

Advent Studies at Practical Resources for Churches

Resources starting with “C” are located in our West Islip office; resources starting with “R” are located in our Patchogue office. You may pick up any of these resources at either of our two offices, but please give us advance notice so we can make sure we have them available for you.

Non-video Studies

Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season (Westminster John Knox Press, 2015) C3738

- This book includes 28 devotions with excerpts from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* with questions for reflections. There are four-sessions for small group discussion as well as information on creating a Narnia Night for families.

All I Want for Christmas (Abingdon, 2003) R10063

- This four-week study centers on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and a Savior. Each lesson includes a scripture reading, reflection, discussion questions, a suggested Christmas carol for the week, and a brief prayer.

Awaiting the Already (Abingdon, 2015) C4325

- This study takes us on a tour through the gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which gospel. Each chapter offers questions for discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the week.

Behold! Cultivating Attentiveness in the Season of Advent (The Upper Room, 2011) C4155

- For each week of Advent, the author provides a focus word (expectancy, preparation, faith, promise) as well as opening invocation, closing benediction, a related hymn text, a weekly prayer practice, and devotional for each day.

Book of Faith Advent Reflections: I Wonder as I Wander (Augsburg, 2010) R22351

- This study includes daily readings as well as weekly Bible studies on the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace. Intergenerational activities are also included.

Book of Faith Advent Reflections: Making All Things New (Augsburg, 2011) C3538, R22767

- This study includes daily readings as well as weekly Bible studies on the theme of renewal. Intergenerational activities are also included.

Book of Faith Advent Reflections: While We Wait (Augsburg, 2009) R22051

- Daily Biblical reflections, journaling, activities, and prayer are included in this study, as well as weekly Bible studies.

Book of Faith Advent Reflections: You Shall Have a Song (Augsburg, 2012) C1075, R23109

- Daily Biblical reflections, journaling, activities, and prayer are included in this study, as well as weekly Bible studies.

Carols of Christmas (Augsburg, 2002) R23382

- This five-session study focuses on five carols and includes their backgrounds, the biblical passages they're based on, and questions to allow further reflection.

Christmas: Light Splits the Night (Faith Alive, 2011) R22820

- This study is designed for 4-5 sessions and focuses on how each Christmas season with all its fanfare gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us.

The Christmas People (Abingdon, 1998) C3540, R7289

- This four-week study takes us into the world of Christmas as we know it to remind us that it is for such a world as this that our Lord was born. Each lesson includes scripture, reflection, discussion questions, and a focus for the week.

Come Home for Christmas (Abingdon, 1999) R8495

- This study invites participants to follow the path that leads to the manger and find their way home to the love of God. Each lesson includes scripture, reflection, discussion questions, a Christmas carol, and daily scripture readings.

Illuminating Advent (Congregational Ministries, 2013) C1060, C3328, C3610

- This six-session study looks at Advent through four themes connected with Advent wreaths: hope, peace, joy, and love. It also includes sessions on Christmas and Epiphany.

Let Us Go Over to Bethlehem (Abingdon, 2001) R9093

- This four-week study invites us to journey to find the good news of God's ultimate victory in the faith, promise, peace, and *Christ* of Christmas. Each lesson includes scripture, reflection, discussion questions, and prayer.

The Light Will Shine - A Study for Advent (The Kerygma Program, 1999) C1061, C1062

- This study is designed for 4-5 sessions and will help participants discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Sessions explore Keeping Watch, John the Baptist's Call, Prophecy Fulfilled, and Birth and Epiphany stories.

Mary Had a Baby (Abingdon, 2003) R10361

- This four-week study is based on four African American spirituals. Each session includes the historical background of the spiritual, a devotional, and activities to help participants prepare for the coming season of Christmas.

Meet the Son of God (Abingdon, 1998) C1077

- This study by James Harnish is based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

The Miracle of Christmas (Abingdon, 2006) R20976

- This four-week study has sessions on the miracles of good news, hospitality, giving, and Christmas. Each lesson includes a scripture reading, brief reflection, study/discussion questions, a prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016) C3306

- The author examines the four royal names for the Messiah. There are prayers and questions for reflection; it can be used for individual or group study.

No Small Wonder: Stories from the Nativity (Faith and Life Press, 1998) C1076

- This study looks deeper into the nativity stories to discover the radical nature of God's coming to earth in Jesus.

Prepare Ye for a New Advent of God's Love in Our World (The Upper Room, 1991) C1070, C1072

- This powerful group process will help participants examine and evaluate the way they prepare for, experience, and celebrate the miracle of Advent.

Rejoicing in Hope (Abingdon, 2007) C3541, R21019

- James A. Harnish looks at the Christmas story through the experience of four characters from the Gospel of Luke, each of whom finds joy in hope. Each lesson includes scripture, reflection, discussion questions, prayer, and a weekly focus.

The Scriptures Sing of Christmas (Abingdon, 2004) R20974

- J. Ellsworth Kalas examines songs of praise found in the scriptures of Christmas and the beginning of John's Gospel. This four-week study provides scripture, reflections, discussion questions, prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

Simply Wait, Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent (The Upper Room, 2007) C4156, R20973

- This study focuses on four words: anticipation, hope, patience, and obedience. There are daily meditations on scripture. It is appropriate for individual or group study.

Someone to Believe In: An Advent Course Based On "Miracle on 34th Street" (Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd., 2015), R23879, R24194

- This is a four-week study based on the classic movie. The DVD of the movie is also available to borrow.

Sparks of Advent Light (Benetvision, 2008) C3518, R22050

- This Joan Chittister study has six sessions on each of the four weeks of Advent, the O Antiphons, and Christmas week. Includes readings, scripture, and discussion questions.

Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Joy back into Christmas (William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1991), C1073, C1074

- This study is all about how to have a stress-free, joyful holiday season.

What Do You Want for Christmas? (Abingdon, 2008) R21596

- In this four-week study, author James W. Moore invites you to explore the question “What do I want for Christmas?” Does your heart long for the gifts the Christ child brings – the type of gifts money can’t buy?

Where Heaven Touches Earth (Abingdon, 2005) C4146

- Rob Weber’s study has four-sessions; each one focuses on a portion of the Christmas story scripture from Luke 2:8-14 and includes questions for reflection or discussion, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week.

The Women of Christmas (WaterBook Press, 2013) R23370

- This book by Liz Curtis Higgs includes eight chapters about three women whose hearts belong to God: Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna. There is a study guide in the book for each of the chapters.

Won’t You Let Him In? (Abingdon, 2002) R9476

- Each lesson in this four-week study by James W. Moore includes scripture, reflection, discussion questions, prayer, and a focus for the coming week. It asks participants to let Christ into their hearts, celebrations, and gift-giving.

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Video Studies

Advent Conspiracy (Zondervan, 2009) C1690, C3708, R21962, R21963, R23050

- This four-session DVD study invites us to worship Christ more meaningfully by giving relationally to family, friends, and those most in need. Sessions include Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All.

All I Want for Christmas: Opening the Gifts of God's Grace (Abingdon, 2016) R24952, R24953, R24954

- This Advent study has five sessions: one for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. Christmas has some amazing gifts for us, but the truth is that we need the miracle of God's grace to see, feel, hear, and celebrate them.

All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas (Abingdon, 2021) R25120, R25123, R25125, R25129

Wesleyan scholars take you on an Advent journey guided by John Wesley's principles of grace including preparing the way for God, the discipline of prayer, the substance of good works, and the recognition of God's presence with us.

Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Christmas Experience (Abingdon, 2019) C4217, R24955, R24956, R24957

- This four-week study is based on John Wesley's sermon titled "The Almost Christian" in which he encouraged people to follow Christ wholeheartedly. Participants will explore how they can make an Advent commitment to Christ.

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent (Abingdon, 2022) R25297, R25300, R25303

This four-session study explores the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. It also dives into the history of the angel, Gabriel, and the other angels in the Bible.

Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here (Thomas Nelson, 2016) C3375, C3378, C3809, C4241

- This four-session DVD study by Max Lucado includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions.

Bethlehem Year Zero (Vision Video, 2000) C1691

- This DVD portrays the birth of Jesus and surrounding events as TV news would cover it today. There are six 15-minute segments. The PRC consultants have written a study guide for this video.

The Census and the Star (Vision Video, 2008) R22005

- The 30-minute video explores the mysterious circumstances of Christ's birth. What did the star look like, and when did it appear? To better understand Christmas, explore the star as the Magi did. Study material is included.

Christmas Gifts That Won't Break (Abingdon, 2017) C4141, R23120, R24958, R24959, R24960

- The videos in this five-session study feature Jacob Armstrong exploring the principles found in the popular Advent book by James W. Moore about the unbreakable gifts that God has given us: hope, love, joy, and peace.

A Different Kind of Christmas (Abingdon, 2012) C4236, R23087, R23138, R23139

- This five session DVD study is based on the book, *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday*, by Mike Slaughter. The sessions include Expect a Miracle, Giving Up on Perfect, Scandalous Love, Jesus' Wish List, and By a Different Road.

Down to Earth: The Hopes & Fears of All the Years Are Met in Thee Tonight (Abingdon, 2016) C4216, R24386/R24387/R24388

- Nothing could prepare us for God coming down as a helpless infant, or for Jesus intentionally positioning himself as a mere servant. This four-week DVD study includes session plans, discussion questions, and multiple format options.

Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph (Abingdon, 2017) C4176, C4177, C4178, R24448, R24523, R24526

- This four-session DVD study by Adam Hamilton examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph as participants learn to accept and glorify God's will even when their situation makes it difficult to do so.

Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam (Abingdon, 2015) C4174, R24021, R24022, R24024

- This five-session Advent study explores how God can still be heard over our human noise. It includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time.

From Heaven to Earth Christmas (Market Square Publishing, 2019) R24334, R24335, R24335

- This five-session study invites participants to discover afresh the truth behind our beloved Christmas traditions and how they relate to the actual Christmas story.

The Gift of the Nutcracker (Abingdon, 2018) R24961/R24962/R24963

- This four-session DVD study explores the classic story of "The Nutcracker" to help us understand God's greatest gift of the Christ child, and the kingdom Christ came to establish.

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes (Abingdon, 2021) R25132, R25135, R25138)

- This study explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and looks through the lens of faith to see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Home for Christmas: Tales of Hope & Second Chances (Abingdon, 2018) R24964, R24965, R24966

- This four-session DVD study matches real life stories of struggle and triumph to Advent themes, as we hear the stories of formerly incarcerated men and women finding work and opportunity in Los Angeles, California.

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas (Abingdon, 2020) C4284, C4287, C4338, R24996, R24999, R25024

- Adam Hamilton is the author of this five-session DVD study which explores the titles given to Jesus: Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh.

The Journey (Abingdon, 2011) C1714, C3135, C3136, R22804, R22805, R22806

- This Adam Hamilton five-session DVD was filmed on location in the Holy Land and retraces the actual path of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. It also includes a bonus segment on the Holy Land today.

Journey to Christmas (Tyndale, 2011) R23336/R23337

- This four-session study tells the story of five people---a messianic Jew, a First Nations woman, a poet, a Christian radio personality, and an agnostic lawyer---as they travel to the Holy Land and discover the true meaning of Christmas.

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent (Abingdon, 2019) R24774, R24825, R24828

- This DVD study offers four-sessions led by biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, who traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

The Nativity Story/Why the Nativity (New Line Home Video, 2007) R20752, R20882

- This movie tells the story of Mary as she learns she has been chosen by God to bear his son. The book *Why the Nativity?* includes questions and answers based on the 101-minute movie.

Not a Silent Night (Abingdon, 2014) C3037, C3042, C3122, C4157, R24443, R24545, R24573

- This five-session Adam Hamilton study looks at Jesus' birth, ministry, and death from Mary's point of view and is based on the book of the same name.

Prepare the Way for the Lord (Abingdon, 2022) C3825, C3828, C3831, R25325, R25326, R25327

- In this four-session study, Adam Hamilton explores the themes of John the Baptist's life and ministry and how he calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts and lives for his coming.

The Purpose of Christmas with Rick Warren (Zondervan, 2008) C1071/C1683/C1684, R21613/R21614/R21615

- This study features three sessions on the three purposes of Christmas: Christmas is a time for celebration, Christmas is a time for salvation, and Christmas is a time for reconciliation.

The Redemption of Scrooge (Abingdon, 2016) C4128, C4129, C4130, R24380, R24381, 24382

- Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Pastor and author Matt Rawle believes so as he discovers the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. This is a four-session DVD study.

Sent: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas (Abingdon, 2015) C3793, C3795, C3796, R24019, R24025, R24027

- This five-week study challenges us through story, art, and Bible study to discover what it means to be Christ's hands, feet, head, and heart and is appropriate for adults and youth.

A Thrill of Hope (Church Publishing, 2011) C1063, C2238, R23839, R22819

- This study presents the story of Christmas told in the gospels. Each scripture passage is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by some of America's premier biblical scholars.

Under Wraps: The Gift We Never Expected (Abingdon, 2015), C3040, C3043, C3044)

- Each week of the study centers on a key word that describes a characteristic of God that is evidenced in the Old Testament and then seen more clearly through Jesus: faithful, dangerous, expectant, and jealous.

Who Needs Christmas? (Harper Collins, 2019) R25159, R25162

- This DVD study by Andy Stanley includes four-sessions: The Story Behind the Story (Genesis 12:3), The Author of Life (Acts 3:15), The Message of Christmas (Matthew 1:21), and Ready or Not . . . He Is Coming (Luke 1:37).

The Wonder of Christmas: Once You Believe, Anything Is Possible (Abingdon, 2016) C4430, R24383, R24384, R24385

- This four-week study looks to the Christmas story and the stories of real people today to offer inspiration and ideas for reflecting the light of Jesus at Christmas and throughout the year.