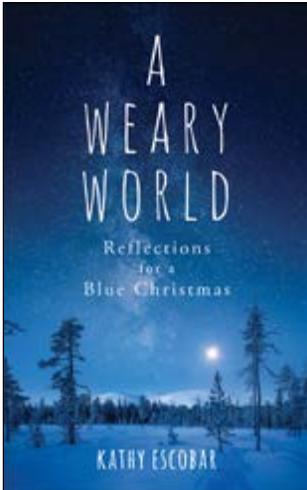


2020 ADVENT RESOURCE GUIDE

PREACHING * DEVOTION * EDUCATION

Welcome to our Advent 2020 resource guide! You'll find everything you need to fully honor and experience the season of Advent. If you are viewing this on your computer or other device, you can click on any title or cover to be taken to the product page on The Thoughtful Christian. Also, look for the dark teal blocks to download resource samples throughout. You can also email or print this to use for personal research or with committees.

NEW FOR ADVENT 2020



A Weary World

Reflections for a Blue Christmas

Kathy Escobar

Available September 22, 2020 * ISBN: 9780664266936

~~\$13.00~~ **\$8.45** You save 35% every day at *The Thoughtful Christian!*

The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and unexpected losses. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling.

In *A Weary World*, Escobar provides twenty-eight daily reflections paired with prayers and practices to honor our struggles during the holidays. Weekly resources make this Advent devotional suitable for group study as well.

IDEAL FOR
Adult Group Study
Individual Devotion
Preaching

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A Weary World Digital Resources

To help churches who wish to use this book as part of group study or worship services, the publisher has created a digital resources packet. The digital resources packet includes images designed to enhance your small groups and worship services, adaptations for many of the practices to use for a virtual Blue Christmas worship service, and marketing materials to help you invite others to join you. You can download this packet for free at www.wjkbooks.com/AWearyWorld.



Connections: Year B, Volume 1

Advent through Epiphany

Edited by Thomas G. Long, Cynthia L. Rigby,
Carolyn J. Sharp, Luke A. Powery, & Joel B. Green

Available September 22, 2020 * ISBN: 9780664262402

~~\$45.00~~ **\$29.25** You save 35% every day at *The Thoughtful Christian!*

The commentaries in *Connections* link individual lections to both Scripture as a whole and to the larger world. Commentaries on the Psalm readings and sidebars offer additional connections to Scripture for each Sunday or worship day. This volume covers Advent through Epiphany.

IDEAL FOR
Preaching
Advanced Bible Study

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NEW DOWNLOADABLE STUDIES

FROM THE THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIAN

Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation

Advent Study Packs for Adult and Youth Groups

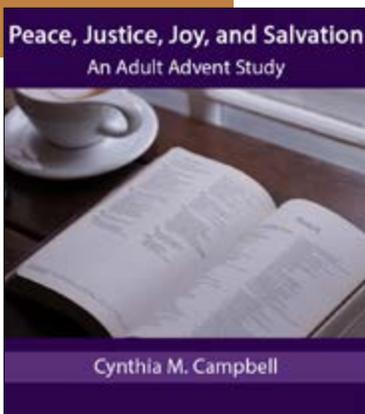
Each study pack is \$18.00 for unlimited church use

Throughout the season of Advent, we're able to anticipate God's gifts to us and consider what they really mean. Over the four sessions of these study packs, participants will consider familiar texts from the book of Isaiah to reveal the gifts that God longs to give us and deeply desires for us to receive into our lives: peace, justice, joy, and salvation.

ADULT STUDY PACK

Available September 7, 2020 * ID #: TC0616

Each session includes one focus text from the book of Isaiah. In addition to a Bible study, each leader's guide also includes prayers, liturgies, group and individual reflection activities, and teaching alternatives for customizing to your group. Written by preacher and scholar Cynthia M. Campbell, each week includes a Participant Handout and a Leader's Guide that helps a leader facilitate a fifty-minute session.

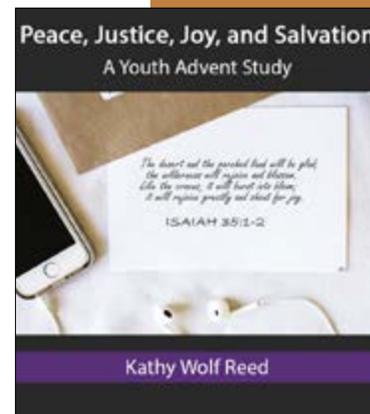


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A SAMPLE SESSION](#)

Available September 14, 2020 * ID #: TC5126

In addition to the chance for youth to participate in an Advent Bible study, these sessions also provide opportunities for prayer and group and individual reflection. Additionally, teaching alternatives for each session allow leaders to customize the study for their group. Written by Kathy Wolf Reed, each week includes a Participant Handout and a Leader's Guide that helps a leader facilitate a fifty-five- to sixty-minute session.

YOUTH STUDY PACK



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More Downloadable Advent Studies

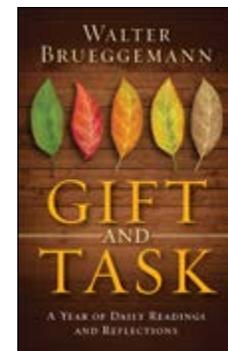
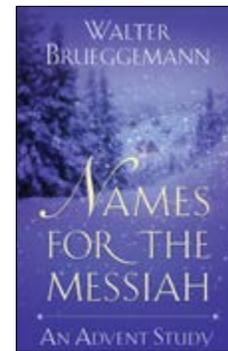
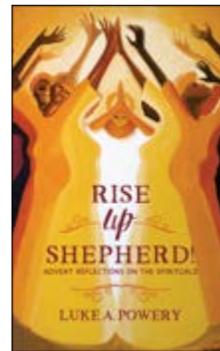
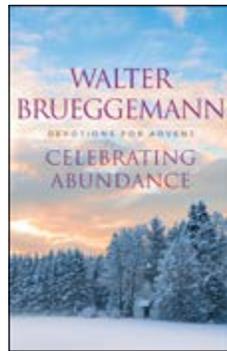
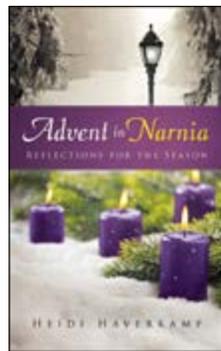
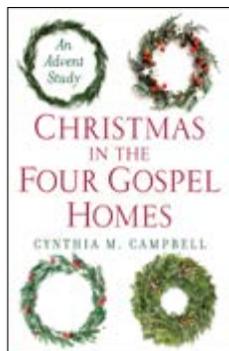
FOR ADULT & YOUTH GROUPS

All of our downloadable study packs are perfect for use in traditional church settings, at-home individual study, and virtual Advent study group meetings. Each study below includes four sessions and is \$18.00 for unlimited church use.

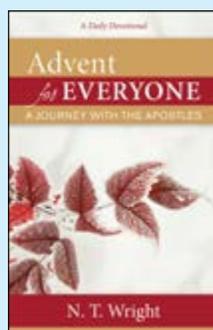
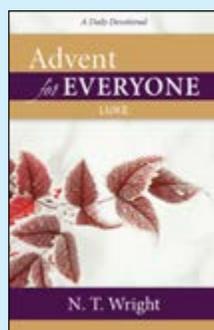
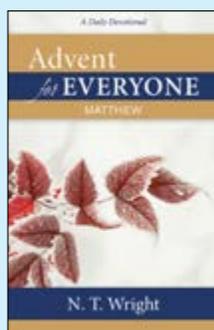
[CLICK TO SEE ALL ADULT STUDY PACKS FOR ADVENT](#)

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BOOKS FOR STUDY & DEVOTION



Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes <i>An Advent Study</i>	Advent in Narnia <i>Reflections for the Season</i>	Celebrating Abundance <i>Devotions for Advent</i>	Rise Up, Shepherd! <i>Advent Reflections on the Spirituals</i>	Names for the Messiah <i>An Advent Study</i>	Gift and Task <i>A Year of Daily Readings and Reflections</i>
Cynthia M. Campbell	Heidi Haverkamp	Walter Brueggemann	Luke A. Powery	Walter Brueggemann	Walter Brueggemann
IDEAL FOR • Adult Bible Study • Creating Sermon Series	IDEAL FOR • Individual Devotion • Adult Bible Study • Intergenerational Activities • Creating Sermon Series	IDEAL FOR • Individual Devotion • Creating Sermon Series	IDEAL FOR • Individual Devotion • Creating Sermon Series • Prayerful Moments in Meetings & Other Settings	IDEAL FOR • Adult Bible Study • Creating Sermon Series	IDEAL FOR • Individual Devotion • Prayerful Moments in Meetings & Other Settings
\$13.00 \$8.45	\$14.00 \$9.10	\$13.00 \$8.45	\$13.00 \$8.45	\$13.00 \$8.45	\$20.00 \$13.00
How might a house look for Christmas based on what each Gospel says about it? In <i>Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes</i> , beautiful illustrations from architect Kevin Burns reimagine each of the four Gospels as a "house," which the church visits at Christmas. In each section, Cynthia M. Campbell reflects on the distinctive perspective of the birth of Jesus or the incarnation offered by each Gospel. Perfect for individual or group study.	The enchanting themes of C. S. Lewis's <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> fit naturally into the Advent season. These twenty-eight devotions alternate between Scripture and passages from the novel to prompt meditation on Advent themes. Each devotion also includes questions for reflection. The book also provides several resources for churches, including four sessions for small-group discussion and ideas for creating a "Narnia Night" for families.	To "prepare for Christmas" in our society is to be sucked into a vortex of indulgence, from decor to gifts to calorie-rich foods. The arrival of the Messiah, by contrast, is true abundance disguised by the impression of scarcity. This powerful devotional by best-selling author Walter Brueggemann includes daily reflections for Advent in order to invite us to see beyond the world's faux extravagance and realize the true feast laid out before us. Twelve prayers are also included for the twelve days of Christmas.	Valuable not only for their sublime musical expression, the African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. Many focus on an essential scene of the Christian drama: the coming of God as the child in Bethlehem and as the liberator of God's oppressed people. In these devotions for the season of Advent, each devotion features the lyrics of a spiritual, a reflection on the spiritual's meaning, a Scripture verse, and a brief prayer.	In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> ponders each royal designation and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackles the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?"	<i>Gift and Task</i> is an original collection of 365 devotions by Walter Brueggemann, providing the opportunity to consider the cost and joy of discipleship. Perfect for daily use, this book begins with the First Sunday of Advent and provides insightful reflection and thought-provoking commentary on the Scriptures for each day of the year. Brueggemann guides disciples with wisdom and encouragement for our never-ending walk along God's challenging, grace-filled path throughout the Christian year.
ISBN: 9780664264994	ISBN: 9780664261795	ISBN: 9780664262273	ISBN: 9780664260323	ISBN: 9780664262570	ISBN: 9780664263218
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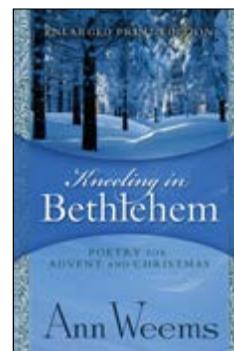
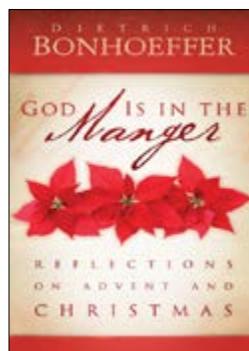
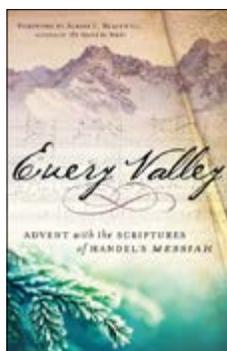
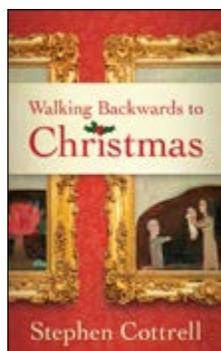
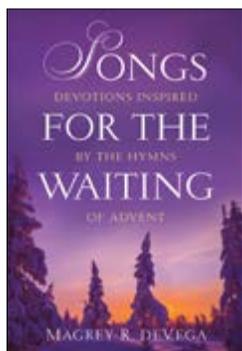
Advent Bible Study with N. T. Wright

The Advent for Everyone Series

~~\$16.00~~ \$10.40

The Advent for Everyone series provides readers with an inspirational guide through the Advent season, from the First Sunday of Advent through the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Popular biblical scholar and author N. T. Wright provides his own Scripture translation and brief reflection to guide readers through the season. These books are suitable for both individual and group study and reflection.

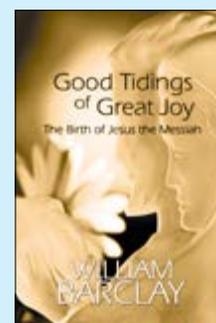
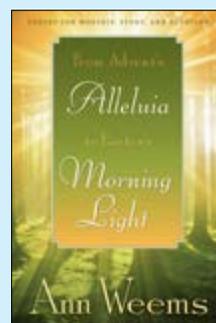
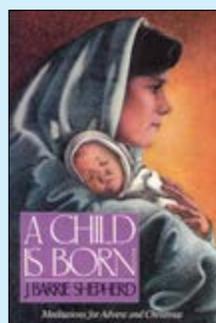
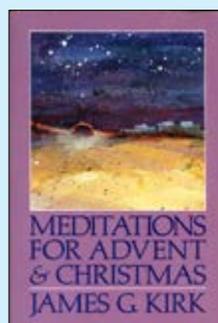
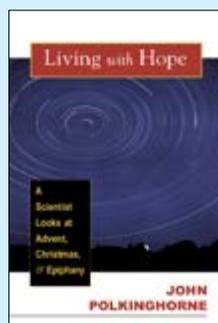
BOOKS FOR STUDY & DEVOTION



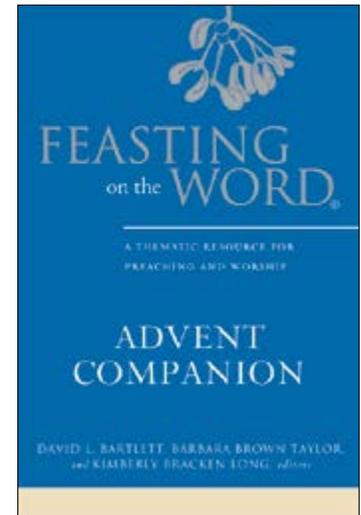
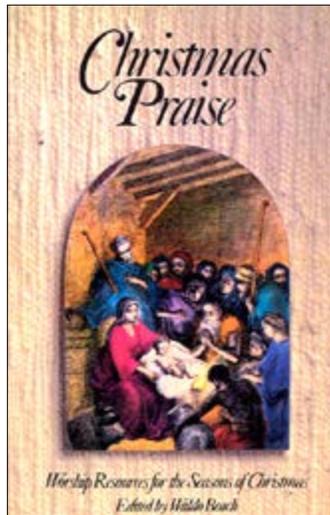
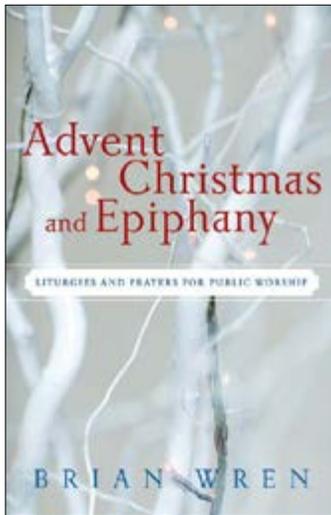
Songs for the Waiting <i>Devotions Inspired by the Hymns of Advent</i>	Walking Backwards to Christmas	Every Valley <i>Advent with the Scriptures of Handel's Messiah</i>	God Is in the Manger <i>Reflections on Advent and Christmas</i>	Kneeling in Bethlehem <i>Poetry for Advent and Christmas</i>	Illuminating Advent <i>Being Reformed Series</i>
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Despite the beauty of Advent hymns, most of us prefer to skip right to our favorite Christmas carols. But in our rush to get to the joy of Christmas, we forget what Advent is all about. Through the words of moving Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture, <i>Songs for the Waiting</i> helps readers reclaim a sense of the beautiful anticipation and preparation that is central to Advent. Each day's devotion also includes questions for reflection and prayers, making this book also suitable for group study or creating a sermon series.	<i>Walking Backwards to Christmas</i> starts at the end of the story, with Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon at the temple, and moves backwards to the much-earlier hopes and dreams of Isaiah and Moses. Telling the Christmas story through the eyes of both famous figures like King Herod and imagined characters like the innkeeper's wife, Stephen Cottrell invites readers to experience Jesus' birth anew, with greater appreciation of the dark themes and ancient figures relevant to the Advent story.	This gift-worthy book will delight readers with essays exploring the theological, historical, and pastoral implications of the Scriptures that make up Handel's <i>Messiah</i> . Forty reflections journey in order through the oratorio, taking the reader deeper into less-often studied texts and bringing new light to oft-quoted passages. Each reflection offers the libretto from <i>Messiah</i> , the same passage from the NRSV, and a brief commentary on the text, written by a respected scholar or pastor.	These forty stirring devotions will guide and inspire readers as they move thematically through the weeks of Advent and Christmas, from waiting and mystery to redemption, incarnation, and joy. Supplemented by an informative introduction, short excerpts from Bonhoeffer's letters, and passages from Bonhoeffer's Christmas sermons, these daily reflections are timeless and moving reminders of the true meaning of Christmas. Now repackaged in a beautiful hardback edition, it makes the perfect holiday gift.	In a style that is reverent and faith-filled, Ann Weems reflects on the mystery of the Christmas season. Included in this collection are twenty-six new poems as well as popular selections from her earlier works, especially <i>Reaching for Rainbows</i> and <i>Family Faith Stories</i> . Capturing the spirit of joyful celebration, they can be used in worship services, read aloud at family gatherings, or used by individuals for quiet reflection.	Through the blessed themes of Advent—hope, love, joy, and peace— <i>Illuminating Advent</i> invites you to connect with this sacred season. The meaning and mystery of Christmas and Epiphany are also explored. <i>Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding</i> is a series of biblically based six-session mini-courses that provides adults with a foundational understanding of the Reformed faith. Features Scripture, prayer, in-depth commentary, and questions for reflection.
ISBN: 9780664262525	ISBN: 9780664261863	ISBN: 9780664259983	ISBN: 9780664238872	ISBN: 9780664255169	ID #s: 680815; 680816
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Advent Classics

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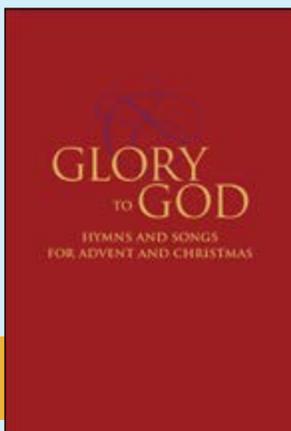


BOOKS FOR PREACHING & WORSHIP



<p>Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany <i>Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship</i></p>	<p>Christmas Praise <i>Worship Resources for the Seasons of Christmas</i></p>	<p>Feasting on the Word Advent Companion <i>A Thematic Resource for Preaching and Worship</i></p>
<p>Brian Wren</p>	<p>Edited by Waldo Beach</p>	<p>Edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, David L. Bartlett, & Barbara Brown Taylor</p>
<p>\$30.00 \$19.50 * ISBN: 9780664233099</p>	<p>\$20.00 \$13.00 * ISBN: 9780664221614</p>	<p>\$30.00 \$19.50 * ISBN: 9780664259648</p>
<p>Preeminent hymn writer and liturgist Brian Wren offers a collection of worship resources suitable for use in a variety of worship traditions. These theologically sound and creative worship resources include orders of worship (liturgies) and worship elements such as litanies, calls to worship, thanksgivings, and affirmations of faith. All the worship materials are compatible with the Revised Common Lectionary, but can also be used in churches that do not use the RCL. Additional features include a Scripture index and a topical index listing items that can be used on other occasions during the church year.</p>	<p>This collection of carefully selected lectionary readings, poems, carols, prayers, and litanies will enrich the Christmas worship experience in the church and at home. The three main segments of this anthology follow the traditional sequence of the Christian liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. With this resource, the hearths of homes can become altars, and the blessed season may be honored in holy tribute to the birth of Christ.</p>	<p>This resource is an all-in-one worship companion designed for those who do not follow the lectionary, or would like an alternative to the lectionary during Advent. Includes six thematically designed services for the four Sundays in Advent as well as Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Four midweek services provide a supplemental study of John the Baptist to enhance the congregation's Advent experience. In keeping with other Feasting on the Word resources, the Advent Companion offers pastors focused resources for sermon preparation along with ready-to-use liturgies for a complete order of worship. All new material including hymn suggestions, Service of Hope and Healing, and children's sermons make this an invaluable resource for the Advent season.</p>
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Enjoy the Gift of Music throughout the Season



Glory to God—Hymns and Songs for Advent and Christmas

ISBN: 9780664263980

\$5.00 — quantity discounts available!

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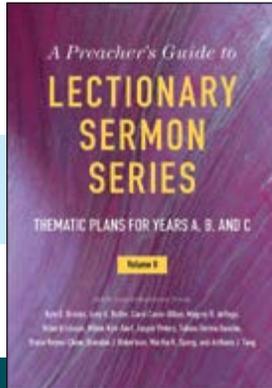
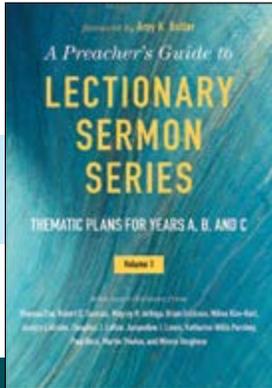
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Ideal for carolers, choir directors, and congregations that have visitors in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas, this seasonal resource features 75 hymns and songs from the Advent and Birth sections of the *Glory to God* hymnal.

PERFECT FOR AT-HOME WORSHIP!

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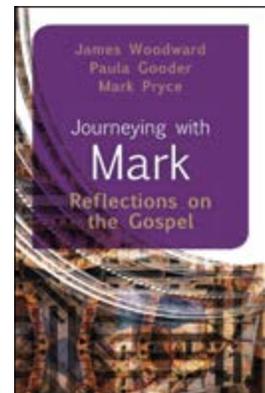
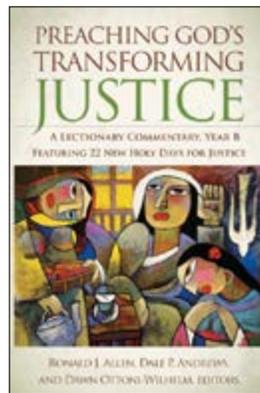
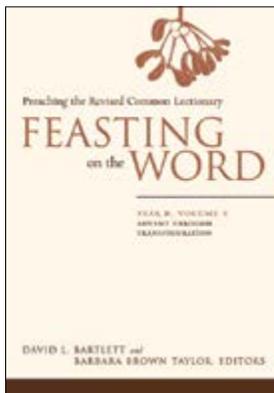
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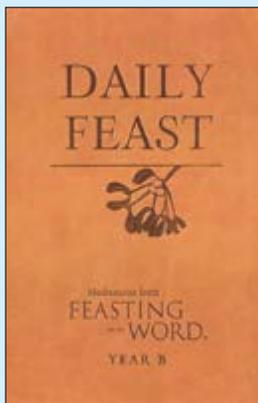
Both lectionary and topical preachers will enjoy the best of both worlds with these sermon series ideas designed to frame consecutive weeks of lectionary texts into seasonal and short-term series.

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<p>Feasting on the Word: Year B, Volume 1 <i>Advent through Transfiguration</i></p>	<p>Preaching God's Transforming Justice <i>A Lectionary Commentary, Year B</i></p>	<p>Journeying with Mark <i>Reflections on the Gospel</i></p>
<p>Edited by David L. Bartlett & Barbara Brown Taylor</p>	<p>Edited by Ronald J. Allen, Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, & Dale P. Andrews</p>	<p>James Woodward, Paula Gooder, & Mark Pryce</p>
<p>ISBN: 9780664239619 * \$40.00 \$26.00</p>	<p>\$50.00 \$32.50 * ISBN: 9780664234546</p>	<p>\$18.00 \$11.70 * ISBN: 9780664260224</p>
<p>For each lectionary text, preachers will find four brief essays—one each on the theological, pastoral, exegetical, and homiletical challenges of the text. This gives preachers sixteen different approaches to the proclamation of the Word on any given occasion.</p>	<p>This unique commentary helps the preacher identify and reflect on the social implications of the Revised Common Lectionary readings for year B. In addition to providing commentary for each day in the lectionary calendar, this series introduces twenty-two Holy Days for Justice, such as Martin Luther King Day, Earth Day, World AIDS Day, and Juneteenth.</p>	<p><i>Journeying with Mark</i> follows the Revised Common Lectionary through the liturgical year and looks at the Gospel passages read during each season. Readers will find an introduction to the text, imaginative new ways to encounter Mark in preaching and study, and reflections on the text's meaning for contemporary Christian life. Each chapter ends with an action item, reflection questions, and a prayer.</p>
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A Lectionary Spirituality

Daily Feast

Meditations from Feasting on the Word, Year B

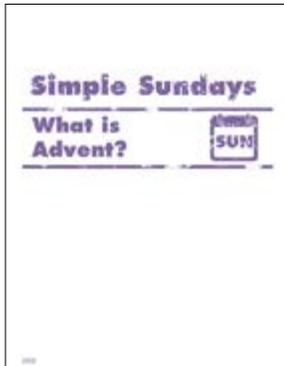
Edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell & Kathleen Long Bostrom

~~\$28.00~~ **\$18.20** * ISBN: 9780664237974

This gorgeous volume is packaged in a soft leather-like cover with rounded corners, a stamped cover, and a sewn-in ribbon to help you keep your place. *Daily Feast* is ideal for daily meditation, journaling, teaching, and worship preparation. Each day of the week contains Scripture passages for the coming Sunday from the Revised Common Lectionary, excerpts from the Feasting on the Word commentaries for reflection, a response, and a prayer. Additional material is provided for each Sunday.

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ADVENT EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN



Simple Sundays: What Is Advent?

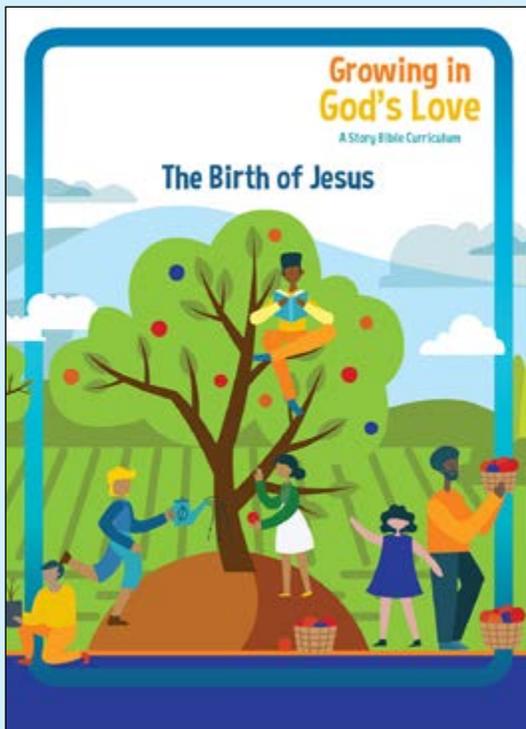
Four Sessions

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Simple Sundays offers straight-forward lesson plans with little to no preparation required. Perfect for any gathering of youth at any time and in any location. Explore the themes of Advent through study of the scripture of Christ's birth. The people who waited for the Messiah show us how to wait with patience and hope for God to work in our lives. Consider Mary, Joseph, and the others as role models of faith.

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The Birth of Jesus

Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum

5 Sessions

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Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum invites children and their leaders to connect with one another as they develop a better relationship with God. By exploring the stories in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, children and their leaders engage with the story and wrestle with their place in that story. This curriculum is written for ages 5-10, is intentionally multiage, and also includes an intergenerational component with four suggestions for intergenerational and home ideas for each session within a unit. Those ideas include suggestions for things to do in worship, more education-focused ideas, ways to connect with one another, and mission ideas. This adds another dimension to learning and helps the children connect to the congregation, creating a holistic approach to children's ministry. Additionally, free and customizable at-home kit guides are available for each unit.

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