

Definition of PROMISE: *a declaration that one will do something specified*

The promise of a Savior.
Isaiah 42:6-7; Luke 2:11

A savior who intercedes on your behalf.
Isaiah 53:11-12

A savior who is always at work on your behalf.
Isaiah 63:1

A savior who is here for you.
Deuteronomy 4:29; John 3:16

NEXT STEPS

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

Food for Thought

The promise of a savior is a promise of help and hope for our everyday lives.

Below are some verses that speak to how God works beyond our immediate circumstances. Look up each one and write the main point in your own words.

Psalm 55:22

Romans 8:26-27

1 Corinthians 15:58

Philippians 1:6

Ephesians 3:19-20

Ephesians 6:7-8

Can you look back and identify a time in your life where God was at work even though at the time you didn't recognize Him? What did you learn about God through that time?

How has your faith and trust in Him been affected as a result?

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

Give a gift to yourself this week, pause and reflect on 2010.

- What are some of the gifts that you have received this year?
- Where has God interceded for you?

What areas of your life can you use some help in; a hero to fight on your side?

Jesus has come to help set things right—ask Him to move mightily on your behalf in 2012.

Start a new gift list for 2012 and see the great things God will do.