING THE THEME OF "STILL - GOD'S INVITATION TO PAUSE" (BASED ON PSALM 46:10).

CONCLUDE WITH SILENT NIGHT PERFORMED BY A SOLOIST OR YOU CAN SING CORPORATELY, WITH LADIES LIGHTING A CANDLE. THIS WILL BE SYMBOLIC THAT IN THE MIDST OF A BUSY AND SOMETIMES LOUD SEASON, YOU ARE MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS TO SHINE IN YOUR LIFE.

Sample Worship Outline

OPENING WORDS & INTRODUCTION

PRAYER OF APPROACH

FOCUS

Mames of Jesus

FOCUS

Ponder like Mary

VIDEO: EMMANUEL

HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=S6H8WI5CZ6M

FOCUS

Breath Prayer

FOCUS:

Prayer Ornament

SILENT NIGHT
WITH READING OF LUKE 2:1-20
AND CANDLE LIGHTING

PRAYER