

**Advent/Christmas studies** still available to borrow from the  
United Media Resource Center      contact Jill Stone at [umrc@igrc.org](mailto:umrc@igrc.org) or 217-529-2744

## DVD studies:

**ADVENT CONSPIRACY: CAN CHRISTMAS STILL CHANGE THE WORLD? (101027)** Are you fed up with how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas? This **four-session** DVD study invites individuals, families, groups, and entire churches to substitute compassion for consumerism by practicing four simple but powerful countercultural concepts: 1) Worship fully -- because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus!; 2) Spend less -- and free your resources for things that truly matter; 3) Give more -- of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, your heart; 4) Love all -- the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference. Segments approx. 15 minutes each. Includes guide.

**BIRTH NARRATIVES (102012)** Author: Efird, James 'Mickey'. This **eight-session** study examines the birth narratives in the gospels of Luke and Matthew. Includes leader's guide, participant guide, two DVDs, and promotional materials. DVD segments vary from 17-39 minutes in length.

**CLEAR VIEW OF JESUS' BIRTH (103013)** Author: Bailey, Ken. In this **four-session** DVD study, Biblical scholar and long-time Middle Eastern resident Dr. Ken Bailey sheds new light on the all-too-familiar nativity story. Part 1 (36 min.): the birth story, where they stayed, the manger. Part 2 (30 min.): genealogy, the five women listed (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary), Mt. 1:18--Joseph a 'just' man?, Mt. 1:20--Joseph 'considered'? Part 3 (27 min.): Jesus comes for Jews and Gentiles, Mt. 2--the wise men and the star. Part 4 (29 min.): Herod, the slaughter of the innocents, Jesus presented to Simeon and Anna, Mary's costly discipleship, Jesus in the temple.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL BIBLE STUDY (103035)** With practical applications for daily living, this **four-session** DVD study features a black-and-white film version of Dickens' classic story with relevant scriptures for you to use on the teachings of Jesus. Session titles: 1) Scrooge (selfishness), 11 min.; 2) Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past (Regret), 22 min.; 3) Ghost of Christmas Present (Repentance), 15 min.; 4) Ghost of Christmas Future (Salvation), 20 min. Includes leader's guide.

*Related resource:*

**CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL (806246)** Author: Scholl, Travis. With A Four-Week Bible Study for Advent. This spiral-bound book includes the original text of 'A Christmas Carol' complemented by a discussion guide for Christian individuals or groups. Intertwined throughout the story and the guide are the themes of hope, redemption, transformation, the work of the Spirit, and the Christian life. Session titles: Who Am I?; How Did I Get Here?; What Am I Doing?; Where Am I Going? 117 pages. **(2 copies)**

**CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE: A NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (103099)** Author: Idleman, Kyle. This **six-session** small group DVD study dramatizes the nativity story and explores the experiences of each of the characters. Sessions: 1) At just the right time (29 min.); 2) Favored one (27 min.); 3) Faithful one (24 min.); 4) This is God's plan? (26 min.); 5) Immanuel (25 min.); 6) Gold, frankincense, myrrh (28 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's guide. CLOSED CAPTIONED (English, Spanish, and French)

**DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: LIVING AND GIVING LIKE JESUS (104052)** Author: Slaughter, Mike. Help your church cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing through the year. This **five-session** study helps participants see the traps and discontentment of consumerism and the call of God to live generously to fulfill God's mission in the world. Sessions: 1) Expect a miracle (13 min.); 2) Giving up on perfect (13 min.); 3) Scandalous love (15 min.); 4) Jesus' wish list (16 min.); 5) By a different road (13 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday."

**Related resources:**

**CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY (811055)** Author: Slaughter, Mike. Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus. Chapter titles: Expect a miracle; Giving up on perfect; Scandalous love; Jesus' wish list; By a different road. Includes questions for discussion and reflection. 94 pages. **(4 copies)**

**DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: DEVOTIONS FOR THE SEASON (814213)** Author: Slaughter, Mike. Thirty short devotional readings for the Advent season. Each reading includes Scripture, a brief story or meditation, and a prayer. 78 pages.

**FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM (106066)** Author: Moore, James and Marigza, Lilla. Designed as a supplement to James Moore's book, this **five-session** DVD study explores how Jesus breaks through our confusion to bring us the peace and love of Christmas. Sessions: 1) Bethlehem or bedlam (10 min.); 2) Christ came to set us free (9 min.); 3) Love came down at Christmas (10 min.); 4) The precious memories of Christmas (9 min.); 5) Mind the light (9 min.). Includes leader's guide and paperback book.

**GOSPEL OF IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE BIBLE STUDY (107082)** In this **four-session** DVD study, host Stephen Skelton leads your group through the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" with a string of video clips. The accompanying leader's guide provides discussion questions that focus on each session's biblical principal: 1) Goodness (17 min.); 2) Godliness (12 min.); 3) Prayers (10 min.); 4) Miracles (9 min.). A booklet, "Finding God in It's a Wonderful Life: An Interview with Jimmy Stewart," is also provided.

**JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM (110020)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this DVD study, take your group on a journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. **Five sessions:** 1) Mary of Nazareth (10 min.); 2) Joseph of Bethlehem (13 min.); 3) Mary's visit to Elizabeth (10 min.); 4) From Nazareth to Bethlehem (11 min.); 5) The manger (13 min.). Bonus segment: The Holy Land today (13 min.). Includes leader's guide and hardback book.

**JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS (110040)** In this **four-session** DVD study you will follow the journey of five diverse people as they experience the Holy Land for the first time. Guided by a local Bible scholar, you will see Jesus' birth unfold through the eyes of each member on this real-life pilgrimage as they search for answers to their questions about the Nativity account. Sessions: 1) Following the star; 2) Angelic announcements; 3) The trip to Bethlehem; 4) Shepherds, wise men, and a King. DVD segments are 44 minutes each. Includes guide.

**NOT A SILENT NIGHT: MARY LOOKS BACK TO BETHLEHEM (114046)** Author: Hamilton, Adam. In this **five-session** DVD study, Adam Hamilton examines the life of Jesus as seen through Mary's eyes. Sessions: 1)

Beginning with the end (14 min.); 2) The piercing of Mary's soul (12 min.); 3) Amazed, astounded, and astonished (12 min.); 4) Mary, full of grace (11 min.); 5) It was not a silent night (11 min.). Includes leader's guide and small hardback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED.

**ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS: BIRTH AND MINISTRY (115016)** Author: Witherington, Ben. In this **four-session** DVD study, travel to the Holy Land with New Testament scholar Ben Witherington and experience the birth and ministry of Jesus. Learn about places such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River, and more. Session titles: 1) Unto us a Son is given (11 min.); 2) Troubling the waters (16 min.); 3) Fishing for followers (13 min.); 4) From the sea to the wedding to home (10 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's book.

**PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS (116038)** Author: Warren, Rick. A **Three-Session** DVD-Based Study for Groups and Families. Session titles: Christmas Is a Time for Celebration (13 min.); Christmas Is a Time for Salvation (15 min.); Christmas Is a Time for Reconciliation (24 min.). This study is evangelistic and aimed at including those who are very new to the faith or exploring the meaning of Christmas for the first time. Each session also includes a short segment for leaders. Includes guide.

**SAVIOR IS BORN: EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS (119078)** Author: Briscoe, Pete. **Four-session** DVD study. God was intentional in every detail of his plan to bring his son into the world. Through Mary, an everlasting hope would come to the nations. Through the little town of Bethlehem, the birth of our Savior would become a reality and be our prince of peace. Through shepherds, God would exalt the humble and show us that he is the sovereign shepherd of love. Through angels, God would send good tidings of great joy that would come to all people everywhere. Sessions: 1) Hope (13 min.); 2) Peace (18 min.); 3) Love (17 min.); 4) Joy (14 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant workbook.

**SENT: DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS (119133)** Author: Acevedo, Jorge. Pastor Jorge Acevedo leads us on a **five-session** DVD study to discover how, where, and why we are sent. Joining him on the journey are four young clergy who challenge us through story, art, and Bible study. Each session, led by a different presenter, begins with a story about Advent or Christmas and is followed by a lively discussion among the presenters. Sessions: 1) Jesus reconciles; Jesus sets us free; Jesus is God with us; Jesus brings us new life; Jesus changes everything. DVD segments are 9 minutes each. Includes leader's guide and paperback book. CLOSED CAPTIONED

**THRILL OF HOPE: THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND ART (120050)** This DVD presents the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Each passage is illustrated and interpreted by the artwork of contemporary artist John August Swanson and commentary from members of the faculty at Candler School of Theology. DVD can be viewed in its entirety, or can be divided into **six chapters** for group discussion: 1) A Visit (8 min.); 2) The Nativity (7 min.); 3) The Shepherds (6 min.); 4) Epiphany (7 min.); 5) Presentation in the Temple (7 min.); 6) Flight into Egypt (6 min.). Includes sample discussion guide.

**UNDER WRAPS: THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED (121025)** Author: LaGrone; Nixon; Renfroe; Robb. This **four- or five-session** DVD study centers on characteristics of God that are evidenced in the Old

Testament and then seen more clearly through Jesus Christ. Sessions: 1) God is expectant; Jessica LaGrone (14 min.); 2) God is dangerous; Ed Robb (17 min.); 3) God is jealous; Andy Nixon (16 min.); 4) God is faithful; Rob Renfroe (18 min.); 5) Epilogue -- A season of joy -- an optional Christmas week focus; all presenters (5 min.). Includes leader's guide and sample participant's guide. **CLOSED CAPTIONED**.

**WHY IN THE WORLD: THE REASON GOD BECAME ONE OF US (123081)** Author: Stanley, Andy. Why would God want to become one of us and live in a world of anxiety, chaos, and heartache? In this **four-session** DVD study, Andy Stanley explores this topic. The DVD sessions are provided in two formats: full-length messages and edited small-group session versions. Sessions: 1) To communicate and demonstrate (37 min. or 19 min.); 2) Like Son, like Father (40 min. or 21 min.); 3) Classless (43 min. or 17 min.); 4) Putting religion in its place (42 min. or 20 min.). Includes guide.

### ***Print format only (no DVD component):***

**CELEBRATE: CHURCH PLANNING KIT (103108)** This four-week program focuses on acts of mercy. The kit includes a church planning guide, promotional poster, sample daily devotional guide, and an enhanced DVD that includes brief worship videos, service outlines, **four-week** Bible studies in print format for adults, youth, and children (ages 4 - 12), and more.

**CHRISTMAS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY -- AN ADVENT STUDY FOR ADULTS (915036)** Author: Wilke, Richard. In this **four-session**, print-only study, author Richard Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a brief reflection, questions for reflection or discussion, a suggested Christmas carol, and a brief prayer. Sessions: 1) Let's keep Herod in Christmas; 2) Let's keep the wise men in Christmas; 3) Let's keep Joseph in Christmas; 4) Let's keep the shepherds in Christmas. 47 pages. **(19 copies)**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK (911018)** Author: Moore, James W. **Four sessions:** 1) The Gift of Hope; 2) The Gift of Love; 3) The Gift of Joy; 4) The Gift of Peace. Also includes suggestions for an all-church event. Includes study guide for the leader. 48 pages. **(76 copies)**