**‘Tis the Season**

**Part 1**

**How am I spiritually preparing myself for Christmas?**

1. **Am I preparing for Christmas as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**
2. **Am I preparing for Christmas as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?**

**How can I spiritually prepare for Christmas well?**

*When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron. Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations. They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to conceive, and they were both very old.*

Luke 1:5-7 (NLT)

1. **See the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the ordinary.**

*One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the incense was being burned, a great crowd stood outside, praying. While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer…”*

Luke 1:8-13a (NLT)

1. **Release \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”*

Luke 1:18 (NLT)

1. **Welcome the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”*

Luke 1:19-20 (NLT)