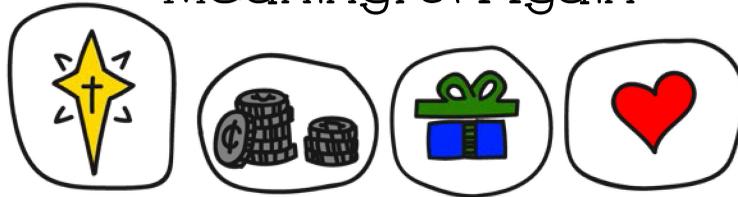


Advent Reformation

Making Christmas
Meaningful Again



FAMILY KIT

This material is taken from Advent Conspiracy and we give them all the credit.
For our use we have changed the title to *Advent Reformation*

ADVENT CONSPIRACY 101

Families, here are some fun, easy ways to talk about Advent Conspiracy at home throughout the Christmas season.

WHAT IS ADVENT CONSPIRACY?

Advent Conspiracy is our special plan for getting ready for Jesus' birthday. There are four steps in our plan.

1. **WORSHIP FULLY:** Christmas is all about Jesus. We'll worship Him with our hearts, minds, and actions!
2. **SPEND LESS:** We'll spend a little less on ourselves and use the money we saved to help others this Christmas.
3. **GIVE MORE:** We'll give more of ourselves and spend time with the people we love.
4. **LOVE ALL:** Jesus came for all people, including us. We'll love and serve all people, as a reminder of how much God loves us.

Each week will cover a part of the plan to help prepare our hearts for Jesus' birthday on Christmas.

WEEK 1: WORSHIP FULLY



CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT JESUS. WE'LL WORSHIP HIM WITH OUR HEARTS, MINDS, AND ACTIONS!

There are many ways that we can worship Jesus, through prayer, dance, songs, doing good things to help others, and by showing gratitude. There is no limit to how we can honor, praise, and worship Jesus. Remember, Christmas is Jesus' birthday. As a way to say thank you to God for sending Jesus into the world, we sing, pray, and worship!

SCRIPTURE:

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!" — Psalm 150:6

"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." — Ephesians 5:19-20

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. Help me to worship you with my whole heart and to remember how much you love me. Amen.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What's your favorite thing about Jesus?
- Why do we celebrate Christmas?
- What's your favorite worship song to sing?
- What is one thing we can pray for this week?
- What's your favorite way to worship Jesus?
- What is one thing that you love about Christmas?
- How can you worship Jesus fully this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Worship Dance Party. Put on some fun worship music and have a dance party as a family. Grab some instruments or make some of your own. Sing, dance, and boldly express your love for Jesus.

Nature Walk. Notice the beauty of God's creation. Talk about all the things you see and hear. Giving thanks to Jesus for all the beauty in the world is a great way to worship fully this week.

Worship Game. In a jar or bowl put together different colored items (you can use candy, marbles, pieces of paper, toy blocks, etc.). Using the color key below, have everyone go around and pull out one item and answer the question that matches their color. Keep going around until all of them are used up.

- ***Purple:*** What's your favorite story in the Bible?
- ***Yellow:*** What's your favorite Christmas song?
- ***Red:*** What is one thing you're thankful for?
- ***Blue:*** Who is someone you can pray for this week?
- ***Green:*** What's your favorite thing about Jesus?

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WEEK 2: SPEND LESS



WE'LL SPEND A LITTLE LESS ON OURSELVES AND USE THE MONEY WE SAVED TO HELP OTHERS THIS CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is about celebrating the gift of Jesus, not a big pile of presents under the tree. One of our goals this year is to spend less so we can save up money and help someone else who needs it. When we have grateful hearts and share our blessings with other people, that makes Jesus proud.

SCRIPTURE:

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

Matthew 6:21

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, help me to remember all the ways you have blessed me and my family. I want to have a grateful heart this Christmas. Amen.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is one thing we can pray for this week?
- What are 3 things you're thankful for?
- Who are 3 people you're thankful for?
- What are some ways you can save up money?
- How can you spend less this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Collection Jar. Part of our Advent Conspiracy plan is spending less money on ourselves and saving some to give to others. Decorate and create a special collection jar. At the end of the month you can use all the money you saved up to donate to your church or help someone in need. Grab a tin can, glass jar, or plastic bin and decorate it. As a family, talk about ways you can collect money for the donation (look for spare change, collect from neighbors, chores and helping around the house, a yard sale, etc.)

Gratitude Chains. Cut some paper into long strips. Have the kids write or draw pictures on the paper. Ask them to write down something they are grateful for. It could be people they love, pets, toys and books, activities, or special memories. Create a paper chain with all of their ideas. These can be hung up around the house or wrapped around your Christmas tree. Let it be a reminder to your family of all the ways God has blessed you.

Treasure Chest. Use the treasure chest coloring sheet and have your kids write or draw pictures of things that they love. Talk about Matthew 6:21 and the idea of sharing our treasures and blessings with other people we love.

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WEEK 3: GIVE MORE



WE'LL GIVE MORE OF OURSELVES AND SPEND TIME WITH THE PEOPLE WE LOVE.

God gave us the gift of his son, Jesus, on the first Christmas. Just like God did with us, we want our friends and family to know how much we love them at Christmastime. We can do this by giving more of ourselves by making special homemade gifts, planning fun activities, and making new Christmas traditions.

SCRIPTURE:

“For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I want to make new special memories this Christmas with my friends and family. Thank you for loving me and being my special gift from God. Amen.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is one activity you would like our family to do together before Christmas?
- How does it make you feel when you give someone a special gift?
- What's your favorite Christmas tradition?
- What are some ways we can give more of ourselves?
- What's something we can pray for this week?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Coupon Booklet. Make a special coupon book for friends and family. Print off the coupons or create your own. Remind your kids that these gifts are special because it came from their heart.

Storytime. Parents, share a story with your kids about your favorite Christmas tradition growing up. Why was this such a special memory to you? Who were the people you shared this tradition with?

Make Something. Get a plain glass or plastic ornament/ bauble. On tiny strips of paper write out special memories that happened over the last year. Roll them up and put them inside the glass. Hang up the special decoration on your tree and add to it every year.

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WEEK 4: LOVE ALL



JESUS CAME FOR ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING US. WE'LL LOVE AND SERVE ALL PEOPLE AS A REMINDER OF HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US.

We can show God's love by the way we treat others and the way we celebrate and worship during Christmas. Jesus loves everyone in the world and wants us to treat our neighbors with love and kindness. We can love others by serving, donating money, lending a helping hand, and praying for them.

SCRIPTURE:

"Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" — Matthew 22:37-39

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you love all the people in the world, including me. Help me to love and be kind to other people. Amen.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What is one way you can show kindness to someone this week?
- What's the best part about making new friends?
- What are 3 ways you can help out a friend?
- Name someone you can pray for this week.
- What should we do with the money in the collection jar?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

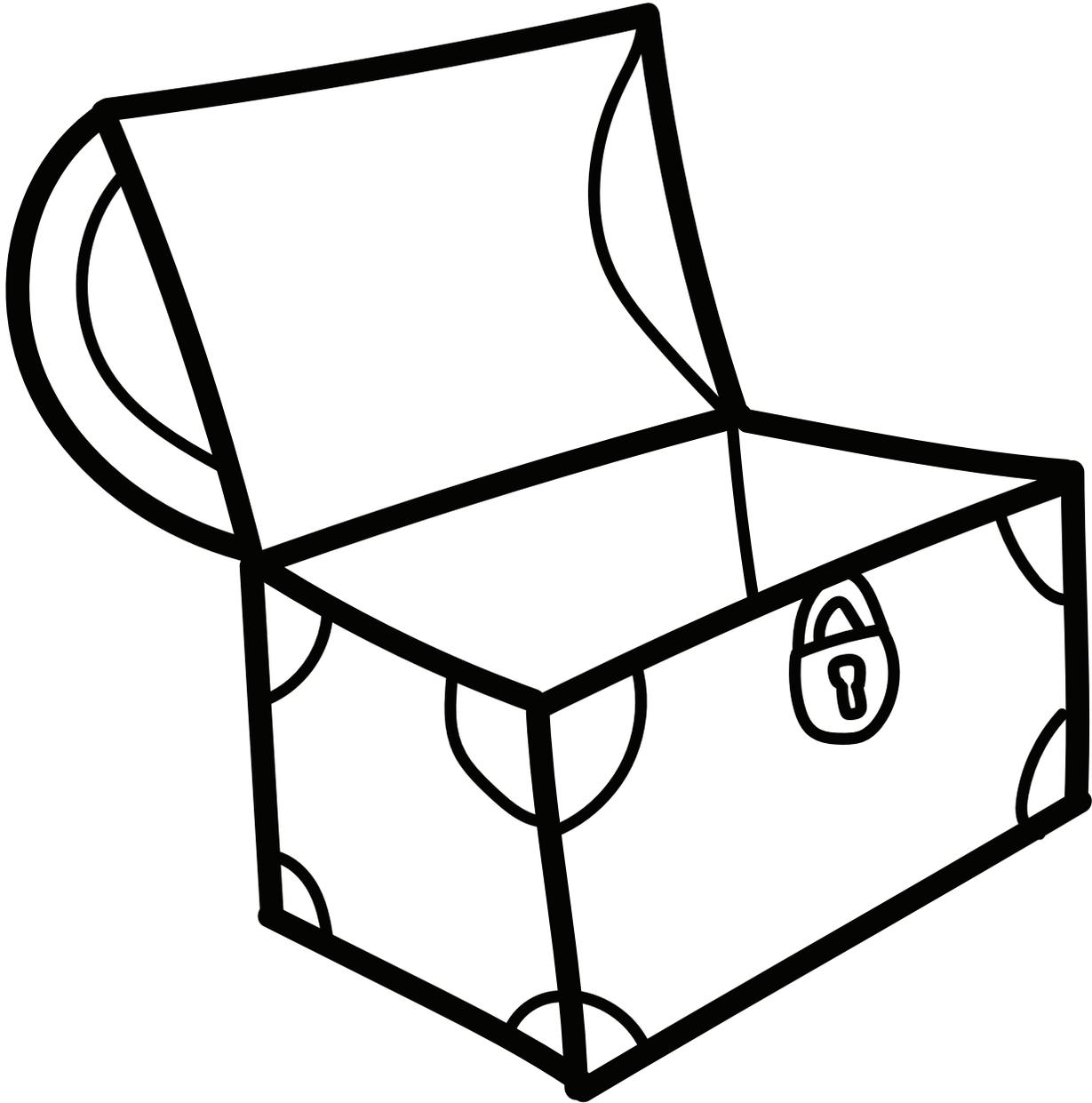
Family Meeting. What has your family learned this Advent season? What are some of the things you want to do again next year?

Make a Donation. As a family, decide how to use your Christmas donation jar to help others. You can go through your local church and give to the Christmas offering, find a local organization you love, or research organizations that help kids around the world. Whatever you choose to donate to, remind your kids that all of their hard work is going to help someone and they are loving all, just like Jesus.

Love All Cards. Create some special Christmas cards for people like teachers, mailmen, police officers, healthcare workers, etc. Write them an encouraging note and draw a picture. Thank them for all of the ways they help your community and wish them a Merry Christmas.

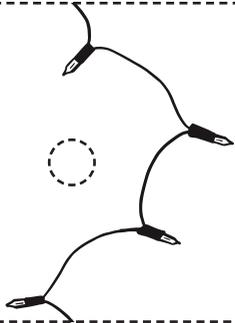
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**FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,
THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.**

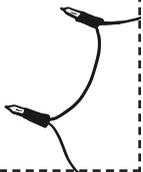
- MATTHEW 6:21



CHRISTMAS
COUPON BOOK

TO:

FROM:



I WILL CLEAN THE DIRTY DISHES.



I WILL FOLD ALL OF MY CLEAN CLOTHES.



**I WILL LET YOU PICK WHAT MOVIE/TV
SHOW WE WATCH.**



**I WILL BRUSH THE DOG(S) AND
TAKE THEM FOR A WALK.**



I WILL MAKE YOU BREAKFAST IN BED.



I WILL TAKE THE TRASH OUTSIDE.



I WILL READ A BOOK TO MY SIBLING(S).



I WILL GIVE YOU 3 BIG HUGS.



I WILL SWEEP THE FLOORS.



I WILL MAKE YOU A DELICIOUS DESSERT.



I WILL CLEAN MY ROOM 2 TIMES THIS WEEK.



I WILL _____



I WILL _____



I WILL _____



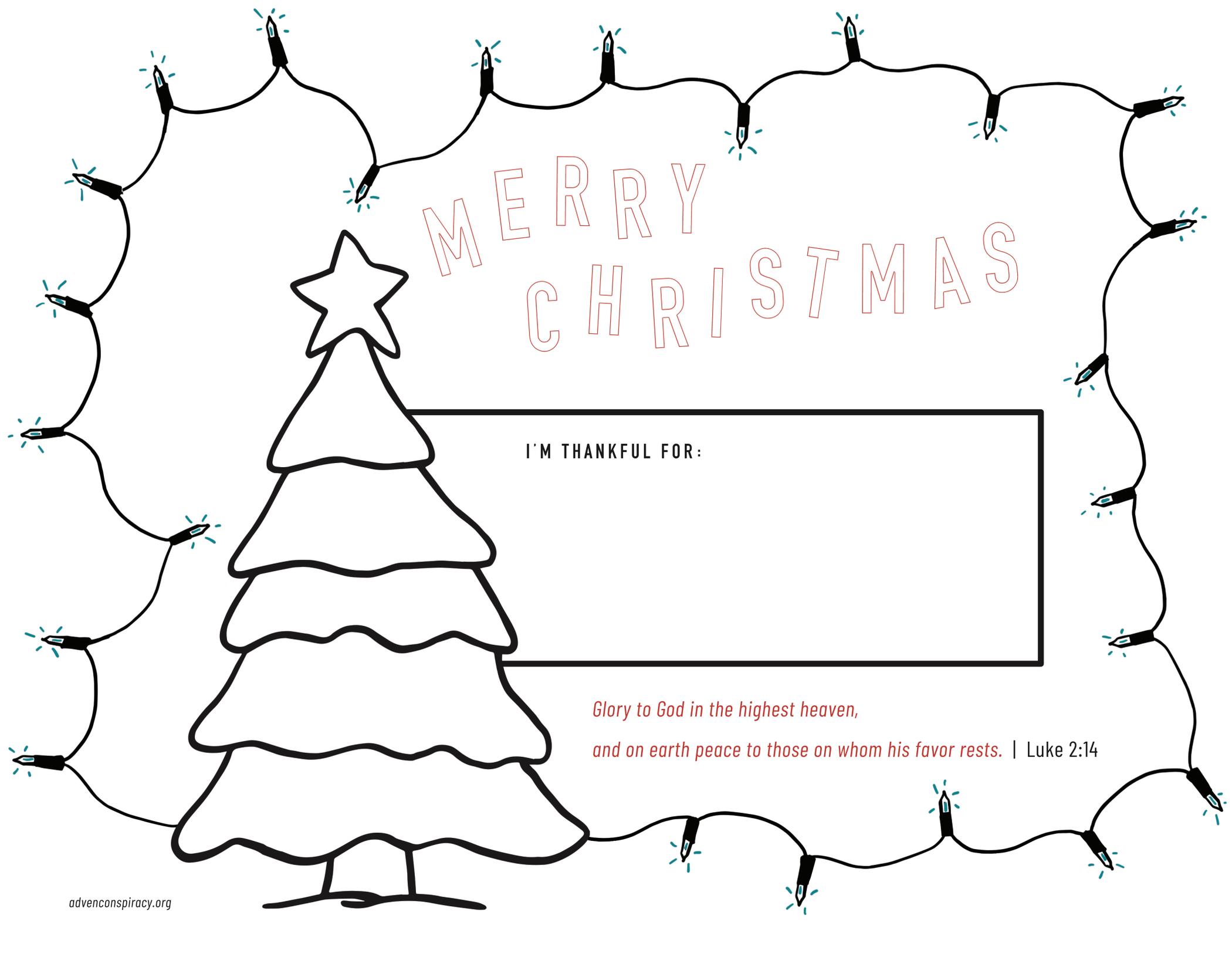
I WILL _____



I WILL _____



I WILL _____



MERRY
CHRISTMAS

I'M THANKFUL FOR:

*Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests. | Luke 2:14*

THE GIFT OF PRESENCE

CONVERSATION STARTERS TO USE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

Take some time to intentionally slow down this Christmas season and enjoy the people God has put in your life.

1. What is the best Christmas you've ever had?
2. What forms of worship help you connect with God?
3. What's your favorite Christmas song and why?
4. In one word, describe what you want to experience this Advent season.
5. What are 3 things you're grateful for?
6. Out of the four tenets (Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All) which one is the easiest for you? Which one is the hardest?
7. What's the most meaningful gift you've ever received?
8. What practical advice do you have for shopping intentionally and thoughtfully?
9. Share the story of one of your family Christmas traditions.
10. What's your favorite Christmas movie?
11. What are some obstacles you must overcome this Advent season?
12. Do you have any budget or parameters around Christmas shopping?
13. There's an anticipation that comes with Advent. In what areas of your life are you longing to see God at work?
14. What is one prayer you have for this Advent season?
15. How can you incorporate Scripture into your daily routine?
16. What was your favorite Christmas memory growing up?
17. If you could spend Christmas anywhere in the world, where would you go and who would you bring with you?
18. What's your favorite gift you've ever given someone else?
19. What are some special Christmas foods you grew up with?
20. When reading the Christmas story in Luke 2, who do you relate to the most?
21. What is your favorite ornament/bauble on your Christmas tree? Is there a story or special meaning behind it?
22. What is one lesson God has taught you over the last year?
23. Advent is a busy season for many of us, how do you intentionally slow down and stay present?
24. What are your Christmas Eve traditions?
25. In what ways do you prepare your heart to celebrate Christmas?



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ADVENT READING LIST

- DAY 1** - John 1:1-5
- DAY 2** - Jeremiah 33:14-16
- DAY 3** - Luke 1:5-10
- DAY 4** - Luke 1:11-17
- DAY 5** - Luke 1:18-25
- DAY 6** - Luke 1:26-38
- DAY 7** - Matthew 1:18-21
- DAY 8** - Matthew 1:22-25
- DAY 9** - Isaiah 7:14
- DAY 10** - Luke 1:39-45
- DAY 11** - Luke 1:46-56
- DAY 12** - Luke 1:68-79
- DAY 13** - Luke 2:1-5
- DAY 14** - Luke 2:6-7
- DAY 15** - Luke 2:8-12
- DAY 16** - Luke 2:13-14
- DAY 17** - Luke 2:15-18
- DAY 18** - Luke 2:19-20
- DAY 19** - Matthew 2:1-2
- DAY 20** - Matthew 2:3-6
- DAY 21** - Matthew 2:7-8
- DAY 22** - Matthew 2:9-12
- DAY 23** - Galatians 4:4-7
- DAY 24** - Isaiah 9:6-7
- DAY 25** - John 1:14

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WORSHIP FULLY

Find time this week to pray, sing, and dance. Jesus' birthday is coming and we should celebrate our Savior!



SPEND LESS

Instead of buying a new toy or writing a Christmas list, make a list of all the ways God has blessed you. Say a prayer of thanksgiving!



GIVE MORE

God gave us the most personal gift ever—His son, Jesus! Turn off the technology and spend quality time together as a family this week.
Give the gift of your time.



LOVE ALL

Love and serve people in your city and around the world! Collect coins for a donation at church, write Christmas cards to your neighbors, or make a care package for a local homeless shelter. Get creative!

For where your treasure is,
there your heart
will be also.



MATTHEW 6:21

Sing and make music from your heart
to the LORD, always giving thanks
to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our
LORD Jesus Christ.



EPHESIANS 5:19-20

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind.
This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.



MATTHEW 22:37-39



For God so loved the
world that he gave his
one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him
shall not perish but
have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16