Christmas/Advent Resources
from the NCCUMC Media Center

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Purpose: This guide is a comprehensive list of resources in our collection that can help your congregation study and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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Subjects and Keywords
Search for these subjects or keywords in the Media Center catalog:

Subjects
Christmas/Advent

Keywords
Advent
Birth
Christmas
Jesus
Luke
Matthew

Electronic Resource Keywords
Click on these words at http://nccumc.org/mediacenter/electronic-resources/ to find electronic resources related to this subject.

Advent
Christmas

Video Resources

DVD47 Efird Bible Study: The Birth Narratives
DVD59  Visual Bible: Matthew
"The Gospel of Matthew presented word for word from the best-selling New International Version® (NIV) translation offers wonderful educational, spiritual, and entertainment value. All ages—from preschoolers to the elderly—can follow along in the Bible while studying in a group or individually." A Spanish version is also available on this DVD.

DVD97  Holidays & Occasions: Christmas
4 short video illustrations from Bluefish TV: The Christmas Story, Gift of Love, I Heard the Bells, Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?

DVD98  A Christmas Carol Bible Study
Follow Scrooge on the journey of a fallen man who finds redemption in a four-part study featuring scenes from a classic film version of the story. Part one is Scrooge, a Look at Selfishness; part 2 is Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Past Examines Regret; repentance is the subject of part 3, the Ghost of Christmas Present; and part four, The Ghost of Christmas Future, reveals the possibility of Redemption. A leader's guide and reproducible handouts are included.

DVD145  Nativity: The Art and Spirit of the Crèche
A look at crèches from around the world contrasting the rush of commercial Christmas with the quiet adoration of the manger scene. A good program for all ages.

DVD303  The Purpose of Christmas
By Rick Warren. Why we celebrate Christmas and how it can change our lives forever. At the very first Christmas – the birth of Jesus – an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions on this DVD look at each of these: 1.Christmas is a time for celebration, 2.Christmas is a time for salvation, 3.Christmas is a time for reconciliation. Leader's guide included.

DVD305  Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?
Rick McKinley and Chris Seay know they’re not the only ones who are tired of how consumerism has stolen the soul of Christmas. In Advent Conspiracy, they invite individuals, families, home groups, and entire churches to join the groundswell of Christ-followers who choose to make Christmas what it should be—a joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth that enriches their hearts and the world around them, not a retail circus that depletes their pocketbooks and defeats their spirits. Through this engaging, four-session DVD curriculum and stand-alone book complete with study guide, Advent Conspiracy shows how readers can substitute compassion for consumption by practicing four simple but powerful, countercultural concepts: Worship Fully—because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus! Spend Less—and free up resources for things that truly matter. Give More—presence: helping hands, healing words, humble hearts. Love All—the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, the sick, in ways that make a difference.

DVD318  Deeper Connections: The Life of Jesus
This 6-part Bible study for adults reminds participants how the power of Jesus' promises could affect our lives. Birthday Surprises (Birth of Jesus), John Prepares the Way (Baptism of Jesus), The Victorious Son of God, Fishing with the Master (Jesus Calls the Disciples), Disease Conquered (Jesus Heals the Sick), and Defeating the Enemy (Jesus Casts Out Demons).

DVD368  The Fourth Wise Man
Based on Henry van Dyke's classic, "The Story of the Other Wise Man", a fictional story set in Biblical times, told in gently comic terms. It concerns a Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) who studies the prophecies and witnesses a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him and his faithful servant, Orantes (Alan Arkin), to the Messiah. Artaban takes with him three precious gifts to present to the Messiah. For 33 years, Artaban and Orantes pursue Jesus, only to miss Him at every turn. Along the way, Artaban uses his gifts to help people in dire need. He now has nothing
to present to the Messiah when he finds Him. The story culminates on Easter Sunday as Artaban, old and dying, finally encounters the new King, bringing peace to his final moments of life.

**DVD448 Advent Calendar on DVD**
Learn where Christmas traditions originated with these 25 mini-documentaries (each 3-4 minutes). The DVD contains extras such as a downloadable coloring book, scripts for each movie, bible readings, Christmas music, and the Gospel Christmas story.

**DVD471 Advent Calendar on DVD 2: Christmas Carols Edition**
Here are 25 brief reflections on treasured songs and carols for the entire family to enjoy during Advent. Explore the wonders of Bethlehem revealed in the stories of treasured songs and enjoy new arrangements of traditional Christmas favorites by award-winning composer Steven Bias. Songs include: "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Away in a Manger," "Deck the Halls," "Jingle Bells," "Joy to the World," "O Holy Night," "Up on the Housetop," and many more in 25 segments. Special features include a performance by the Alchemy Handbell Ensemble, a half hour of continuous Christmas music arranged by Steven Bias, an Advent Coloring Book in PDF, scripts and song lyrics for all 25 days in PDF, a Daily Bible Reading in your choice of four translations (KJV, NIV, NLT & NRSV Catholic edition) in PDF, and widescreen with optional English subtitles.

**DVD473 The Path of Jesus: From Bethlehem to Golgotha**
Seven short dramas of the life and teachings of Jesus. In this DVD, you will see the Bible come to life. Follow the path of Jesus from Bethlehem to Golgotha and beyond. These are revealing moments and turning points in His life and ministry. The stories are The Christmas Story, The Temptation, Jesus and the Pharisees, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, The Decision, The Absent King, and The New Covenant. All through the lens of Bible times. Special features include a director's commentary for each story, audio soundtracks of the music for The Christmas Story and The New Covenant, a photo gallery, and Roman recipes. A PDF study guide is available at www.visionvideo.com.

**DVD482 The Journey: DVD with Leader Guide**
This five-session DVD was filmed on location in the Holy Land. Each exciting and informative session contains 10-15 minute video vignettes of pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton retracing the actual path of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. Also includes a bonus segment on the Holy Land today. In addition, this comprehensive resource includes a 64-page Leader Guide containing everything needed to guide your group through the study. Inside you’ll find session plans, discussion questions, as well as multiple format options and suggestions of ways to make the study a meaningful experience for any group. The companion book is also available as BK806.

**DVD484 The Nativity Story**
In Nazareth, a town oppressed by the devastating taxation practices of King Herod, a teenage girl, Mary, is told by her parents that they have arranged for her to marry Joseph. Distraught by the idea of marrying a man she hardly knows, Mary takes refuge in a grove to collect her thoughts. There, she is visited by an angel, who tells her that she has been chosen by God to bear his son. Despite the public scorn from an unwed pregnancy, together, Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem for a census mandated by the King. It is here, with a great celestial event revealing his prophecy, in a history-defining event, that Jesus is born. Rated PG.

**DVD533 A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art**
This 50-minute DVD-based study presents the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each scripture passage is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by some of America’s premier Biblical scholars, names such as Dr. Thomas G. Long, Dr. Michael Joseph Brown, Dr. Carol A. Newsom, and more. The study is divided into six 7-minute chapters, each one featuring a passage of Scripture.

**DVD598 A Different Kind of Christmas: Living and Giving Like Jesus**
Help your church cast a vision of living and giving like Jesus, beginning with the Christmas season and continuing through the year. This five-week 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. This five-session DVD features Mike Slaughter, Lead Pastor of Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church and popular author of Christmas Is Not Your Birthday. Each 10-15 minute video inspires viewers to approach Christmas differently and be transformed in the process. This comprehensive resource includes a 64-page Leader Guide containing everything needed to guide your group through the study. Inside you'll find session plans and discussion questions, as well as multiple format options and suggestions of ways to make the study a meaningful experience for any group. Sessions include: 1. Expect a Miracle 2. Giving Up on Perfect 3. Scandalous Love 4. Jesus’ Wish List 5. By a Different Road.

**DVD610 The True Christmas Story: Herod the Great, Jesus the King**
Travel with teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan to the land of Israel to discover fascinating truths about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Hunch within the dank, sooty mouth of a cave much like the one in which Jesus was born. See true mangers, hewn not of lumber, but from solid blocks of rock. Your journey begins, though, not in these shadows of squalor, but at the shining heights of power and opulence: Herod’s palace. Its ruins will astound you with their sheer magnitude. Ray Vander Laan weaves the archaeological evidence with biblical teachings and the historical record to contrast two kings: Herod and Jesus. The True Christmas Story is strikingly relevant, packed with faith-building truths, and sure to speak to your heart well beyond the Christmas season. Author Biography: Ray Vander Laan is the founder of That the World May Know Ministries. When he is not teaching and doing research in Israel, he teaches in West Michigan at both the high school and seminary level.

**DVD611 Bethlehem Year Zero**
“This just in….reliable sources report a very bright object has been observed in the eastern sky. We go live now to our correspondent in Bethlehem…” Witness the events of 2000 years ago as if they are today’s breaking news! The program is set amidst the social and political context of the time and based on the best available research. Real life political analysts and correspondents detail the significance of the amazing events surrounding the birth of the long-awaited Messiah. This enlightening presentation provides a greater understanding and new appreciation of the world into which Jesus was born. Six 15-minute segments.

**DVD612 The Twelve Words of Christmas**
It's the greatest story ever told. Completely unforeseen, yet long awaited was the voice of God breaking through the darkness and four hundred years of silence with the cry of a baby. And not just any baby, the gift of God. God's people, having waited generations for their Creator to reveal Himself, never would have imagined that rescue and redemption would come in the simple, vulnerable form of a child, a baby born under the radar and into the chaos--announced by twelve words that changed history and brought hope to humanity. That's the message of Christmas. God with us, full of grace and truth. And no one on earth is too far from His love. No one beyond His reach. He's at work in your life, even in the midst of the chaos, and promises to bring you through. Merry Christmas. The Savior is here. Includes group discussion questions. 58 minutes.
DVD642  Christmas Double Feature
Who needs “seven swans a-swimming” when this Swan keeps you grinning? You’re certain to have a holly, jolly Christmas as Dennis Swanberg takes a laugh-out-loud look at the hilarities of the holiday. Joined by music comedian Keith Longbotham—and special guest “Aunt Swanita”---the pastor-turned-comedian will deck your halls with seasonal snickers for one and all. Approx. 60 minutes. Make this “pastor with a punchline” part of your Christmas celebration this year! Offering “Mashed Taters,” “Wanda’s Beauty Shop,” “Baptismal Bubbles,” and other side-splitting stories from his central Texas childhood, accomplished raconteur Swan will put you and your family in the holiday spirit---and encourage you in your faith. Fun for all ages! Approx. 50 minutes.

DVD1294  Johnny Lingo and Other LDS Film Classics
Christmas Snows, Christmas Winds: Memories of Christmas, especially those of childhood long past, can bring both joy and sorrow. Christmas Snows Christmas Winds, a half-hour drama set in a small 1930’s western farming community, echoes with the excitement of anticipation, the comfort of beloved family traditions, and the years of regret for a moment of childhood cruelty. In the bittersweet memories of one man's recollections, viewers of all ages will recognize the universal need for friendship and kindness.

DVD1336  The Christmas Experience
The Christmas Experience is a 6-week small group study that examines the Christmas story in detail, helping groups prepare for the Christmas season. Each episode will focus on how God chose each individual in the Christmas story for a specific purpose. Those participating in The Christmas Experience study will be able to find themselves in the Christmas story, as they learn that what happened then changes everything now. Includes a printed leader’s guide and participant book. Subtitles in English, Spanish, and French.

DVD1339  Charting Christmas
Why do we celebrate Christmas on December 25? How did Saint Nicholas become Santa Claus? Why do we have Christmas trees? Charting Christmas provides answers to these questions and many more as it explores the history of Christmas. Filmed on location in the Holy Land and the United Kingdom, this documentary traces the origins of Christmas traditions beginning with the biblical prophecies concerning the Messiah and the New Testament accounts of His birth. See how Christmas celebrations evolved through the ages and were influenced by notable figures and entities including Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Boniface, Charles Dickens, and even the Coca-Cola Corporation. Included are interviews with biblical scholars and historians, such as author and Bible teacher Lance Lambert and Canon Jim Rosenthal, Founder of the St. Nicholas Society. Their commentaries illuminate the origins of Christmas and tell us why we celebrate Christmas as we do today. 41 minutes.

DVD1340  Merry Christmas?
For many, Christmas is a time of excitement and joy as loving families share in the festive traditions of the season. But for others, the Christmas holidays are only a reminder of what is missing in life. Merry Christmas? tells the stories of three such people. Sherry was abused as a child and sank into a life of prostitution, crime, and drug use. For her, Christmas was always the time when she hit rock bottom. As a young girl, Mirasel was orphaned after a natural disaster struck her native Philippines. She spent years without the love and support of a family. Vinny, an aspiring rock musician was on the road to fame and fortune until his wife died tragically and he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, events that shattered him and derailed his hopes and dreams. Yet, through the struggles and pain these three individuals have found the grace to cope with their losses and move ahead in faith. Pastor Mark Jeske of the Time of Grace television program hosts this Christmas special and brings perspective to these stories as he unveils how the Christmas story speaks to hurting people. 27 minutes.
Resource codes that begin with VC are on VHS tape and require a VCR.

VC766  Mr. Krueger's Christmas
Jimmy Stewart in his later years portrays a lonely man at Christmas time. Christmas Carolers bring comfort and then more loneliness when they move on. A little girl's lost mittens and his prayer to the Christ child bring him joy and community.

VC913  Rough Edges
"A heartwarming Christmas story of hope." This live action drama of the meeting of two women during the rush of pre-Christmas preparations. One woman is a frazzled wife and mother trying to make Christmas perfect for her family in conflict; the other is a homeless woman who has found peacefulness and wonder.

VC942  Sheep and Shepherds
Storyteller Michael Williams uses location footage, storytelling and music to clarify the role of sheep and shepherds in Bible times. A leader's guide helps the group discuss the appearance and significance of sheep and shepherds in the Bible. One session involves the singing of Christmas carols and the study of shepherds at the Nativity.

VC947  Silent Mouse: The True Story for the Silent Night
The true story of the famous carol "Silent Night" starts in a little town in Austria. Lynn Redgrave narrates and tells a curious story about the part a mouse played in bringing us this wonderful carol.

VC1084  Truce in the Forest
The story of a German Christian woman who creates a place for a truce to happen among a small group of soldiers who take time out of the battle to celebrate the Savior's birth.

VC1494  Star Over Bethlehem
"From the Annunciation in Nazareth to the Nativity in Bethlehem, the story is full of wonders and joy." It is filmed on the actual locations where the first Christmas story took place.

Books

BK22  To Dance With God
Gertrud Nelson's book reflects on the importance of ritual and celebration in the faith and spiritual lives of families. Inspiring and practical ideas and suggestions.

BK86  Unplug the Christmas Machine
The classic book and family guide to help put the care and compassion back into the Christmas celebration and season. Ideas, resources and encouragement are all included in a book for private reading or as the basis for a small group study.

BK179  Symbols of Faith: Teaching Images of the Christian Faith
This book contains crafts and activities for all ages, information on over 60 symbols and reproducible patterns for many of them. Includes all seasons of the church year plus information on the disciples.

BK212  Creating Christmas Memories: Family Traditions for a Lifetime
A book filled with Christmas ideas for families and church families including recipes, the words to favorite songs, instructions for handmade gifts, activities and traditions to share.
BK242  Growing Together: Six Intergenerational Celebrations I: Fall and Winter
Experiential learning sessions for all ages to participate in at the same time! Sessions include: Building a Parish Family, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Complete lesson plans are included. May be adapted to any size group.

BK252  Let Us Go Over to Bethlehem
A 4-week study appropriate for individual or group study. "Get away from business as usual and plot a course toward Bethlehem" of Jesus' birth. The four sections are divided into the themes, faith, promise, peace and Christ of Christmas. Study questions included.

BK257  The Christian Christmas Tree II
20 full-size easy-to-use patterns such as the ark, stone tablets, dogwood, rainbow, and grapes with a description of what the image symbolizes.

BK258  Banners for All Seasons
"How to make creative banners for holy days and holidays." Dramatic, stylistic banners for many times in the church year using an applied fabric technique.

BK352  God Rest Ye Grumpy Scroogeysmen: New Traditions for Comfort and Joy at Christmas
Full of fun and practical how-to-tips, this book will help your family remember, create and experience memory-making traditions at Christmas time. Special chapter, "Zuzu's Petals," lists classic Christmas movies to enjoy with your family.

BK632  Makin' Room in the Inn: Christmas Hospitality through an African American Experience
This Advent study celebrates the Christmas traditions and spirituality of black people in America, showing how African ethics and theology have a continuing influence. The study, however, relates to any group who has experienced rural to urban displacement, homecoming, and who strive to practice extended hospitality, especially during the Christmas season.

BK636  Christmas Gifts that Won't Break: An Advent Study for Adults
This churchwide Advent study focuses on four of those gifts that also coincide with the four outer candles of the traditional Advent wreath: hope, love, joy, and peace. As participants go through this 4-session study, they will receive from God and pass onto others the Christmas gifts that won't break.

BK683  The Message of Christmas
This booklet pulls out scripture passages that tell the Christmas story using The Message translation of the Bible starting with Jeremiah 23:5-6 and ending with Revelation 21:1-7. This contemporary translation gives readers a new look at the Christmas story in language that is easy to understand.

BK686  Advent of the Savior: 6 Studies for Individuals and Groups
These six studies, edited by Cindy Bunch, serve to introduce readers to the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, remind them of God's faithfulness and power to fulfill his promises, and draw them more deeply into the love that brought Christ to Earth.

BK687  Christmas: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: An Advent Study for Adults
This study by Richard B. Wilke includes four sessions, one for each Sunday of Advent, focusing on the many characters from the story of Christ's birth including the wise men, the shepherds,

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Joseph, and King Herod. Each lesson includes Scripture, reflection, discussion questions, a Christmas carol, and prayer.

BK722 The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss - Leader's Guide
The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss has been one of Judson Press's best-selling books over the past two years. Its many lessons can be taught simply enough for children to understand, yet they are profound and significant enough to contribute to the spiritual growth of adults. Multi-age and intergenerational in scope, participants will have numerous opportunities to share their testimonies. What people in our lives, for example, remind us of Horton the elephant, whose faith cannot be shaken? In what ways are we more like the Grinch who stole Christmas than we care to admit? This study guide has been developed for use among three age groups; children, youth, and adults with six sessions for each age group. The companion book is BK723.

BK723 The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss
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BK807 Christmas is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus
This Christmas, cut through the hype that leaves you exhausted and broke at the end of the year. Instead, experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything he had for us. In five short, engaging chapters, Pastor Mike Slaughter inspires readers to approach Christmas differently, and be transformed in the process. Five chapters with reflection questions.

BK812 The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger
Join Lee Strobel as he asks the tough, pointed questions you'd expect from an award-winning legal journalist. If Jesus really was God in the flesh, then there ought to be credible evidence, including Eyewitness Evidence--Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? Scientific Evidence--What does archaeology reveal? Profile Evidence--Did Jesus fulfill the attributes of God? Fingerprint Evidence--Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah? This book is divided into four chapters with an introduction and a conclusion, making it a perfect Advent study.

BK997 When God Comes Down: An Advent Study for Adults
When God Comes Down is a five-week study, providing one lesson for each week of Advent and one for Christmas. Each lesson includes a key Scripture, a brief reflection, discussion/reflection questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. In this study, Harnish explores the meaning of the incarnation...God with us in human flesh. Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God’s action in Jesus Christ. It encourages participants to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to their own life experiences. The study looks at the stories of the primary biblical characters in the birth stories through whose lives the miracle of incarnation happened: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Harnish also looks at a traditional character in nativity plays, one who is not mentioned in the Bible, the innkeeper. Through all these characters, he helps us claim for ourselves the reality of God's presence with us.

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BK1010_ The Night Before Christmas: Special Church Edition
Before Christmas was fully accepted as a Christian holiday in America, it was a cultural battleground and commonly known as a drinking holiday. Seminary professor Clement Clarke Moore changed the tide with his popular poem "The Night Before Christmas" that contained a cleverly coded Christian message of reconciliation. The full text of the poem with historical and spiritual notes by Stephen Skelton is included in this reproducible booklet. The book also includes four Advent reflections on Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love using text from the poem and scripture. The Conference Media Center holds a Certificate of Copyright Permission so that you can reproduce this book for everyone in your group.

BK1012_ Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol: Special Church Edition
The full text of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with notes by Stephen Skelton on how the story is influenced by the gospel story of Jesus Christ. The Media Center holds a Certificate of Copyright Permission so that you can reproduce this booklet for everyone in your group.

BK1024_ Chrismons
An explanation of the symbols on the Chrismon tree at The Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia.

BK1025_ Classic Christmas Carols
Sheet music for 12 classic Christmas carols.

BK1033_ Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus: Special Church Edition
The True Story of a Little Girl named Virginia, a Religion Writer named Church and a Remarkable Parable about Faith in God. Virginia O’Hanlon was a little girl with a big question about Santa Claus. Frank Church was a newspaper religion writer who provided answers about the Christian faith. When her letter came across his desk, at first Church refused—until he realized he could offer more than just an answer to her question. He could answer the question behind her question. Not just “is there a Santa Claus?” But also “is there a reason to believe?” Together, these two created a message that would go on to touch the hearts of billions. As Christmas after Christmas, their editorial was translated into over 20 different languages and republished in countless newspapers, magazines and books, readers around the world hungered for its affirming words, many never realizing its hidden meaning. The secret of “Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus” is that it isn’t written to just “Virginia,” but to every man, woman and child; and it isn’t about “Santa Claus,” it’s about God. Includes an additional section which uses the article to illustrate four reflections on Faith. The Media Center holds a Certificate of Copyright Permission for this book so that you may reproduce the entire booklet for everyone in your group.

BK1041_ Christmas from the Back Side
Take a look at Christmas from alternative angles. Using an approach similar to his other "BackSide" books, Kalas crafts new insights into the scriptures of the Christmas story by looking at them from the "back side" -- ...taking unique starting points...creative re-telling from different views...examining the story through new "lenses"...or looking through the eyes of a not-so-familiar character.

BK1160_ Abingdon’s Christmas Drama Collection

BK1338_ Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam
Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don’t have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion.
God breaks into our confusion and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But, that's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. This thematic Advent study for 2013 has five sessions—one for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time during the week.

**BK1349  The Night Christ Was Born**
For centuries men awaited his arrival. Longing for a Savior. Searching for peace that was at last fulfilled that glorious night, The Night Christ Was Born. This 50-minute musical featuring 10 festive arrangements interwoven with classic Christmas carols is arranged to be accessible for choirs of all sizes. Rich in musical texture and anointed lyrics, this dynamic musical celebrates that incredible night, long, long ago...The Night Christ Was Born. Songs include: Christ Is Born Today * Christmas Matters * Finale * For Us A Child Is Born * He Has Come * Jesus Light Of Lights * New Star Shining * Praise Him/All The Earth Bows Down * Rejoice! * The Night That Christ Was Born.

**BK1403  iWorship Christmas: A Total Christmas Worship Experience**
24 selections from the popular Christmas album, including: Away in a Manger * The Birthday of a King * Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song) * Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus * Hallelujah * Joy to the World * More Precious Than Silver/One Small Child * O Holy Night * What Child Is This? * You Are Emmanuel * and more.

**PM16  Christian Reflection Vol. 41: Christmas and Epiphany**
The contributors probe the original trajectories of Christmastide (the twelve-day season of Christmas) and Epiphany so we can celebrate them faithfully and winsomely today. The study guides and lesson plans integrate Bible study, prayer, and worship to explore how the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany guide our formation as disciples.

**Youth Video Resources**

**KIT51  Discovering Jesus: A Multimedia Journey**
"Use Discovering Jesus to put together a dynamic, multimedia tour through Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. As participants are led on this heart-gripping journey by a written guide and CD of worship and narratives by characters in the story, they will be inspired to draw closer to Jesus. They will experience God's presence in a powerful, potentially life-changing way. The kit contains a leader's guide, 2 participant guides, 2 videos, and 6 music & narration CDs."

**Youth Books**

**BK91  Destination Christmas!: Advent Programs & Practices for Youth**
Christmas Advent programs and practices for youth. Seven programs are outlined as well as activities to explain and enrich the season. A reproducible journal is included for use by students.

**BK379  Questions Senior Highs Ask: Volume 6**
A leader's guide with complete plans and reproducible handouts for sessions. This volume is divided into 6 units: World Citizenship, Creeds, Christmas, Racism, Witnessing, God.

**BK469  Mission: Christmas**
Youth Programs and Ideas for Advent: 5 studies, a play, worship and service ideas, 5-page Bible Dictionary.

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BK635  Christmas Gifts That Won't Break: An Advent Study for Youth
Designed to be used in conjunction with the Adult and Children's versions in an all-church Advent study, this study will focus on four of those gifts that also coincide with the four outer candles of the traditional Advent wreath.

BK808  The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem - Youth Edition
Popular pastor, author, and speaker Adam Hamilton guides teens on a journey to experience the anxiety and anticipation that Joseph and Mary felt as they prepared for the birth of Jesus. Youth will meet familiar characters, including Elizabeth, Mary’s older relative; the lowly night-shift shepherds who were the first to hear the good news of the Savior’s birth; and many others. They will spend time in the towns surrounding the Holy Land and will travel with Mary and Joseph on that unforgettable journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. This five-week resource for youth includes leader helps. You will need one copy for every participant. It also provides resources for incorporating The Journey: DVD with Leader Guide (DVD482) and doing a book study of Adam Hamilton’s The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem (BK806).

BK1007  A Different Kind of Christmas: Youth Study Edition
A Different Kind of Christmas is a practical and inspirational study for youth during the Advent season. Based on Mike Slaughter’s popular book Christmas Is Not Your Birthday, this engaging study will help youth reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus’ birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring. This five-week resource for youth includes leader helps. It also provides resources for incorporating A Different Kind of Christmas: Small Group DVD With Leader Guide and for leading a book study of Mike Slaughter’s Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.

BK1339  Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam: An Advent Study for Youth
Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don’t have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and is made known as a human infant. Christmas and confusion weren’t they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But, that’s what this study is about--how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas--how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. The Youth Study is five-sessions that help teens experience the hope of Christ amid the commotion, confusion, and challenges of their day-to-day lives. Leaders and participants work from the same book, which includes readings for reflection, a host of age appropriate teaching-and-learning activities that groups can choose to fit their needs and setting, and a short devotional reading for each day of the Advent season.

Children’s Video Resources

DVD135  Barrington Bunny
This is an animated film about a lonely rabbit, the only one in the forest, who seeks to share with someone. Barrington is not included in anyone’s Christmas Eve celebration and is sad. Barrington helps viewers discover that each individual has a unique value and that each creature is a member of a larger family. Not for very young children.

DVD147  The Great Bible Discovery Series: Volume 3
Join host David Mead as he guides the way through classic stories of Scripture, explaining the action and posing questions in a fresh, entertaining way. Each of the episodes features a lively interactive approach with live action mixed with storybook style animation. Discovering the Baby King -- The Story of Christmas follows the search for the baby Jesus from the prophets of the Old Testament.
Testament through the hunting of King Herod. Discovering the Empty Tomb -- The Story of Easter follows Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his glorious resurrection on Easter morning. Discovering the Kingdom -- Jesus' Kingdom Parables retells a handful of Jesus’ favorite stories: the parables. From the parable of the sower to the parable of the ten bridesmaids, Jesus explains to people of his time, and to all of us, what his mysterious kingdom is all about.

**DVD148  Hermie: A Fruitcake Christmas**
The Christmas celebration is really nothing about the traditional parties and fruitcake, but all about God's gift to us. Hermie and his friends in the garden have even more to learn.

**DVD295  Friends and Heroes: True Heroes**
This DVD contains 2 animated stories: Gideon and the Midianites and Jesus's Birth and the Revelation to the Shepherds. Themes: Making a Difference and Valuing Everyone. Includes curriculum and activity sheets.

**DVD302  Once Upon a Stable: The Greatest Christmas Gift!**
"Experience this hilarious tale of the very first Christmas and learn that there's more to life than being able to burp the loudest, be the party clown and even give the nicest gift!"

**DVD491  Timmy's Gift: A Precious Moments Christmas Story**
This is a story about an ordinary someone, much like you or me, who is called upon to accomplish a very important task. Little Timmy the Angel is given the greatest honor in all of heaven to deliver the jeweled crown to the new born Prince. But he’s sure they've made a mistake. He's much too little for such a long journey...and who knows what frightful things lie ahead…

**DVD511  Veggie Tales 3: Holiday!**
Laugh, sing, and learn about the Bible with the entire produce gang! These episodes of Veggie Tales, the #1 selling Christian video series, uses award-winning writing and cutting-edge computer animation to teach kids Christian lessons. This disc includes Saint Nicholas: A Story of Joyful Giving, The Toy That Saved Christmas, and The Star of Christmas.

**DVD609  Why Do We Call It Christmas?**
Ever wonder why we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th? Or why we hang stockings and decorate trees? Or how Santa Claus became such a big part of the holiday? Find out when you join VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer and his friends Buck Denver, Captain Peter, Sunday School Lady, and others for the most unusual Christmas party ever!

**DVD620  Cherub Wings: The Angel Song**
It's the special time of year when angels are more likely to be heeded; the season when one particular angel is being chosen from among many, to convey the essence and joy of Christmas day. Join Cherub and the choirmaster as they experience the warmth, hope, anticipation and joy of the birth of a tiny little boy whose seemingly insignificant birth would echo hope for centuries to come. This is a heartwarming presentation of the first Christmas that will help young children understand the true meaning of this occasion. Recommended for ages 3-7. In English and Spanish. For additional materials related to Cherub Wings, please visit [http://www.cherubwings.com](http://www.cherubwings.com).

**DVD621  How Can I Celebrate Advent?**
Beth and her Brother, Digger, can hardly wait for the Christmas celebration to come, so they are excited to learn that the church has a special season of waiting and preparing in expectation of the coming Savior: the season of Advent. Beth and Digger happily hear God's plan of salvation as they light the candles of their Advent wreath and mark the days until the coming of Emmanuel,

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our "God With Us." This delightful program uses a combination of live-action puppets, illustrations, and 3-D computer animation. Recommended for ages 5-10.

**DVD622 Three Christmas Classics**
*Christmas Is* -- An animated classic about Benji, a disappointed little boy who must play the second shepherd in the school play -- again. Disappointment turns to joy when a daydream transports him and his lovable pooch, Waldo, back to the first Christmas. There the second shepherd shares with them the angels' message -- that Jesus is born in Bethlehem! (22 minutes).

*The City That Forgot About Christmas* -- The story of a woodcarver who lived in a village that had forgotten about Christmas. When he taught the children of the town about the birth of Jesus, the uncaring village was filled with the joy of Christ. This animated favorite features the voices of Sebastian Cabot, Charles Nelson Reilly, and Louis Nye. (22 minutes).

*The Stableboy's Christmas* -- This award-winning dramatic special finds 10-year-old Tammy traveling back in time to the first Christmas in Bethlehem and witnessing the little stableboy's act of unselfish love when he gives the Christ child his pet lamb. Tammy then realizes how sharing presents with others is a way of sharing God's love at Christmas. (27 minutes). English and Spanish language tracks available.

**DVD623 The Story Of The Selfish Giant**
A grandfather uses Oscar Wilde's timeless tale, "The Story of the Selfish Giant," to unlock the true meaning of Christmas for his granddaughter. In this story of love and sacrifice, the selfish giant learns that God's unselfish gift encourages us to be filled with joy. Children of all ages will be enchanted by this charming story and its strong Christian message. Original artwork and music are sure to make this a holiday favorite for years and years to come. Recommended for ages 4-8.

**DVD1332 VeggieTales: Veggie Connections: Lesson Videos**
In this one-of-a-kind DVD collection, mini-clips from the popular VeggieTales videos add excitement to every class. Gather the whole group together to enjoy a short video segment that will serve as a starting spark for a creative, biblically-based lesson. 10 sessions total on love, joy, trust, Christmas, New Year, faith, time, communication, Thanksgiving, and Easter.

*Resource codes that begin with VC are on VHS tape and require a VCR.*

**VC26 Adventures in Odyssey: Electric Christmas**
The true meaning of Christmas nearly gets lost in a competitive contest of yard decorating in Odyssey.

**VC55 Animated New Testament: 1 The King is Born**
The video retells the story of the first Christmas. Activity sheets are available.

**VC105 Best Christmas Pageant Ever**
The nastiest kids in town decide they belong in this year's Christmas pageant. Patience and love turn disaster into "the Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" A delightful and inspiring story for the whole family based on the book by the same name, starring Loretta Swit.

**VC493 Greatest Stories Ever Told: The Savior is Born**

**VC689 Martin the Cobbler**
This is the story of a cobbler who has a vision that he will meet Christ but lives through the day without having his expectations met. Then, as he reflects on his day, he remembers all the people...
who needed his help. Through these encounters, he has experienced Christ. A claymation type video based on Tolstoy's story, "Where Love Is, God Is."

VC795  The Other Wise Man
This animated video tells the story of Artaban, the fourth wise man. Adapted from the classic story by Henry van Dyke.

VC1143  What is Christmas?
A very young child tells the story of the first Christmas to his puppy. The child's voice as he shows and explains the figures in his Nativity scene is pure and sweet.

VC1310  The Visual Bible for Kids: The Birth of Jesus
The story of the birth of Jesus is told by Kirk Cameron using footage from the Visual Bible.

VC1520  Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect: The Story of Small Pine
A young tree and his woodland friends learn that real joy comes from giving of ourselves to help others.

Children's Books

BK115  Faith Files: Heritage Search: Signs of Christmas

BK120  Come Follow Me! A Worship Program for Teaching the Gospel to Children I
"Learn by doing resource" with activities to help teach important Christian lessons. For children 4-12, this guide contains lessons especially helpful to churches wishing to start a children's worship service. Symbols of the church and program ideas for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are included.

BK251  Miracle of the Poinsettia/Milagro de la Flor de Nochebuena
A retelling of the traditional Mexican folktale of the origin of the Poinsettia. Illustrated by Dennis Rockhill and translated to Spanish by Carmen Lopez-Platek. Maria wanted to make a very special gift for the Christ Child.

BK254  Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus!
"Christmas cards and carolers, decorations, gifts, and a special cake. All are part of the celebration of the most special birthday of all." Read-aloud book for the youngest children. Bright multicultural illustrations.

BK255  The Pinetree Parable
Explore the meaning of generosity in this charming children's book by Liz Curtis Higgs and illustrated by Nancy Munger.

BK256  The J is for Jesus
A gentle reflection on the shape and color of the traditional Candy Cane and what it can help us remember about Jesus. For preschoolers.

BK300  Celebrate Christmas: Easy Dramas, Speeches and Recitations
Three poems for Thanksgiving, six poems for Christmas, and three dramas are included. The words and script may be copied for use with your group. The first drama for younger children is "What Would You Give Baby Jesus?" "E. Manuel" for upper elementary and middle school has
several speaking parts, and "Bethlehem" is a drama that is designed for a large group of elementary-aged students. Also included in this little booklet is "The Feast of Lights: a Candle Lighting Service."

**BK301 What Child Was This? Leader Book**

**BK302 Shepherd's Story Musical: Leader's Book**

**BK365 The Give-Away**
A story rich in the Native American tradition of the Give-Away. The animals try to help humankind find their way, but "in the end, it is the Creator who must choose to give to humankind the most precious gift of all."

**BK399 Faith Files: Heritage Search: C'Sons Greetings**
The four sessions are: "C" is for Candle, "C" is for Color (colors of the Christian Year), "C" is for Carol, and "C" is for Crèche. Grades 1-6. A music and story CD is included.

**BK438 Clown Ministry Skits for All Seasons**
Christmas, Birthdays, Easter, Valentine's Day, Retirement, Thanksgiving, all are included as opportunities for doing a creative clown skit. Plans, scripts and advice are included for these skits and more for use with your clown ministry.

**BK662 A Baby Is Coming/ Un Niño Viene**
A children's storybook that tells the story of Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus. Each page has the story in English and in Spanish.

**BK634 Christmas Gifts That Won't Break: An Advent Study for Children**
Designed to be used in conjunction with the Adult and Youth versions in an all-church Advent study, this study will focus on four of those gifts that also coincide with the four outer candles of the traditional Advent wreath.

**BK688 Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect**
Long, long ago, in a land far away, lived a perfect little tree named Small Pine. Small Pine hoped to maintain its perfect form and be selected by the Queen as her Christmas tree. But as the warmhearted little tree gave shelter to birds, rabbits and deer in the forest, its branches became damaged. Fortunately, the Queen had a different idea of perfection . . . Young readers will want to read and reread the story of how Small Pine's love and charity for its friends helps make it the most "perfect" Christmas tree of all. A VHS video based on this book is also available from the Media Center.

**BK756 Wonder of Christmas / La Maravilla de la Navidad**
A look at the Christmas story with the emphasis on the "wonder" of the season. Each page begins with "I wonder..." and journeys chronologically from Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem through the Wise Men's return home. A short prayer and biblical text follow this on each page. Each facing page has the Spanish translation of the story.

**BK757 Thank You, God, for Baby Jesus**
By George Donigian. A simple book that tells the story of Jesus' birth with one sentence on each full-page of color illustration. Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

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BK758  Santa's Prayer
Santa says a prayer to God affirming his work and hoping that it is not a hindrance to the
discovery of Jesus as savior. He prays about Jesus and the work Jesus did for all in his death

BK761  Lily, the Lost and Found Lamb
By Lydia Salazar Martinez. Lily was the favorite lamb of Teresa, a shepherd who kept sheep in
the hills surrounding Bethlehem. Lily loved to hear Teresa play her flute. One night the shepherds
and sheep were awakened by beautiful music—much more beautiful than Lily had heard before.
Angels brought the shepherds good news of a Savior’s birth and the shepherds hurried off to find
the stable in Bethlehem. Although Lily could not understand what was going on, she too hurried
off; in fact, she got so far ahead of the rest that Teresa believed her favorite lamb was lost. Lily,
however, was the first to find the baby in the manger. Along with the other shepherds, Teresa
gave thanks for the coming of the good news—and for finding her little lamb. Told in both English
and Spanish with full-color art, this gentle story will charm children and adults alike.

BK805  On the Way to Bethlehem
Listen to the amazing story of Jesus’ birth based on the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. As you
travel the road to Bethlehem, these delightful illustrations and descriptive story introduce children
to some of the customs of the Bible times. Mary and Joseph are shown as real people who were
living ordinary lives when God called them to be part of an extraordinary event - the birth of God's
Son. The book includes a maze and an Advent calendar with stickers.

BK809  The Journey: Walking to Bethlehem - Children's Edition
Based on Adam Hamilton's The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem, children ages 3
through 13 will explore the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes and ears. Children will learn about
the places where the story occurred, experience some of the culture of Bible times, discover what
each character in the story teaches us about God, realize what this story means for their lives
today, celebrate the birth of God's Son, and discover the real meaning of Christmas. The book
includes five lessons and a suggestion of an all-church event. Some pages are reproducible.

BK1008  A Different Kind of Christmas: Children's Leader Guide
A Different Kind of Christmas is a fun and inspiring study for children the Advent season. Based
on Mike Slaughter's popular book Christmas Is Not Your Birthday, this engaging study will help
children discover the broader meaning of Jesus’ birth and experience a Christmas season with
more peace and joy than any toy could ever bring. This Children’s Study contains session ideas
for younger and older children, including reproducible handouts.

BK1026  Christmas Extras: Faith-Filled Ideas for Celebrating Christmas
Share an Advent/Christmas season that's bursting with lots of praise, devotions, Bible stories,
-snacks, crafts, and experiences...that jingle with joy for Jesus’ birth! Be creative, dig deeper,
built excitement, and connect kids with the true light of Christmas. Each brief activity is rooted in
faith and wrapped in fun, revealing more and more about God's powerful love and grace for all of
us. What this resource offers: Celebrate the Advent/Christmas season in fun, faith-filled
ways...Enhance an existing lesson, Create a new one. Try it at home, 20 "you are there"
experiences help kids (and all ages...including preschoolers) explore the special events of the
Christmas season...from the angel announcements to Jesus’ birth! Each multisensory activity is
Bible-based. Bursting with age-appropriate games, devotions Bible stories, snacks, crafts and
more- and it all deepens their understanding of God's amazing grace and love for everyone!
Great for teachers. They'll discover easy ways to give new life to existing lessons, or create new
ones! Strengthen families - and your entire church. Christmas Extras is a powerful resource for
families to celebrate God's love at home. Allow 10 - 15 minutes per activity.
BK1027 The Christmas Star
SUBTITLE: Easy Dramas, Speeches, and Recitations for Children. Children of all ages will enjoy this collection of dramas, speeches, and recitations as they share the Christmas story with their congregations. Dramas include: the angel's message to Mary and Joseph, the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the shepherds, and the visit of the wise men. Audiences will enjoy a contemporary drama that teaches the true meaning of Christmas.

BK1340 Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam: An Advent Study for Children
Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . Which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our confusion. God breaks into our confusion and is made known as a human infant. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. But, that's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam. The children's study contains five lessons that delve into the Luke account of Jesus' birth through an ADVENTure to find Bethlehem. They will have opportunities to really experience the story of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, the shepherds, and Jesus. The guide is simple to use, and includes reproducible activities for each session.

BK1348 The Christmas Wish: Jordan's Daydream Comes True
Script and sheet music for this children's Christmas musical.

BK1352 Crazy Clothesline Characters
Amazingly different ways to tell Bible stories! You're already familiar with these Bible stories—The Creation, Noah's Ark, Nebuchadnezzar, Jonah, Jesus' Birth, The Prodigal Son, and 34 others. Now here are 40 exciting new ways to tell them to children! You'll tell stories with cue cards, flashlights, food, balloons, and other multi-sensory items to involve children in the story . . . and to help them remember it for a lifetime!

BK1361 One Wintry Night
FROM THE PUBLISHER: A young boy is lost in the woods one wintry night, and is rescued by a woman who brings him into a warm, cozy cabin. By the blazing fire she quiets him and weaves through his imagination the story of a child who fulfilled the promise God had made from the beginning of the world.

BK1362 Joy to You & Me: A Children's Christmas Musical
A children's Christmas musical on the joy that Jesus brings. Includes narration and sheet music. Running time of production is 32 minutes.

KiT140 Dude, You Hear What I Hear?: A Christmas Musical for Kids
In the hustle and bustle at a crowded "Mondo-Mart" filled with shoppers, shy Taylor and the rest of her youth group have stopped for some last-minute snacks on their way to a fun Christmas camp. Taylor -- not much for talking, but a great hide & seek player -- has found the perfect hiding place. So perfect, in fact, that she doesn't notice when the rest of the group boards the bus and the store is closed for the night! Hard to tell who is more surprised -- Taylor, when she emerges from her hiding place, or the fun-loving store mannequins who break their silence assuming that once again, the store is theirs for the night. Taylor quickly discovers that everything store mannequins know about Christmas is what they've heard over the PA system during the Christmas season, and boy, are they misinformed! And, the not-so-high-tech night watchmen listening in from outside the store are nearly as confused as the mannequins. From the creators of Arrest These Merry Gentlemen ... Dude, You Hear What I Hear? is a rollicking adventure for kids that ensures that nobody will miss out on hearing the REAL Christmas story! The hippest music you'll hear in a kids musical this season, a fun story that is performable by the smallest
group to the largest, and the solid Biblical message that is the hallmark of musicals from Little Big Stuff. Includes choral book and CD.

**Websites related to the United Methodist Church**

Advent and Christmas Resources
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1Lth/b.4759349/k.1EFB/Advent_and_Christmas_Resources.htm

General Board of Discipleship: Children's Ministry: Advent & Christmas
http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5957253/k.A052/Advent__Christmas.htm

General Board of Discipleship: Worship & Planning: Advent

General Board of Discipleship: Worship & Planning: Christmas
http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.5302873/k.E9EB/Christmas.htm

Rethink Church Advent Resources
http://www.umcom.org/site/c.mrLZJ9PFKmG/b.7791975/k.9906/Advent_Resources.htm

Worship & Christian Year: Christian Year
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1Lth/b.4742745/k.43DB/Worship__Christian_Year_Holy_Days.htm