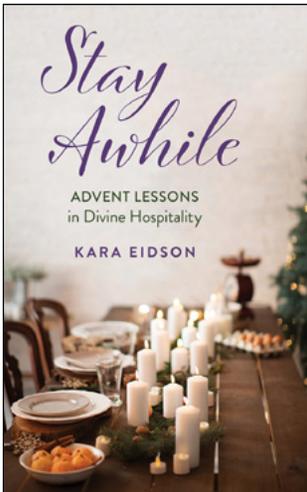


2023 ADVENT RESOURCE GUIDE

PREACHING * DEVOTION * EDUCATION

Welcome to our Advent 2023 resource guide! You'll find everything you need to fully honor and experience the season of Advent. If you are viewing this on your computer or other device, you can click on any title or cover to be taken to the product page on PC(USA) Store. Also, look for the dark blue blocks to download resource samples throughout. You can also email or print this to use for personal research or with committees.

NEW FOR ADVENT 2023



Stay Awhile

Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality

Kara Eidson

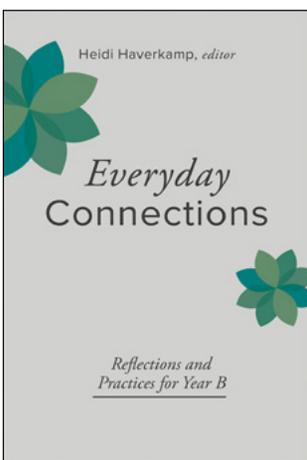
Available September 26, 2023 * ISBN: 9780664268428

~~\$17.00~~ **\$11.05** You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!

Advent is a season of preparation that – like our holiday gatherings themselves – takes time and care. Think of the anticipation that comes with hosting loved ones for Christmas dinner: We begin by extending an invitation. We make plans and begin our preparations. Ultimately, we open the door and welcome our guests, and that is when, finally, we celebrate. Advent should feel the same way, a time to make ready for the long-awaited event of Christ's birth. In *Stay Awhile*, Eidson presents a banquet table of inspiration for Advent, including weekly reflections for personal and small group use, brief daily devotions, and ideas to involve the whole congregation. Congregational resources include liturgies, sermon starters, children's moments, and even a no-rehearsals-needed Christmas pageant.

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IDEAL FOR
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Individual Devotion
Advent Worship Prep



Everyday Connections

Reflections and Practices for Year B

Heidi Haverkamp

ISBN: 9780664264543

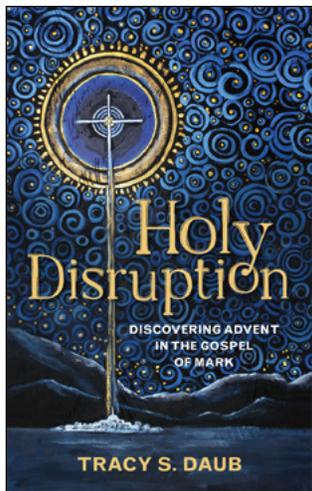
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This volume provides a full fifty-two weeks of devotional material based on the Revised Common Lectionary for Year B. Drawing from the insightful Bible commentaries in the Connections series, each week also includes scriptural and literary readings, lectio divina, spiritual practices, questions for journaling, and prayers. This resource has been crafted with mainline lectionary preachers in mind, both to supplement their planning for the week and to feed their souls in the midst of the work of ministry. Individuals and small groups will also find their faith deepened through regular contemplation and devotional insight.

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IDEAL FOR
Individual Devotion
Sermon Inspiration
Adult Group Study

RECENT RELEASES FOR STUDY & DEVOTION



Holy Disruption

Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark

Tracy S. Daub

ISBN: 9780664267384

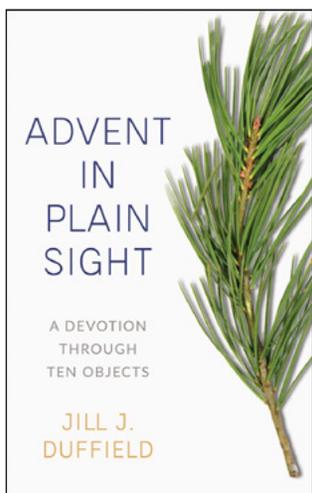
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The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story – so where's the Advent message? *Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel, which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world.

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Free Digital Resources Images and guides designed to enhance your Advent study and worship available at www.wjkbooks.com/HolyDisruption



Advent in Plain Sight

A Devotion through Ten Objects

Jill J. Duffield

ISBN: 9780664267148

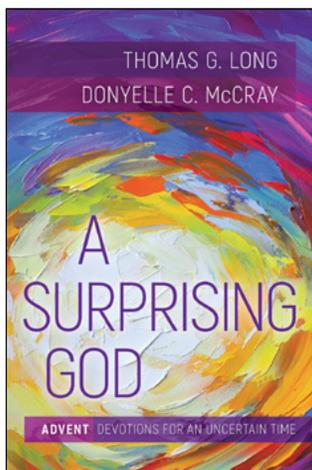
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In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophecy and incarnation. Each daily devotion features a Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, reminding Christians that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places.

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A Surprising God

Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time

Thomas G. Long & Donyelle C. McCray

ISBN: 9780664267230

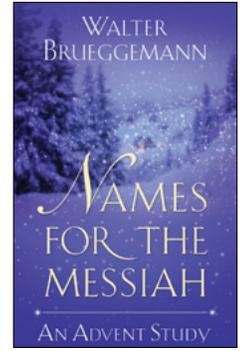
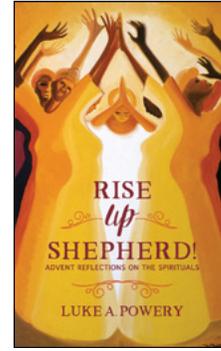
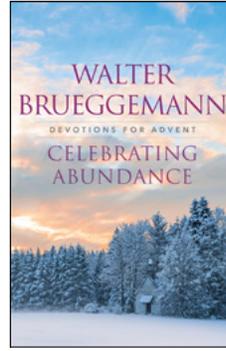
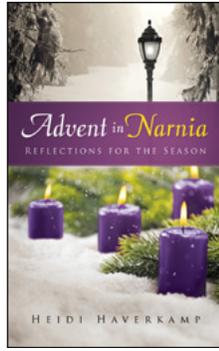
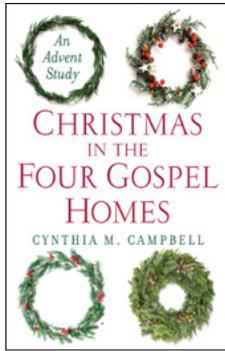
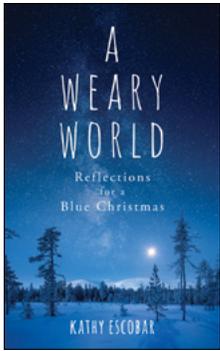
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Mindful of the stresses of life today in a world torn apart by conflict, marked by political division, and in the midst of a global health crisis, these devotions for Advent and Christmas invite readers to honest reflection on the challenges of being people of faith in this moment. Long and McCray explore what it means to wait for our salvation, to be open to the surprising thing that God is about to do, and to find hope in God's choice of the small and the insignificant.

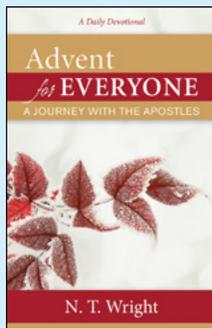
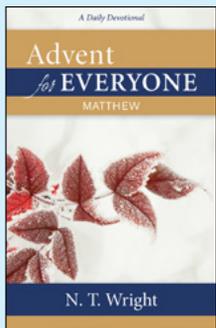
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<p>A Weary World <i>Reflections for a Blue Christmas</i></p>	<p>Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes <i>An Advent Study</i></p>	<p>Advent in Narnia <i>Reflections for the Season</i></p>	<p>Celebrating Abundance <i>Devotions for Advent</i></p>	<p>Rise Up, Shepherd! <i>Advent Reflections on the Spirituals</i></p>	<p>Names for the Messiah <i>An Advent Study</i></p>
<p>Kathy Escobar</p>	<p>Cynthia M. Campbell</p>	<p>Heidi Haverkamp</p>	<p>Walter Brueggemann</p>	<p>Luke A. Powery</p>	<p>Walter Brueggemann</p>
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<p>The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. In <i>A Weary World</i>, Escobar provides twenty-eight daily reflections paired with prayers and practices to honor our struggles during the holidays. Weekly resources make this Advent devotional suitable for group study as well. To help churches who wish to use this book as part of group study or worship services, the publisher has created a digital resources packet. You can download this packet for free at www.wjkbooks.com/AWearyWorld.</p>	<p>How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In <i>Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes</i>, beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a "house," which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Perfect for individual or group study.</p>	<p>The enchanting themes of C. S. Lewis's <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> fit naturally into the Advent season. These twenty-eight devotions alternate between Scripture and passages from the novel to prompt meditation on Advent themes. Each devotion also includes questions for reflection. The book also provides several resources for churches, including four sessions for small-group discussion and ideas for creating a "Narnia Night" for families.</p>	<p>To "prepare for Christmas" in our society is to be sucked into a vortex of indulgence, from decor to gifts to calorie-rich foods. The arrival of the Messiah, by contrast, is true abundance disguised by the impression of scarcity. This powerful devotional by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann includes daily reflections for Advent in order to invite us to see beyond the world's faux extravagance and realize the true feast laid out before us. Twelve prayers are also included for the twelve days of Christmas.</p>	<p>Valuable not only for their sublime musical expression, the African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. Many focus on an essential scene of the Christian drama: the coming of God as the child in Bethlehem and as the liberator of God's oppressed people. In these devotions for the season of Advent, each devotion features the lyrics of a spiritual, a reflection on the spiritual's meaning, a Scripture verse, and a brief prayer.</p>	<p>In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> ponders each royal designation and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackles the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?"</p>
<p>ISBN: 9780664264994</p>	<p>ISBN: 9780664264994</p>	<p>ISBN: 9780664261795</p>	<p>ISBN: 9780664262273</p>	<p>ISBN: 9780664260323</p>	<p>ISBN: 9780664262570</p>
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Advent Bible Study with N. T. Wright

The Advent for Everyone Series

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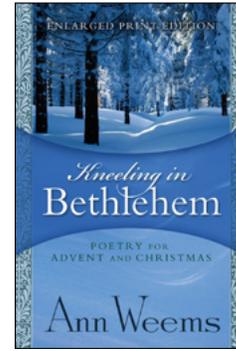
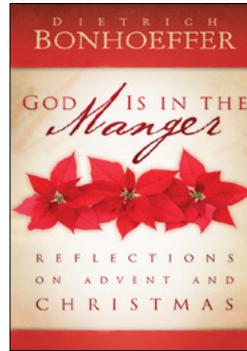
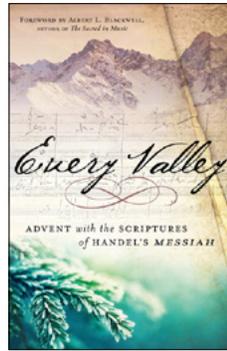
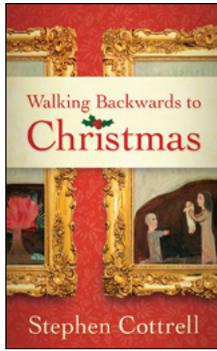
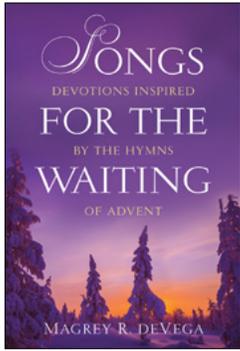
The Advent for Everyone series provides readers with an inspirational guide through the Advent season, from the First Sunday of Advent through the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Popular biblical scholar and author N. T. Wright provides his own Scripture translation and brief reflection to guide readers through the season. These books are suitable for both individual and group study and reflection.

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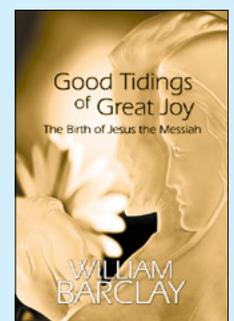
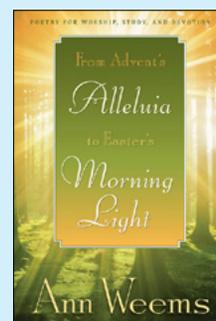
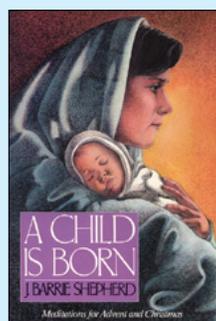
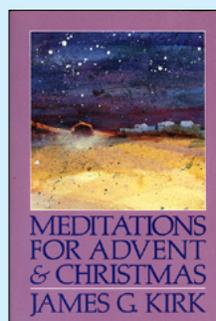
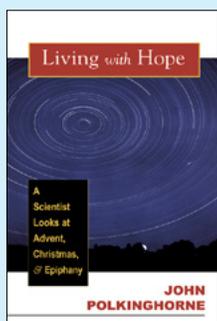
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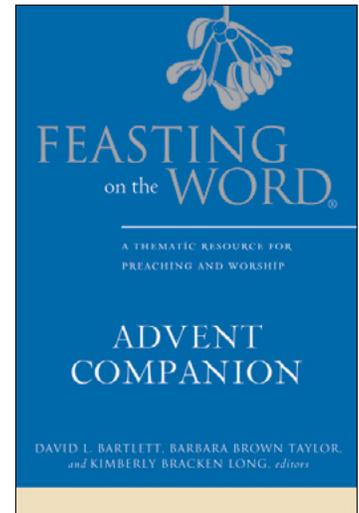
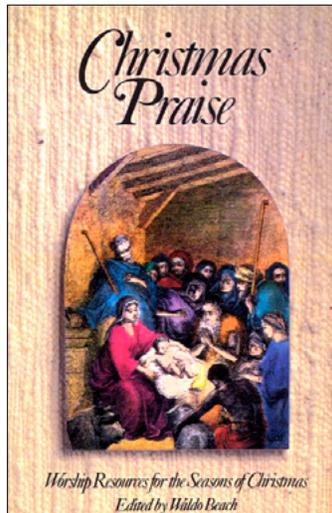
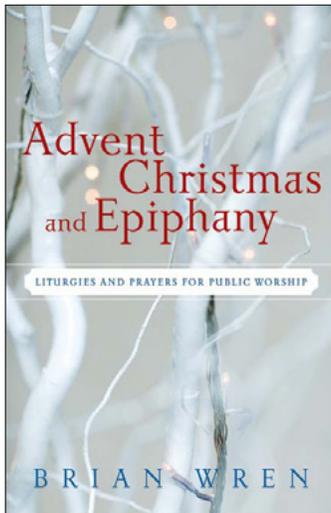
Songs for the Waiting <i>Devotions Inspired by the Hymns of Advent</i>	Walking Backwards to Christmas	Every Valley <i>Advent with the Scriptures of Handel's Messiah</i>	God Is in the Manger <i>Reflections on Advent and Christmas</i>	Kneeling in Bethlehem <i>Poetry for Advent and Christmas</i>	Illuminating Advent <i>Being Reformed Series</i>
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Despite the beauty of Advent hymns, most of us prefer to skip right to our favorite Christmas carols. But in our rush to get to the joy of Christmas, we forget what Advent is all about. Through the words of moving Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture, <i>Songs for the Waiting</i> helps readers reclaim a sense of the beautiful anticipation and preparation that is central to Advent. Each day's devotion also includes questions for reflection and prayers, making this book also suitable for group study or creating a sermon series.	<i>Walking Backwards to Christmas</i> starts at the end of the story, with Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon at the temple, and moves backwards to the much-earlier hopes and dreams of Isaiah and Moses. Telling the Christmas story through the eyes of both famous figures like King Herod and imagined characters like the innkeeper's wife, Stephen Cottrell invites readers to experience Jesus' birth anew, with greater appreciation of the dark themes and ancient figures relevant to the Advent story.	This gift-worthy book will delight readers with essays exploring the theological, historical, and pastoral implications of the Scriptures that make up Handel's <i>Messiah</i> . Forty reflections journey in order through the oratorio, taking the reader deeper into less-often studied texts and bringing new light to oft-remembered passages. Each reflection offers the libretto from <i>Messiah</i> , the same passage from the NRSV, and a brief commentary on the text, written by a respected scholar or pastor.	These forty stirring devotions will guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Advent and Christmas, from waiting and mystery to redemption, incarnation, and joy. Supplemented by an informative introduction, short excerpts from Bonhoeffer's letters, and passages from Bonhoeffer's Christmas sermons, these daily reflections are timeless and moving reminders of the true meaning of Christmas. Now repackaged in a beautiful hardback edition, it makes the perfect holiday gift.	In a style that is reverent and faith-filled, Ann Weems reflects on the mystery of the Christmas season. Included in this collection are twenty-six new poems as well as popular selections from her earlier works, especially <i>Reaching for Rainbows</i> and <i>Family Faith Stories</i> . Capturing the spirit of joyful celebration, they can be used in worship services, read aloud at family gatherings, or used by individuals for quiet reflection.	Through the blessed themes of Advent—hope, love, joy, and peace— <i>Illuminating Advent</i> invites you to connect with this sacred season. The meaning and mystery of Christmas and Epiphany are also explored. <i>Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding</i> is a series of biblically based six-session mini-courses that provides adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Features Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection.
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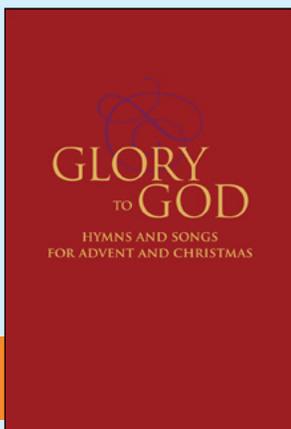


BOOKS FOR PREACHING & WORSHIP



<p>Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany <i>Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship</i></p>	<p>Christmas Praise <i>Worship Resources for the Seasons of Christmas</i></p>	<p>Feasting on the Word Advent Companion <i>A Thematic Resource for Preaching and Worship</i></p>
<p>Brian Wren</p>	<p>Edited by Waldo Beach</p>	<p>Edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, David L. Bartlett, & Barbara Brown Taylor</p>
<p>\$36.00 \$23.40 * ISBN: 9780664233099</p>	<p>\$21.00 \$13.65 * ISBN: 9780664221614</p>	<p>\$34.00 \$22.10 * ISBN: 9780664259648</p>
<p>Preeminent hymn writer and liturgist Brian Wren offers a collection of worship resources suitable for use in a variety of worship traditions. These theologically sound and creative worship resources include orders of worship (liturgies) and worship elements such as litanies, calls to worship, thanksgivings, and affirmations of faith. All the worship materials are compatible with the Revised Common Lectionary, but can also be used in churches that do not use the RCL. Additional features include a Scripture index and a topical index listing items that can be used on other occasions during the church year.</p>	<p>This collection of carefully selected lectionary readings, poems, carols, prayers, and litanies will enrich the Christmas worship experience in the church and at home. The three main segments of this anthology follow the traditional sequence of the Christian liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. With this resource, the hearths of homes can become altars, and the blessed season may be honored in holy tribute to the birth of Christ.</p>	<p>This resource is an all-in-one worship companion designed for those who do not follow the lectionary, or would like an alternative to the lectionary during Advent. Includes six thematically designed services for the four Sundays in Advent as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Four midweek services provide a supplemental study of John the Baptist to enhance the congregation's Advent experience. In keeping with other Feasting on the Word resources, the Advent Companion offers pastors focused resources for sermon preparation along with ready-to-use liturgies for a complete order of worship. All new material including hymn suggestions, Service of Hope and Healing, and children's sermons make this an invaluable resource for the Advent season.</p>
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PERFECT FOR AT-HOME WORSHIP!

BOOKS FOR PREACHING & WORSHIP

RESOURCES FOR LECTIONARY PREACHERS

Connections: Advent through Epiphany

[YEAR A](#) | [YEAR B](#) | [YEAR C](#)

Edited by Thomas G. Long, Cynthia L. Rigby, Carolyn J. Sharp, Luke A. Powery, & Joel B. Green

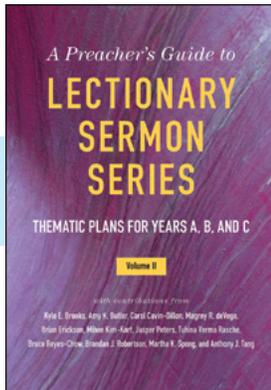
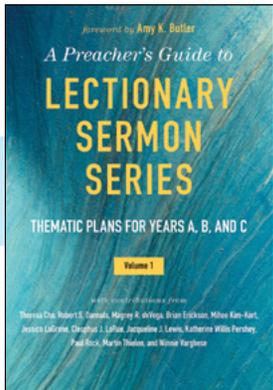
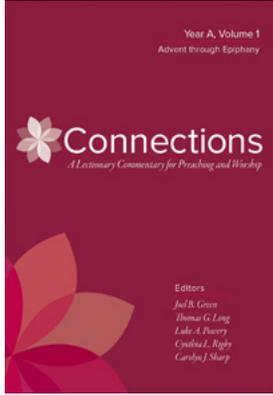
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The commentaries in Connections link individual lections to both Scripture as a whole and to the larger world. Commentaries on the Psalm readings and sidebars offer additional connections to Scripture for each Sunday or worship day. These volumes cover Advent through Epiphany.

Also available are [Connections Worship Companions](#), which offer complete liturgies—from the call to worship to the closing charge, with prayers and litanies for every need in between—for all worshipping occasions.

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Feasting on the Word: Advent through Transfiguration

[YEAR A](#) | [YEAR B](#) | [YEAR C](#)

Edited by David L. Bartlett & Barbara Brown Taylor

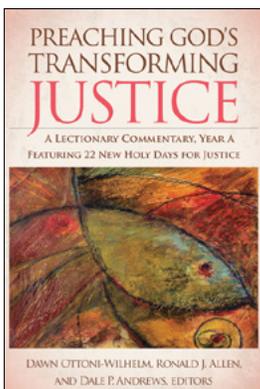
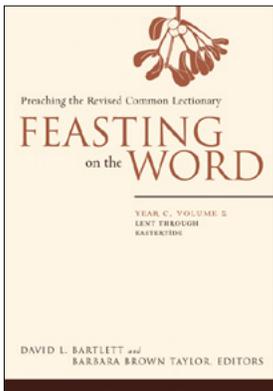
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Preaching God's Transforming Justice

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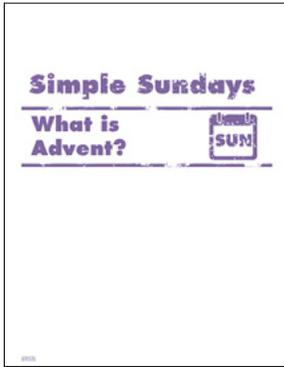
Edited by Ronald J. Allen, Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, & Dale P. Andrews

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This unique commentary helps the preacher identify and reflect on the social implications of the readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. In addition to providing commentary for each day in the lectionary calendar, this series introduces twenty-two Holy Days for Justice, such as Martin Luther King Day, Earth Day, and Juneteenth.

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ADVENT EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

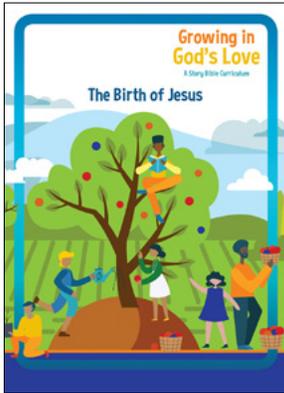


Simple Sundays: What Is Advent?

Four Sessions * \$10.00 * ID#: 690526

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The Birth of Jesus

Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum

5 Sessions

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Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum invites children and their leaders to connect with one another as they develop a better relationship with God. This curriculum is written for ages 5-10, is intentionally multiage, and also includes an intergenerational component. Those ideas include suggestions for things to do in worship, more education-focused ideas, Additionally, free and customizable at-home kit guides are available for each unit.

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This all-ages, unit-based curriculum is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Written for those who wish to live out their faith, this curriculum examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used in Christian faith then and now. There are multiple purchase and package options. Click each unit below to browse.

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Hope

4 Sessions

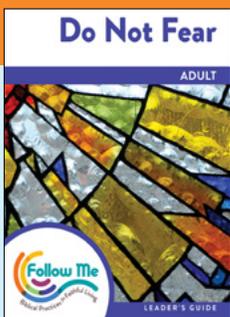
Hope is waiting with anticipation – at times, with impatience – for what you know and believe is coming. Hope is something outside ourselves that tethers us to safety and helps us keep going. Hope is prevalent during the season of Advent, and this unit is a great choice for any Advent season.



Go Tell

4 Sessions

Ever since angels lit the Bethlehem sky and sent amazed shepherds to meet the baby, people have been telling others the story. The stories for this unit are grounded in the prophecy and events surrounding the birth of Jesus, showing us that we can, and should, share the good news every chance we get.



Coming This October!

Do Not Fear

4 Sessions

In this unit, participants will learn that the command to “do not fear” does not mean that there is nothing to be afraid of – it means that God will walk with us through whatever fears we have. We will not eradicate fear, but we can move through it, and through studying this practice we can see how we must not let fear paralyze us from holy actions.