



LEADER GUIDE

Welcome group leaders.

We believe Advent Conspiracy exists to help the Church experience the joy of Christmas in a fuller, richer way. A big part of that is learning from one another and encouraging one another on this journey. This four-session curriculum was specifically designed to help groups apply the tenets of Advent Conspiracy in personal, practical ways.

Session 1 | Worship Fully

Session 2 | Spend Less

Session 3 | Give More

Session 4 | Love All

When your group meets, you'll have time to pray together, unpack the reading, watch a short video teach, and then discuss what you're learning. You'll notice that we've intentionally kept the video content short to allow more time for your group to get to know each other and build community. Before you meet, your group should read the assigned chapter(s) and complete the homework from the previous session. The videos and group discussion questions build upon the chapters found in the Advent Conspiracy book.

Group Structure

Your group should plan to meet for 60-75 minutes each week.

Connect (15 min)

Share personal reflections and build community as a group.

Watch (5-7 min)

Watch a short video from one of the creators of Advent Conspiracy that dives deeper into the book content.

Reflect (20 min)

Lead your group through discussion questions and unpack what you're learning.

Pray (10 min)

End each session praying together as a group.

Materials Needed

Group Leader Guide.

Print off a copy for yourself and any co-leaders.

Participant Guide.

Decide whether you will print those in advance for your group or if you'll ask them to bring their own copy. They can be found on adventconspiracy.org/resources under the Small Group materials section.

Advent Conspiracy Group Videos.

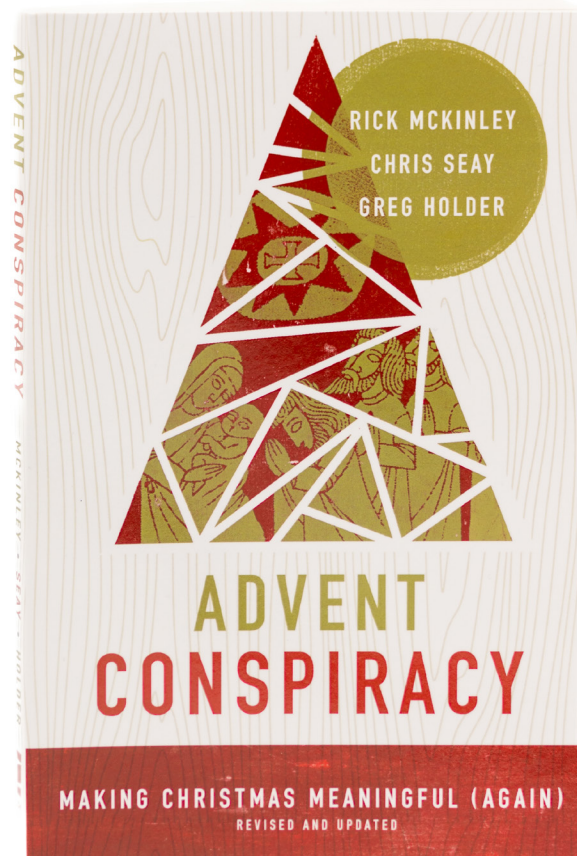
Available for free on adventconspiracy.org/resources under the Small Group materials section.

Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful Again (2018 version).

Available on Amazon or wherever you buy books. Older versions of the book do not correspond with this curriculum.

Bible.

Bring your preferred translation or use your phone to look up scripture passages.



ADVENTCONSPIRACY.COM/GROUPS

SESSION 1 | WORSHIP FULLY

Prep Work

Prior to your first meeting, everyone should read chapters 1-3 in the Advent Conspiracy book.

Connect (15 minutes)

Welcome everyone to your group and take some time for people to get to know each other, if they don't already. Share with your group what the format will be as well as expectations for your time together. Be sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Ask

- What do you like to do for fun?
- Tell us 3 fun facts about you.
- After reading the first few chapters of Advent Conspiracy, describe how you're feeling in one word.
- What are some obstacles you have to overcome this Advent season?
- On a scale of 1-10, how are you feeling about Christmas this year? Why? (1=dread, 10=excited)

Watch

Play Worship Fully video. Videos can be found online at adventconspiracy.org/resources.

Reflect (20 min)

Unpack the video and the questions found on pg. 153-155 in the Advent Conspiracy book. Be sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ask

- What was the best Christmas you've ever had? What made it special?
- What's the hardest part about worshipping God outside of church services?
- What do you want to experience this year during Advent?
- The video talked about experiencing God through scripture, alone time, out in creation, and in community with others. How best do you experience God?
- What practical choices do you need to make to ensure that Christmas remains a time of focused worship?
- What do you want to experience this year during Advent?
- Read Luke 2:8-20. What are some specific ways in which our contemporary celebration of Christmas moves us away from the kind of worship the shepherds experiences? What can we do to recapture that sense of wonder and gratitude?
- What stood out to you in the reading or video? Anything else you want to unpack?

Pray

End your time together in prayer. Pray for each other, share your prayer requests, and pray specifically for God to develop a heart of worship in each person in your group.

Homework

Remind your group to read chapter 4 in the Advent Conspiracy book before your next gathering.

SESSION 2 | SPEND LESS

Prep Work

Prior to meeting, everyone should read chapter 4 in the Advent Conspiracy book.

Connect (15 minutes)

Welcome everyone back.

If anyone new has joined your group, take a few minutes to introduce everyone and recap session 1.

Ask

- How was everyone's week?
- What's your favorite Christmas movie and why?
- Where did you notice God this week? Any stories to share?
- How did you find time this week to worship? Was it hard or easy?
- Today's session is about spending less - how are you feeling about that?

Watch

Play Spend Less video. Videos can be found online at adventconspiracy.org/resources.

Reflect (20 min)

Unpack the video and the questions found on pg. 157-158 in the Advent Conspiracy book. Be sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ask

- When you first heard we were going to be talking about spending less, what was your reaction?
- Did you grow up in a family that had budgets or talked openly about spending? Do you find it easy or difficult to have these conversations?
- What stood out to you the most in chapter 4 of the book or in the video?
- How easily is it for you to get caught up in the distraction of "needing more" or comparing yourself to what others have?
- Do you typically set a budget or have any parameters when it comes to Christmas spending? (Don't share specific numbers with each other).
- The video talked about the connection between a heart of gratitude and our spending habits. What can you do this Advent season to cultivate more gratitude?
- Read Matthew 6:19-24. What does it mean to store treasures in heaven? Does this come easily to you?
- What stood out to you in the reading or video? Anything else you want to unpack?

Pray

End your time together in prayer. Pray for each other, share your prayer requests, and pray specifically for God to give each person wisdom as they approach spending and for their hearts to be filled with gratitude.

Homework:

Remind your group to read chapter 5 in the Advent Conspiracy book before your next gathering.

SESSION 3 | GIVE MORE

Prep Work

Prior to meeting, everyone should read chapter 5 in the Advent Conspiracy book.

Connect (15 minutes)

Welcome everyone in your group. Spend some time catching up and building community.

Ask

- Did everyone have a good week?
- What is God teaching you so far in this study?
- What are 3 things you're thankful for?
- What's your Christmas Eve tradition?
- Is it easier for you to give gifts or receive gifts?

Watch

Play Give More video. Videos can be found online at adventconspiracy.org/resources.

Reflect (20 min)

Unpack the video and the questions found on pg. 159-160 in the Advent Conspiracy book. Be sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ask

- What is one way you've experienced God personally over the last year?
- What is the most meaningful gift you've ever received? Why did it have a lasting impression?
- Does giving relationally come easily to you or do you find it hard to do?
- What is your favorite Christmas memory or tradition?
- How do you intentionally slow down and stay present during the Advent season? Are there boundaries you might need to put in place to help you?
- As you consider giving relationally this Christmas, what most excites you? What will be the biggest challenge?
- Read John 1:1-4. How does this passage remind you of the miracle of Christmas?
- What stood out to you in the reading or video? Anything else you want to unpack?

Pray

End your time together in prayer. Pray for each other, share your prayer requests, and pray specifically for God to bless your group with creativity as they think about giving relationally.

Homework

Remind your group to read chapters 6-7 in the Advent Conspiracy book before your next gathering.

SESSION 4 | LOVE ALL

Prep Work

Prior to meeting, everyone should read chapters 6-7 in the Advent Conspiracy book.

Connect (15 minutes)

Welcome everyone in your last group gathering. Thank them for participating in this group and for being a part of meaningful discussions.

Ask

- What was the best part of your week?
- If you could spend Christmas anywhere in the world, where would you go and who would you take with you?
- What are you most looking forward to this Christmas?
- How did you see God at work over the last week?
- What's been the biggest lesson you've learned so far from this Advent Conspiracy study?

Watch

Play Love All video. Videos can be found online at adventconspiracy.org/resources.

Reflect (20 min)

Unpack the video and the questions found on pg. 161-163 in the Advent Conspiracy book. Be sure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Ask

- When you hear people talk about addressing big issues like poverty, disease, the water crisis, housing, education, etc. What is your first reaction? Overwhelmed, skeptical, excited, apathetic, something else?
- The video talked about three practical ways to Love All - donating the money you saved, volunteering your time to serve others, showing hospitality to people you don't know. Which of these come the easiest to you? Which is the hardest?
- Read Luke 2:1-24. Jesus was born into poverty, how does this change the way you view the Christmas story? What is God trying to teach us?
- What ways could your family/group of friends Love All this Advent season?
- Is there an organization or a cause you feel passionate about? Share their mission with the group.
- Read Matthew 25:34-40. In what ways are acts of service a gift to Jesus?
- What has been the most helpful thing you've learned as we've gone through this group study?
- What is one practical thing you're going to try this Advent season?
- How can we be praying for your Christmas?

Pray

End your time together in prayer.