



Advent Conspiracy—Spend Less

Connecting:

1. “What do you want for Christmas?” This is a question that many of us have been asked since we were children. But often we don’t get what we want. Share with one another about a time (Christmas or otherwise) when you didn’t get what you wanted. How did you respond to the disappointment?
2. Now talk about a time when you got exactly what you wanted. How long were you satisfied with the gift? How long did the joy last? What can we learn from these experiences?
3. Consider all of the advertisements you are exposed to every Christmas. What are some specific examples that have affected you? What emotions do they arouse in you? How might they contribute to a sense that you are lacking something in your life? How can we become more aware and less susceptible to such messages?
4. Read James 5:1-6 together as a group. What are some of the specific sins that James condemns in this passage? What are some of the consequences that will come to those who put their trust in wealth and riches?
5. In what ways have you experienced the truth of this passage in your own life? Have you ever purchased something, only to discard it soon after because it had lost its luster? Share an example with the group.
6. Read Matthew 6:19-24 together as a group. In Verses 19 and 20 Jesus draws a comparison between earthly and heavenly treasures. What are the differences between the two?
7. What do you think Jesus means by verse 21? In what way is our spending during the Christmas season a reflection of our heart? How can you encourage one another this Christmas season to stay focused on the worship of God alone?