

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Advent – Spend Less



Opening

1. What is the most meaningful Christmas tradition in your family?
2. Watch and reflect together on the *Advent Conspiracy* video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuvAmknqiqQ>

Going Deeper

Read Luke 2:1-15

1. What parts of this story grab your attention?
2. When we read this story today, we often imagine a calm unfolding of events. What were the actual circumstances taking place around the time of Jesus birth?
3. One writer describes Luke's words in chapter two as "treasonous and revolutionary." Where in this passage do we see Luke challenging the Roman story?
4. The very first account of Christmas is a deliberate rejection of the culture's narrative. How would you describe the relationship between the Christian story and our culture's story today?
 - a. Where is their challenge? Where is their accommodation?

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5. Read the following two quotes about North American culture:
 - a. *By the late 1920s, America’s business and political elite had found a way to defuse the threat of stagnating economic growth through what one industrial consultant called “the gospel of consumption”—the notion that people could be convinced that however much they have, it isn’t enough. - Jeffrey Kaplan*
 - b. *Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption a way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods in rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumption. . . We need things consumed, burned up, worn out, replaced, and discarded at an ever increasing rate. (Victor Lebow, economist, 1955)*
 - c. What stands out to you in these quotes? How has the “gospel of consumption” affected your life?
6. What might it look like for us to celebrate Jesus’ birth in such a way that challenges the consumer story of our culture?
 - a. How do we raise our kids in a such a way that Christmas is not about rushing through the faith rituals in order to get to the presents?
 - b. What are some ways that we as a church can work together in challenging our culture’s consumer story?

Close in Prayer