



Advent Conspiracy—Give More

Connecting:

1. Everyone makes jokes about the infamous fruitcake, that sweater you'd never wear in public, or any number of other gifts that didn't really have you in mind when they were given. Without naming names or getting in trouble with anyone in your group, what's the most impersonal gift you've been given?
2. Now let's be even more honest: What's the most impersonal gift you've ever given? Is there a story behind it you can share?
3. Most of us have struggled at one point with how best to celebrate Christmas. For some Christians, things have gotten so out of hand that they no longer give gifts to anyone. What are some ways that you have chosen to celebrate Christmas?
4. What are some of the dangers when we associate love solely with the giving of material objects? What are some other ways that we can give that clearly communicate love?
5. Read John 1:1-14 together as a group. How does this passage bring us back to the miracle of Christmas? Share with one another an aspect of the Incarnation that you don't want to forget this Advent.
6. Read Matthew 1:18-23 and Isaiah 7:14. Discuss the significance of the name "Immanuel". What are some ways that you hope to experience God as "Immanuel" in your own life this Christmas? How can you give the gift of God's presence to others? Think of some specific ideas for giving relationally.
7. As you consider what it means to give relationally, what is it that most excites you? What part of this kind of giving will be the biggest challenge for you? What's the biggest risk?