We need to be <u>rescued</u>.
>   Isaiah 59

A King is <u>Coming.</u>
>   Isaiah 60:1-3,19-20, Luke 4:17-21

The Kingdom is <u>Here</u>.
>   Ephesians 5

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation.

Food for thought

Go over Ephesians 5 and ask your self these questions:

What parts of your life are you clearly in the light?

And which parts are in darkness?

How can you change that?

What steps and tools can you take to be the "spitting image" of Jesus?

_____

The story of Christ's birth is a miraculous story of love expressed in an unlikely way. It's a story of promise, hope and a revolutionary love that is still changing the world to this day. What if Christmas became a world-changing event again by turning our focus back to the birth of Christ? What could happen to your family if this focus was celebrated in loud, bold and totally unexpected ways? What if you could actually trade your season of stress for a season of celebration and unbelievable memories with your friends and family? What if all of this could change a life at the same time? It can.

Welcome to Advent Conspiracy

[Worship Fully] It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of

advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

[Spend Less] Before you think we're getting all Scrooge on you, let us explain what we mean. We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of $450 billion a year every Christmas. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season.

[Give More] God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found at the mall. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving.

[Love All] When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, He became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. As we as a community of faith continue to take hold of these simple steps in Advent Conspiracy we have been able to feed and help and support many individuals and families in our community. One less gift, unbelievable presence in the name of Christ.

My Gift List…

As children, many of us spent hours looking at toy catalogs making our gift list of all the things we wanted to receive. This year we want to put together a Gift list at real life church, not of the things we want but of things we already have. With open eyes and hearts, as God to help you see all the gifts He has already given you from the simple to the profound.

We are going to share our list together as a faith community. You can share your list online www.seekreallife.com or write your list and turn it in on Sunday.

Check-in regularly on the website to be encouraged by the gift list. God is so generous to us.

God thank you for…