ADVENT & CHRISTMAS RESOURCES
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Advent Studies

A Different Kind of Christmas Living and Giving Like Jesus

A Different Kind of Christmas is a practical and inspirational study for the Advent season. Based on Mike Slaughter’s popular book Christmas Is Not Your Birthday, this five-week study will empower your family and your church to reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus’ birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring.

Five-week study offering churches ways to focus more on Jesus’ birth and less on consumerism. Resources are available for adults, youth and children.

Learn more at: https://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9781426753633/


Author Matt Rawle leads participants into a deeper dive into the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! including, how did the Grinch’s heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This church wide study includes a DVD, Leader Guide, Book, Worship Resources, Youth Book, and Children’s Leader Guide.

Learn more at: https://www.cokesbury.com/9781791018344-The-Heart-That-Grew-Three-Sizes-Leader-Kit
Books

Christmas on the Screen Reviewing the Evolution of American Spirituality

From *Miracle on 34th Street* to *Love Actually*, generations of Christmas films tell us about American spirituality and social values:

- How the Grinch Stole Christmas weighs materialism against community.
- The Polar Express tests the wonder of miracles in an age of cynicism.
- And Die Hard (yes, Die Hard) wrestles with the impact of broken relationships on holiday joy.

In *Christmas on the Screen*, journalist John A. Zukowski takes readers on a tour of Christmas films and American values, asking the question, “What does Christmas mean to us?”

Learn more at: https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/advent-resources/products/christmas-on-the-screen-reviewing-the-evolution-of-american-spirituality-zukowski

Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred

Discover 100 simple and fun Advent and Christmas family faith practices to put the holy back into the holiday season!

The holiday prayers, practices, and stories are grouped by different themes of the Advent and Christmas season, from Decorating, to Family Time, to Giving, to Telling the Story, and more. Practices include: *Making an Advent Wreath, Christmas Card Prayers, Hot Chocolate Gratitude Party, Year Round Christmas Gift, Silent Night Star Walk, Birthday Party for Jesus, Leaving Hay for Camels, Memory Box for the Year to Come,* and many, many more! There’s also a chapter titled “Difficult Moments” with prayers for when family leaves, when someone is in the hospital, when we miss someone, and more.

Learn more at: https://chalicepress.com/products/faithful-families-for-advent-and-christmas-100-ways-to-make-the-season-sacred

The Unicorn at the Manger | Animal Stories of the Holy Night (Revised in 2019)

Master storyteller Roger Robbennolt captures the hearts of people of all ages with magical stories of a hodgepodge crèche. This collection of interwoven tales begins when a ceramic unicorn is added to the manger scene—because, of course, “no one should ever desert a unicorn on Christmas Eve.” With the unicorn’s help, tales unfold: “The Outcast Pig,” “The Goat Who Gave,” “The Gobbling Clown,” “The Ram Who
Remained,” and twelve more stories of the roles animals played in the birth and life of Jesus.

Whether you read these imaginative tales to yourself or read them aloud with children, The Unicorn at the Manger will bring joy and wonder for years to come. Learn more at: https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/advent-resources/products/the-unicorn-at-the-manger-animal-stories-of-the-holy-night
Christmas Activity Ideas

**Drive-Through Journey to Bethlehem**

Due to the limitations on indoor worship during the COVID-19 pandemic, we dreamed up a way for people to safely enter into the Christmas story. We created a Journey to Bethlehem drive-through experience—think about it as Stations of the Nativity.

Learn more at: [https://buildfaith.org/drive-through-journey-to-bethlehem/](https://buildfaith.org/drive-through-journey-to-bethlehem/)

**Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas 2021-22 from Sparkhouse**

Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go.


**Let's Make a Jesse Tree!**

Easy step-by-step instructions for making a Jesse Tree Advent calendar.

Let's Make a Jesse Tree! contains easy step-by-step instructions for making a Jesse Tree Advent calendar, plus 25 Bible readings for family use. Children learn the Christmas story from the Bible as they add each new symbol to their Jesse Tree Advent calendar.

Learn more at: [https://www.cokesbury.com/9780687214396-Lets-Make-a-Jesse-Tree](https://www.cokesbury.com/9780687214396-Lets-Make-a-Jesse-Tree)

**Christmas Pageant**

**Do Not Be Afraid: Illustrated Ministry 2021 Christmas Pageant**

This resource has been designed to meet Christmas pageant needs, whether you’re doing an in-person or virtual pageant. Centered on the narratives surrounding Jesus’ birth from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, this can be used as a traditional Christmas pageant, ready to be performed in person at your church. But it is also designed to be an expandable, shrinkable, pre-recordable, Zoom-able, intergenerational pageant that can be adapted to your setting, no matter what is happening in the world.

Learn more at: [https://store.illustratedministry.com/products/do-not-be-afraid-a-christmas-pageant](https://store.illustratedministry.com/products/do-not-be-afraid-a-christmas-pageant)
Devotionals

Jesus Crisis 2021 Advent-Christmastide Devotional from the Pilgrim Press

*I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Jesus enthusiasts likely cringe at his sharp words in Matthew 10:34. We often imagine a child-inviting, good-news-bringing, body-and-spirit-healing Jesus. Alas, this double-sided Jesus is difficult to witness.

Of all the things he could've brought instead of peace, why bring a sword?

Precision.

With a meticulous commitment to justice, Jesus cuts into our world of destruction: he severs oppressive systems, dissects violent divisions, hacks at the hate that poisons our shared divinity.

After a year of one crisis after another, might we embrace the Crisis who arrives in the form of a tiny little baby?

Learn more at: https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/collections/new-releases/products/title-2021-advent-christmastide-devotional

Traveling With Our Ancestors – An Advent Devotional from Chalice Press 2021

Beloved author, pastor, and teacher Sandhya Rani Jha calls on our spiritual ancestors—biblical and modern day—to guide us on our Christmas journey. These daily devotions offer wisdom and direction for the weeks leading up to Jesus’ birth. On Saturdays, Jha invitation a contemporary “ancestor” such as Rosa Parks, Cesar Chavez, and Father Greg Boyle to help us reflect on how we can be better ancestors for those come after us.

Each entry includes an Advent scripture, reflection, and prayer.

Visit YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMk95SDV-sE) to hear Sandhya explain why she wrote the book and what ancestors we can all learn from.

Purchase this publication at: https://chalicepress.com/collections/devotional-prayer-books/products/traveling-with-our-ancestors-advent-devotional