

Ideas: Spend Less

- Set a price-limit and stick with it. (set it low and be creative)
- Request people not give you gifts and instead giving to people in need or giving to charities in your name.
- Give experiences you can do together. (Go out to dinner, to a game, on a trip, etc.)
- Give the gift of service. (i.e. do the dishes or take out the garbage for a month, etc.)
- Give according to love language—quality time, acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation, thoughtful gifts.

Ideas: Give More

- Instead of spending a great deal on your family, think of ways your family, think of ways you can bless people you know who are in need.
- Give as much or more to church/charity/person in need than you do to family.
- Waite Park's Christmas Eve offering will go to Together for Good and FreedomWorks. Decide what you will give toward this offering.

Ideas: Be Present

- Don't give gifts that will isolate the receiver from people.
- Fast from use of electronics (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) for a certain length of time. (e.g. a week, all of advent, etc.) Instead, spend that time with family.
- Play a board game together.
- Get coffee with friends.
- After Sunday worship, invite someone you don't know well, but would like to get to know better, out to lunch.
- At Christmas celebrations, have everyone place their phone in a basket while you are together.



Worship Well

We seldom ask for help on how to _____.

This year, instead of "Christmasing," let's _____.

- _____ = "the coming"

In Christian tradition, Advent celebrates 2 comings:

1. We celebrate God coming in the _____.
2. We look forward to Jesus' _____ coming.

Scripture: Luke 3:1-18

John the Baptist was the last _____ to announce the coming of the Messiah. (Isaiah 40:4-6)

- John’s job was to get the people of Israel ready to accept the Messiah (which means, “king.”)

John said the proper response to the advent of the Messiah was _____! (vs. 7)

The coming of the Messiah means _____, but it also means _____!

The people’s response: They asked, “What should we _____?”

Examples:

- To the crowd: Stop _____ possessions and help those in need.
- To tax collectors: Don’t take _____ of people.
- To soldiers: Don’t abuse your power by _____ money. Be _____ with your pay.

The Question: What should we DO?

How should we celebrate the _____ coming and look forward to the _____ coming of Jesus?

1. _____ well.
2. _____ less.
3. _____ more.
4. Be _____.

“Passion is cultivated at the level of gesture and moment.”

-Gregg Levoy

“Discipleship, we might say, is a way to curate your heart, to be attentive to and intentional about what you love.”

–James K.A. Smith

Questions for Reflection:

1. Make a list of the things that most excite you about Christmas. Be HONEST! Now, put each item in one of these categories: Worship, Material Things, Nostalgia, Makes me Feel Good.
2. What are some initial thoughts on how you will Advent this year? What are some things (activities, traditions, attitudes) you will STOP? What are some things (activities, traditions, attitudes) you will START this Advent?

Ideas: Worship Well

- Find an Advent devotional for your personal devotions. A few are available on the Connection Station.
- If you have children, pick up an advent devotional for kids at the KidsPark check-in and do the devotionals with your children.
- Read a part of the Christmas story each day in December. (You will repeat much of the story)
- Take the time to think through how you will cultivate a spirit of right worship this Advent.