

Advent Studies for Adults

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DVD studies:

ALL THE GOOD: A WESLEYAN WAY OF CHRISTMAS (101109) Author: Warner, Lacey; Valdez Barker, Amy; Kim, Sangwoo; Choi, Jung. In this four-session DVD study, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars (Lacey C. Warner, Amy Valdez Barker, Sangwoo Kim, and Jung Choi) will take you on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley's means of grace. Sessions: 1) Practicing Advent – preparing the way (11 min.); 2) Praying in Advent (12 min.); 3) Practices of Mercy – embodying God's love for others (12 min.); 4) Christmas is only the beginning – God sends the church to the world (12 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

ALMOST CHRISTMAS: A WESLEYAN ADVENT EXPERIENCE (101104) Author: deVega, Magrey; McIntyre, Ingrid; Casperson, April; Rawle, Matt. In John Wesley's famous sermon, "The Almost Christian," he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. In this four- or five-session DVD study, author and pastor Magrey deVega leads a group of authors in exploring how we can make the same commitment to Christ during Advent, and connect our Wesleyan heritage with the traditional Advent themes of love, hope, joy, and peace. Sessions: 1) Altogether peace (13 min.); 2) Altogether hope (12 min.); 3) Altogether love (11 min.); 4) Altogether joy (13 min.); 5 - optional) A service of covenant renewal (no video component). Includes leader's guide and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

ANGELS OF CHRISTMAS: HEARING GOD'S VOICE IN ADVENT (101111) Author: Robb, Susan. In this four-session DVD study, Susan Robb explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Sessions: 1) Gabriel and Zechariah (11 min.); 2) Gabriel and Mary (10 min.); 3) Joseph and an angel of the Lord (10 min.); 4) The shepherds and the angels (10 min.). Includes 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. Up to 55 copies of the study guide are available to borrow.

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM: STUDY GUIDE (817264) This study guide is available to borrow to use with the DVD study (#102162). Four sessions. Up to 58 copies available.

BIRTH NARRATIVES (102012) Author: Efrid, 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.

CASE FOR CHRISTMAS (103154) Author: Strobel, Lee. In this four-session DVD study, Lee Strobel reveals what he discovered as he went through the evidence of Jesus' birth, inviting you to examine the evidence for yourself and consider why Christmas is so important to your faith. Sessions: 1) Setting the record straight (21 min.); 2) Beneath the fake news (21 min.); 3) A mind-boggling proposition (20 min.); 4) The prophetic fingerprint (21 min.). Includes guide.

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.

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).

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK (103141) Author: Moore, James and Armstrong, Jacob. This five-session DVD study features Jacob Armstrong exploring the principles found in the Advent book by James W. Moore, 'Christmas Gifts That Won't Break.' Sessions: 1) The gift of hope (8 min.); 2) The gift of love (8 min.); 3) The gift of joy (8 min.); 4) The gift of peace (8 min.); 5) The gift of Christ (8 min.). Includes leader guide and paperback book (2017 edition). Additional copies of the four-session 2010 book are available to borrow (see #911018 below for details). CLOSED CAPTIONED.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK (911018) Author: Moore, James W. A four-week, print-only study. Sessions: 1) The gift of hope; 2) The gift of love; 3) The gift of joy; 4) The gift of peace. Includes study guide for the leader. Also includes suggestions for an all-church event. Up to 73 copies available. This 2010 edition can be used with the 2017 DVD study (#103141) although it DOES NOT INCLUDE devotions by Jacob Armstrong or a fifth chapter for use on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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.

FAITHFUL: CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE EYES OF JOSEPH (106083) Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this four-session DVD study, Adam Hamilton examines teachings from the life of Joseph. Sessions: 1) A carpenter named Joseph (12 min.); 2) Whose Child is this? (9 min.); 3) Raising a child not your own (11 min.); 4) The journey to Bethlehem (10 min.). Includes leader's guide and small hardback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH: CHRISTMAS FOR NEW BELIEVERS, OLD BELIEVERS, AND NONBELIEVERS (106099) Author: Cantrell, Wil and Seay, Paul. This five-session DVD study invites you to discover afresh the truth behind all our beloved Christmas traditions by considering the foundational questions about the Christmas story: Did it really happen? And what does it truly mean? Sessions: 1) Receiving the message (10 min.); 2) Genealogy and heritage

(8 min.); 3) Preparation (9 min.); 4) Disciples and preachers (8 min.); 5) Witnesses (10 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book.

GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER (107107) Author: Rawle, Matt. In this four-session DVD study, author and pastor Matt Rawle examines the story of 'The Nutcracker' through the lens of faith. Sessions: 1) Clara - waiting for Christmas (10 min.); 2) Drosselmeir - a godfather's love (8 min.); 3) The Mouse King - changing perspective (7 min.); 4) The nutcracker - the greatest gift (8 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

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."

GREATEST GIFT: UNWRAPPING THE FULL LOVE STORY OF CHRISTMAS (107102) Author: Voskamp, Ann. In this four-session DVD study, Ann Voskamp explores and illuminates the magnificence of God's Word through the unfurling of the greatest love story ever told -- God's ardent and relentless pursuit of us. Sessions: 1) Look . . . for hope (19 min.); 2) Linger . . . for peace (19 min.); 3) Laugh . . . for joy (18 min.); 4) Love . . . for always (17 min.). Includes guide and hardback book.

HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES: FINDING FAITH IN THE STORY OF THE GRINCH (108077) Author: Rawle, Matt. In this four-session DVD study, author and pastor Matt Rawle examines the story 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' through the lens of faith. Sessions: 1) When everything is wrong (10 min.); 2) When Christmas isn't Christmas (11 min.); 3) When light shines (10 min.); 4) When joy is our song (8 min.). Kit includes DVD, leader's guide, and paperback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

INCARNATION: REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS (109065) Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this four-session DVD study, Adam Hamilton examines seven titles for Jesus used in the New Testament stories of Jesus' birth. Sessions: 1) Presidents and Kings - King, Messiah (16 min.); 2) The Savior and our need for saving (11 min.); 3) Emmanuel in the midst of pandemic (14 min.); 4) The Light of the world, Word of God, Lord (15 min.). Includes leader's guide and hardback book. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.**

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. (Note: this is the original 2011 version)

LIGHT OF THE WORLD: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ADVENT (112125) Author: Levine, Amy-Jill. In this four-session DVD study, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. Sessions: 1) The meaning of memory (10 min.); 2) The promise of potential (13 min.); 3) The journey to joy (10 min.); 4) The gifts of the Gentiles (13 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book.

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.**

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD: ADVENT AND THE MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (116117) Author: Hamilton, Adam. For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the

weeks leading up to Christmas. In this four-session DVD study, Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming. Sessions: 1) The annunciation – "God has heard your prayers" (14 min.); 2) Pregnancy, birth, circumcision, and Zechariah's prophecy (16 min.); 3) John's ministry and preaching (15 min.); 4) Witnesses, testifying to the light (15 min.). Includes leader's guide and hardback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

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.

STORYTELLERS: THE LIFE OF MARY (119175) Author: Feinberg, Margaret. In this four-session DVD study, Margaret Feinberg explores the life of Mary. Sessions: 1) Unexpected - Mary was only a teenager when the angel Gabriel told her she would carry the Messiah. How do we respond when the Lord comes to us with the unexpected? (4 min.); 2) Unscripted - Mary had a long and difficult road ahead of her full of judgment, doubt, and worry. Yet, in the midst of it all, she was able to stop and worship (2 min.); 3) Unfamiliar - Mary's experience in the stable shows us that even in the most unfamiliar ways, God can be present and at work (2 min.); 4) Unfulfilled/Fulfilled - God used the obedience of a teenage girl to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. In serving God, she endured great pain so that we might be redeemed (2 min.). Includes guide.

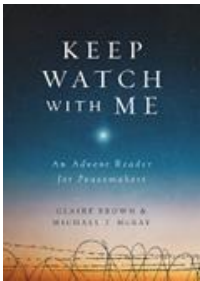
WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS (123114) Author: Stanley, Andy. In this four-session DVD study, Andy Stanley unpacks why the improbability of the Christmas story is what makes it so believable. No one could have or would have made it up. Sessions: 1) The story behind the story (20 min.); 2) The Author of life (18 min.); 3) The message of Christmas (23 min.); 4) Ready or not, He is coming (18 min.). Includes study guide.

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.

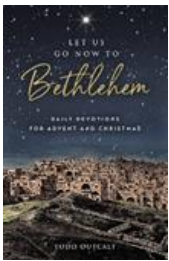
Print format only (no DVD component):



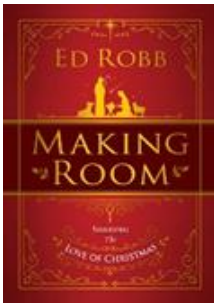
CHRISTMAS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY -- AN ADVENT STUDY FOR ADULTS (915036) Author: Wilke, Richard. In this four-week, print-only study, author Richard Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions 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. Up to 33 copies available.



KEEP WATCH WITH ME: AN ADVENT READER FOR PEACEMAKERS (819132) Author: Brown, Claire and McRay, Michael, editors. For those who work for social justice, Advent is the season not only for repentance, but for checking in on the needs of the world as well. This book offers stories, reflections, prayers, and spiritual practices to sustain and challenge the faith of those who work for justice and peace. It features daily devotionals for December 1-25 by a distinctively diverse collection of collaborators including writers who are black, white, LGBTQ, Latinx, Palestinian, incarcerated, activists, Native American, and more. Includes notes for using the book with groups. Up to 12 copies available.



LET US GO NOW TO BETHLEHEM: DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (820123) Author: Outcalt, Todd. This book contains two-page devotions for the 28 days of Advent, the 12 days of Christmas, and the day of Epiphany. For small-group leaders, the book includes a six-week study guide with weekly questions for reflection and conversation, a suggested scripture passage for each week, and an invitation to ponder the happenings of that week. As the Gospel of Luke attests, Let Us Go Now to Bethlehem is both an expectant declaration filled with mystery and a declaration of faith. Up to 12 copies available.

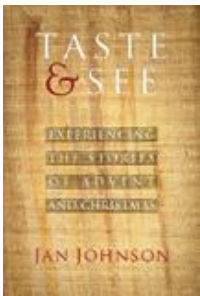


MAKING ROOM: SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS (820121) Author: Robb, Ed. This four-week book study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the magi. The story of Christ's birth encourages us to widen our borders and increase our sense of community—and make room for others. Sessions: 1) Be a neighbor; 2) Welcome strangers; 3) Leave the light on; 4) Walk each other home. See also the leader guide (#820122). Up to 12 copies available.

Also available: **MAKING ROOM: SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS - LEADER GUIDE** (820122)



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 six copies available.



TASTE & SEE: EXPERIENCING THE STORIES OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (817092) Author: Johnson, Jan. In this study with daily readings, Jan Johnson invites you to become part of the events surrounding the birth of the Christ child. She guides readers to live inside the story for a while, exploring it from the perspectives of its central figures. Weekly topics: 1) Experiencing the blessing of Zechariah and Elizabeth; 2) Experiencing Mary's preparation; 3) Experiencing Joseph's challenge; 4) Experiencing the birth of Christ. Includes a post-Advent group session - Experiencing the journey to safety (Mt. 2:13-23). Includes a leader's guide and suggestions for using the material in family settings. Up to 91 copies available.