

# Advent/Christmas Studies for Adults

## Available to borrow from the United Media Resource Center

To request resources, contact Jill Stone at [umrc@igrc.org](mailto:umrc@igrc.org) or 217-529-2744

### DVD studies:

**ADVENT CONSPIRACY: CAN CHRISTMAS STILL CHANGE THE WORLD? (101027)** Are you fed up with how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This **four-session** DVD study invites individuals, families, groups, and entire churches to substitute compassion for consumerism by practicing four simple but powerful countercultural concepts: 1) Worship fully -- because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!; 2) Spend less -- and free your resources for things that truly matter; 3) Give more -- of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, your heart; 4) Love all -- the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference. Segments approx. 15 minutes each. Includes guide.

**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS: OPENING THE GIFTS OF GOD'S GRACE (101090)** Author: Moore, James and Ivey, Janet. Hosted by Janet Ivey and featuring the stories of a variety of Christians and congregations,, this **five-session** DVD study is based on James Moore's book which explores the life-changing gifts Christmas has for us. Sessions: 1) The gift of Good News (9 min.); 2) The gift of a new understanding (11 min.); 3) The gift of a strong foundation (11 min.); 4) The gift of a new style of living (8 min.); 5) Christmas gifts we can pass on to others (10 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

**BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM (102162)** Author: Lucado, Max. In this **four-session** DVD study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us. Sessions: 1) God has a face (16 min.); 2) Worship works wonders (18 min.); 3) God guides the wise (14 min.); 4) Every heart a manger (17 min.). Includes study guide.

**BIRTH NARRATIVES (102012)** Author: Efird, James 'Mickey'. This **eight-session** study examines the birth narratives in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Includes leader's guide, participant guide, two DVDs, and promotional materials. DVD segments vary from 17-39 minutes in length.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL BIBLE STUDY (103035)** With practical applications for daily living, this **four-session** DVD study features a black-and-white film version of Dickens' classic story with relevant scriptures for you to use on the teachings of Jesus. Session titles: 1) Scrooge (selfishness), 11 min.; 2) Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past (Regret), 22 min.; 3) Ghost of Christmas Present (Repentance), 15 min.; 4) Ghost of Christmas Future (Salvation), 20 min. Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, study guide, and an annotated version of the novel.

*Complimentary resource:*

**CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL (806246)** Author: Scholl, Travis. With A Four-Week Bible Study for Advent. This spiral-bound book includes the original text of 'A Christmas Carol' complemented by a discussion guide for Christian individuals or groups. Intertwined throughout the story and the guide are the themes of hope, redemption, transformation, the work of the Spirit, and the Christian life. Session titles: Who Am I?; How Did I Get Here?; What Am I Doing?; Where Am I Going? Up to three copies available.

**CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE: A NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (103099)** Author: Idleman, Kyle. This **six-session** small group DVD study dramatizes the nativity story and explores the experiences of each of the characters. Sessions: 1) At just the right time (29 min.); 2) Favored one (27 min.); 3) Faithful one (24 min.); 4) This is God's plan? (26 min.); 5) Immanuel (25 min.); 6) Gold, frankincense, myrrh (28 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's guide. CLOSED CAPTIONED (English, Spanish, and French)

**CLEAR VIEW OF JESUS' BIRTH (103013)** Author: Bailey, Ken. In this **four-session** DVD study, Biblical scholar and long-time Middle Eastern resident Dr. Ken Bailey sheds new light on the all-too-familiar nativity story. Part 1 (36 min.): the birth story, where they stayed, the manger. Part 2 (30 min.): genealogy, the five women listed (Tamar, Rahab,

Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary), Mt. 1:18--Joseph a 'just' man?, Mt. 1:20--Joseph 'considered'? Part 3 (27 min.): Jesus comes for Jews and Gentiles, Mt. 2--the wise men and the star. Part 4 (29 min.): Herod, the slaughter of the innocents, Jesus presented to Simeon and Anna, Mary's costly discipleship, Jesus in the temple.

**DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: LIVING AND GIVING LIKE JESUS (104052)** Author: Slaughter, Mike. Help your church cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing through the year. This **five-session** study helps participants see the traps and discontentment of consumerism and the call of God to live generously to fulfill God's mission in the world. Sessions: 1) Expect a miracle (13 min.); 2) Giving up on perfect (13 min.); 3) Scandalous love (15 min.); 4) Jesus' wish list (16 min.); 5) By a different road (13 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday." Up to nine copies of the paperback book are also available to borrow (#811055).

*Complimentary resource:*

**DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: DEVOTIONS FOR THE SEASON (814213)** Author: Slaughter, Mike. Thirty short devotional readings for the Advent season. Each reading includes Scripture, a brief story or meditation, and a prayer.

**DOWN TO EARTH (104090)** Author: Slaughter, Mike and Billups, Rachel. In this **four-session** DVD study, Mike Slaughter and Rachel Billups explore what it means to comprehend and embrace the down-to-earth God we serve and challenge us to respond. Sessions: 1) Down to earth love (11 min.); 2) Down to earth humility (11 min.); 3) Down to earth lifestyle (11 min.); 4) Down to earth obedience (12 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

**FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM (106066)** Author: Moore, James and Marigza, Lilla. Designed as a supplement to James Moore's book, this **five-session** DVD study explores how Jesus breaks through our confusion to bring us the peace and love of Christmas. Sessions: 1) Bethlehem or bedlam (10 min.); 2) Christ came to set us free (9 min.); 3) Love came down at Christmas (10 min.); 4) The precious memories of Christmas (9 min.); 5) Mind the light (9 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book. Up to 24 copies of the 'Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam' book are also available to borrow (#914014).

**GOSPEL OF IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE BIBLE STUDY (107082)** In this **four-session** DVD study, host Stephen Skelton leads your group through key portions of the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" with a string of video clips. The accompanying leader's guide provides discussion questions that focus on each session's biblical principal: 1) Goodness (17 min.); 2) Godliness (12 min.); 3) Prayers (10 min.); 4) Miracles (9 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, study guide, and a booklet, "Finding God in It's a Wonderful Life: An Interview with Jimmy Stewart."

**JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM (110020)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this **five- or six-session** DVD study, take your group on a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Sessions: 1) Mary of Nazareth (10 min.); 2) Joseph of Bethlehem (13 min.); 3) Mary's visit to Elizabeth (10 min.); 4) From Nazareth to Bethlehem (11 min.); 5) The manger (13 min.). Bonus segment: The Holy Land today (13 min.). Includes leader's guide and hardback book.

*Complimentary resource:*

**JOURNEY: A SEASON OF REFLECTIONS (813063)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this companion volume that can also function on its own, Adam Hamilton offers 28 days of reflection and meditation. Each entry includes a Scripture reading, short devotion, and prayer.

**WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM: YOUR JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS (814093)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. This 28-day devotional book includes content from "Journey: A Season of Reflections" along with a few travel notes and reflections.

**JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS (110040)** In this **four-session** DVD study you will follow the journey of five diverse people as they experience the Holy Land for the first time. Guided by a local Bible scholar, you will see Jesus' birth unfold through the eyes of each member on this real-life pilgrimage as they search for answers to their questions about the Nativity account. Sessions: 1) Following the star; 2) Angelic announcements; 3) The trip to Bethlehem; 4) Shepherds, wise men, and a King. DVD segments are 44 minutes each. Includes guide.

**NOT A SILENT NIGHT: MARY LOOKS BACK TO BETHLEHEM (114046)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this **five-session** DVD study, Adam Hamilton examines the life of Jesus as seen through Mary's eyes. Sessions: 1) Beginning with the end (14 min.); 2) The piercing of Mary's soul (12 min.); 3) Amazed, astounded, and astonished (12 min.); 4) Mary, full of grace (11 min.); 5) It was not a silent night (11 min.). Includes leader's guide and small hardback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

**ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS: BIRTH AND MINISTRY (115016)** Author: Witherington, Ben. In this **four-session** DVD study, travel to the Holy Land with New Testament scholar Ben Witherington and experience the birth and ministry of Jesus. Learn about places such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and more. Session titles: 1) Unto us a Son is given (11 min.); 2) Troubling the waters (16 min.); 3) Fishing for followers (13 min.); 4) From the sea to the wedding to home (10 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's book.

**PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS (116038)** Author: Warren, Rick. A **Three-Session** DVD-Based Study for Groups and Families. Session titles: Christmas Is a Time for Celebration (13 min.); Christmas Is a Time for Salvation (15 min.); Christmas Is a Time for Reconciliation (24 min.). This study is evangelistic and aimed at including those who are very new to the faith or exploring the meaning of Christmas for the first time. Each session also includes a short segment for leaders. Includes guide.

**REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE (118069)** Author: Rawle, Matt. In this **four-session** DVD study, author and pastor Matt Rawle examines Charles Dickens's classic novel of brokenness and redemption, making connections between the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the story that Christians tell during Advent and Christmas. Sessions: 1) Bah! Humbug! (8 min.); 2) The remembrance of Christmas past (11 min.); 3) The life of Christmas present (12 min.); 4) the hope of Christmas future (11 min.). The DVD also includes a bonus feature -- Interview with Scrooge (16 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

**SAVIOR IS BORN: EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS (119078)** Author: Briscoe, Pete. **Four-session** DVD study. God was intentional in every detail of his plan to bring his son into the world. Through Mary, an everlasting hope would come to the nations. Through the little town of Bethlehem, the birth of our Savior would become a reality and be our prince of peace. Through shepherds, God would exalt the humble and show us that he is the sovereign shepherd of love. Through angels, God would send good tidings of great joy that would come to all people everywhere. Sessions: 1) Hope (13 min.); 2) Peace (18 min.); 3) Love (17 min.); 4) Joy (14 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant workbook.

**SENT: DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS (119133)** Author: Acevedo, Jorge. Pastor Jorge Acevedo leads us on a **five-session** DVD study to discover how, where, and why we are sent. Joining him on the journey are four young clergy who challenge us through story, art, and Bible study. Each session, led by a different presenter, begins with a story about Advent or Christmas and is followed by a lively discussion among the presenters. Sessions: 1) Jesus reconciles; Jesus sets us free; Jesus is God with us; Jesus brings us new life; Jesus changes everything. DVD segments are 9 minutes each. Includes leader's guide and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

**THRILL OF HOPE: THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND ART (120050)** This DVD presents the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Each passage is illustrated and interpreted by the artwork of contemporary artist John August Swanson and commentary from members of the faculty at Candler School of Theology. DVD can be viewed in its entirety, or can be divided into **six chapters** for group discussion: 1) A Visit (8 min.); 2) The Nativity (7 min.); 3) The Shepherds (6 min.); 4) Epiphany (7 min.); 5) Presentation in the Temple (7 min.); 6) Flight into Egypt (6 min.). Includes sample discussion guide.

**UNDER WRAPS: THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED (121025)** Author: LaGrone; Nixon; Renfroe; Robb. This **four- or five-session** DVD study centers on characteristics of God that are evidenced in the Old Testament and then seen more clearly through Jesus Christ. Sessions: 1) God is expectant; Jessica LaGrone (14 min.); 2) God is dangerous; Ed Robb (17 min.); 3) God is jealous; Andy Nixon (16 min.); 4) God is faithful; Rob Renfroe (18 min.); 5) Epilogue -- A season of joy -- an optional Christmas week focus; all presenters (5 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's guide. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

**WHY IN THE WORLD: THE REASON GOD BECAME ONE OF US (123081)** Author: Stanley, Andy. Why would God want to become one of us and live in a world of anxiety, chaos, and heartache? In this **four-session** DVD study, Andy Stanley explores this topic. The DVD sessions are provided in two formats: full-length messages and edited small-group session versions. Sessions: 1) To communicate and demonstrate (37 min. or 19 min.); 2) Like Son, like Father (40 min. or 21 min.); 3) Classless (43 min. or 17 min.); 4) Putting religion in its place (42 min. or 20 min.). Includes guide.

**WONDER OF CHRISTMAS: ONCE YOU BELIEVE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE (123095)** Author: Renfroe, Snyder, Robb, Kent. This **four-session** DVD study explores the true wonder of Christmas through the lens of four elements of the Christmas story. Sessions and presenters: 1) The wonder of a star, Rob Renfroe (11 min.); 2) The wonder of a name, Bert Snyder (12 min.); 3) The wonder of a manger, Ed Robb (12 min.); 4) The wonder of a promise, Susan Kent (12 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

## **Print format only (no DVD component):**

**CELEBRATE: CHURCH PLANNING KIT (103108)** This **four-week** program focuses on acts of mercy. The kit includes a church planning guide, promotional poster, sample daily devotional guide, and an enhanced DVD that includes brief worship videos, service outlines, four-week Bible studies in print format for adults, youth, and children (ages 4 - 12), and more.

**CHRISTMAS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY -- AN ADVENT STUDY FOR ADULTS (915036)** Author: Wilke, Richard. In this **four-session** study, author Richard Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for reflection or discussion, a suggested Christmas carol, and a brief prayer. Sessions: 1) Let's keep Herod in Christmas; 2) Let's keep the wise men in Christmas; 3) Let's keep Joseph in Christmas; 4) Let's keep the shepherds in Christmas. 47 Pages. Up to 22 copies available.

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK (911018)** Author: Moore, James W.. **Four sessions:** 1) The Gift of Hope; 2) The Gift of Love; 3) The Gift of Joy; 4) The Gift of Peace. Also includes suggestions for an all-church event. Includes study guide for the leader. 48 Pages. Up to 76 copies available.

**SHINE! LIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE: AN ADVENT STUDY FOR ADULTS (813065)** Author: Farris, Patricia. This **four-session** study provides a lesson for each week of Advent. Each lesson includes a key Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for personal reflection or discussion, a suggested carol or hymn, and a focus for the coming week. Sessions: 1) The light in the window; 2) The Light of the world; 3) Shine a light!; 4) The horizon is bright. 48 Pages. Up to seven copies available.