

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

The Christmas story is a story of love, hope, redemption and relationship. So, what happened? How did it turn into stuff, stress and debt? Somehow, we've traded the best story in the world for the story of what's on sale. It is not enough to say no to the way Christmas is celebrated by many; we need to say yes to a different way of celebrating.

This Christmas, let's **spend less** on things that don't point people to Jesus and **give more** to the things that do. As you think about Christmas and the months that follow, how will God use you to share the message of hope and grace in Jesus with those around you? Use this tool to help figure it out. Reflect on each Bible verse using the **Pronounce It** method of Bible study: Read through the verse multiple times emphasizing a different keyword each time.

Home

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Psalm 127:1a

Make a list of the people in your home.

School

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

Make a list of people you interact with connected to your (or your child's) school.

Workplace

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23

Make a list of people you interact with at work.

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Community

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13:10

Make a list of people you encounter in the community.

World

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Mark 16:15

Make a list of people you are connected to around the world.

Give More – How will God use you to meet a need in the life of someone you've listed above?

Read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Reread verse 33 again. The Samaritan took notice of the need that was right before him, had compassion, and acted. Spend some time now praying about your list of names. Ask God to reveal some needs that you can meet in the lives of these people. As you think about the needs, spend some time listening to God. Who is He calling you to notice, show compassion, and act?

As you prepare for Christmas, look for areas where you can spend less time or money on things that don't point people to Jesus and set that aside in a special fund. As you identify a need that God is calling you to meet, reinvest those resources in meeting the need.