

# December 4

**Scripture:** [Micah 5:2-5](#)

When Israel heard that a ruler was coming to them, one who would save them from oppression, they probably imagined an incredibly strong leader who would rise up to take a king's throne in their capital city. He was likely thought of as a warrior who would overthrow Israel's captors and restore their freedom. But the promised Savior would be born quietly in the unassuming city of Bethlehem, into the most humble surroundings.

Bethlehem wasn't known for being mighty. It was a small town, a humble place associated with bread making (which is delicious, but valiant warriors aren't typically raised up in bakeries). Yet how often do we see in Scripture that it's the delight of God to bring greatness out of the unexpected? It was in Bethlehem generations before Jesus that God spoke to the prophet Samuel, "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." ([1 Samuel 16:7](#)) While the rest of the world may not have expected much of Bethlehem, God chose this quiet, unassuming place to be the first to encounter the long-awaited Messiah. From the start of New Life Church, our prayer has been that you would know you are seen and valued and the church isn't the same without you in it. We hope that as you've read these words about Bethlehem you are reminded that your place in the story of Christ is not unnoticed!

Today, focus on finding a few moments of quiet away from your typical routine. Reflect on God's attention and kindness. Remember that out of infinite options and possibilities, He chose to give His best for you. You are seen and loved wherever you are!