

# ADVENT CONSPIRACY

The Christmas story is a story of love, hope, redemption and relationship. So, what happened? How did it turn into stuff, stress and debt? Somehow, we've traded the best story in the world for the story of what's on sale. Join others in the Advent Conspiracy as we show that Christmas still can change the world through Worshipping Fully, Spending Less, Giving More and Loving All.



## WEEK 2: SPEND LESS

Quick question for you: What was the one gift you remember getting for Christmas last year? Next question: What about the fourth gift? Do you remember that one? Truth is many of us don't because it wasn't something we necessarily wanted or needed. Spending Less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year. America spends around \$600 billion dollars during the Christmas season, and much of that it joyless and goes right onto a credit card. By spending wisely on gifts we free ourselves from the anxiety associated with debt so we can take in the season with a full heart.

*Discuss these reflection questions with family, friends, and/or in your parish community. The questions were written for children & families, but can work for everyone.*

### SPENDING LESS

1. Talk about a time when you didn't get what you wanted for Christmas. How did you feel?
2. Now, talk about a time when you got exactly what you wanted! How did you feel then? How long was it before you were tired of the present you got?
3. Do you think people could worship things? How? Why?
4. When you see a commercial about something that you don't have, how does it make you feel? Do you think that your feelings are true? How can you protect yourself from feeling that way?

### ENGAGING THE WORD

James 5:1-6

1. What are the specific sins that are in this passage? What happens when someone puts their trust in money and things?
  - a. Has this ever happened to you? Have you ever gotten something new, but then got tired of it and wanted something else? Tell us about that.

Matthew 6:19-24

2. What is the difference between an earthly treasure and a heavenly treasure?
  - a. Do you think that the way you spend money says something about your heart and what you think is important? Why? How can you stay focused on God during Christmas?

### UNWRAPPING THE MESSAGE

1. "Going overboard" means doing something too much or going to an extreme. How do people go overboard with during Christmas?
2. If someone always got everything they wanted at Christmas, what would that teach him or her about being content with what he or she has? What do you think he or she would think about Christmas?



### VIDEOS, TIPS, AND MORE

Go online to go deeper: <http://gospel.link/adventconspiracy2>