



WORSHIP FULLY

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burden and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

SPEND LESS

Before you think we're going all Scrooge on you, keep reading. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider spending less this Christmas (*maybe buying one less gift*). Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during advent.

GIVE MORE

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found in any store. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving. Sounds a lot better than getting a sweater two sizes too big, right?

LOVE ALL

When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined before. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. Advent Conspiracy has grown over the last two years into a global movement of distributing millions of dollars around the world to bring life and hope to the places in need. We offer light in the darkness, hope in the midst of despair.



Reclaiming Christmas

Find Worship

The story of Christ's birth is a subversive story of an upside-down kingdom!

The Origami of Christmas

- Personalized for personal enjoyment
- Twisted from its original purpose
- Emptied for its spiritual meaning

▶ *Immanuel* – God is with us!

The conspiracy is in the name ... and what the name means.

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46

▶ **Worship is not theater, it's a personal journey**

Religious people often take Jesus for granted. While the wise men worshipped in awe, the religious people were nowhere to be found. They misunderstood, miscalculated, and underestimated the humble beginnings from which salvation comes. Have you?

▶ **Worship restores joy, hope, and meaning to life**

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34

LET'S RECLAIM CHRISTMAS!

- (1) "It's a Boy!" Yard Sign
- (2) Advent Devotional for you and your family
- (3) Participate in Church-related events Cantata, Children's Pageant, and Caroling
- (4) Living Water Int., Poinsettias, Mitten Tree,

Matthew 2:1-8 (NCV)

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. When Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.² They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, as were all the people in Jerusalem. ⁴ Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law and asked them where the Christ would be born. ⁵ They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not just an insignificant village in Judah.

A ruler will come from you who will be like a shepherd for my people Israel.' " —

Micah 5:2

⁷ Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men and learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. ⁸ He sent the wise men to Bethlehem, saying, "Look carefully for the child. When you find him, come tell me so I can worship him too."

The story of Christ's birth is a subversive story of an upside-down kingdom. It's a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love that is still changing the world to this day. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling that we somehow missed its purpose.

Is this what we really want out of Christmas?

What if Christmas became a world-changing event again by turning our focus back to the birth of Christ? What could happen to your family if this focus was celebrated in loud, bold and totally unexpected ways? What if you could actually trade your season of stress for a season celebration and unbelievable memories with your friends and family? What if all of this could save a life at the same time? It can!

Did you catch that statistic? Every year 450 billion dollars are spent on Christmas. 450 billion dollars! Sixteen billion dollars are spent on holiday decorations alone. And every person, on average, spends \$850 on gifts. Of that...

- \$485 - Will be spent on family.
- \$120 - On yourself.
- \$90 - On friends.
- \$30 - On co-workers.
- \$60- On people like clergy, teachers, and baby sitters.
- \$30 - On greeting cards and postage. [*American Research Group*]