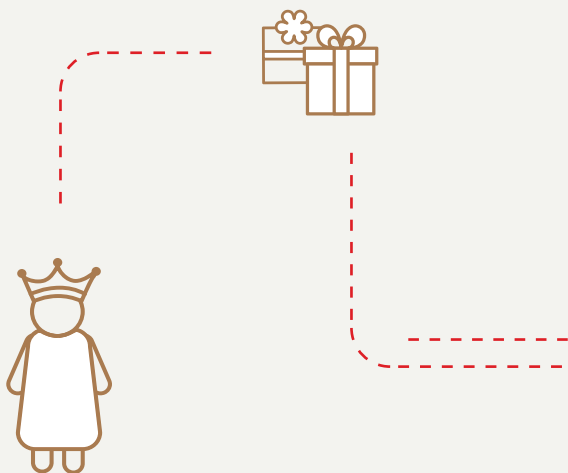


COMMON GROUND CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE

This festive season we are preparing our hearts for Christmas by journeying through the Advent story. Our hope is that as we read what was happening around Jesus' birth, we see our city and its people in a new way. This devotional gives some ideas of how to explore, experience and engage with our city in a fun, fresh way.

Make this season an adventure!

Do it individually, with friends or family.
For more reading and ideas about celebrating Christmas with an outward focus visit commongood.org.za/resources/christmas



WEEK 1: THE ADVENTURE OF PLACE

ACTIVITY: There are a number of free/cheap things on offer in our city that can add to our sense of adventure. Here are some suggestions:

Night picnic on a beach // Walk through the Company Gardens // Walk up Lions Head // Take a train together to visit Muizenberg/Kalk Bay/Simons Town // Use www.voicemap.me app to do a tour of Muizenberg // Picnic and see the penguins at Boulders beach

CONSIDER: It is likely that you were around a whole lot of people going about their lives, work, holidays. *Read Luke 2:1-5.*

- What do you think it was like for Mary and Joseph when they arrived after a long, tiring trip, about to have a baby, to find a full town of people who didn't seem to want to help them?
- What do you think God wants us to be like towards people arriving in our city, or at our door during this December?
- Is there anything you think you can do to prepare for this to be ready to respond?



WEEK 2: THE ADVENTURE OF PURPOSE



ACTIVITY: Visit one of the outdoor related places in Cape Town that you haven't done before. Here are some suggestions:

Kirstenbosch Gardens // Boulders Beach // The aquarium // Muizenberg Moonlight Meander (15 December 6pm from Knead Bakery) // Hike one of the mountain trails // Walk/Cycle/Run the Promenade // Take your kids to play on the Promenade jungle gyms // Butterfly World Sanctuary // World of birds // Do a park run (Century City/Greenpoint/Rondebosch Common)

CONSIDER: *Read Luke 2:8-20*

- What do you think it was like working in the fields every day?
 - Imagine that while we were doing our adventure today, a group of angels had visited us, how do you think you would have felt?
 - Being a shepherd wasn't really a popular job in those days and often they would have felt unseen, unappreciated or ignored by the rest of their town. Who do you think might sometimes feel like that in our town? Think/talk through the day and see all the jobs that you came into contact with. How do you think we can make the people we come into contact with feel more seen and appreciated in the weeks to come?
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WEEK 3: THE ADVENTURE OF PURSUIT

ACTIVITY: As a family, or a group of friends head out together to see the Christmas lights on Adderley Street. Try and count how many times you see a manger/nativity/baby Jesus in the lights.

CONSIDER: *Read Matthew 2:1-12*

- Was it hard to find a decoration showing the baby Jesus? How many did you see?
- Did you notice how the wise men were happy to pack up everything to go and pursue Jesus?
- How do you think we can pursue Jesus?
- Can you see the lights of Table Mountain? Wouldn't it be weird if we traveled to look at the lights instead of what the lights are there to show? The lights are there to show us the mountain. The wise men started their trip because of seeing the light of the star ... but what they were really looking for was what the star was shining down on - Jesus himself.
- What are some of the things we focus on in our lives that should really be pointing towards the Creator and Saviour? (Think our pursuit of the outdoors, adventure, community, family, work).
- How do you think we can pursue Jesus over this season when so much is vying for our attention?

WEEK 4: THE ADVENTURE OF PRESENCE

ACTIVITY: At this stage of the month, you are likely attending various family or friends events. Go through the considerations together before you go as a family, or as an individual.

CONSIDER: *Read Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 2:8-14*

- The reason for Christmas is that the presence of God came to all mankind when Jesus was born. What do you think it was like for God to give up all he had in heaven to come and be born as a baby and grow up in the world?
- What are some of ways we can be fully present as we meet with our family and friends at this event? (Think of our use of gadgets/phones, our patience, our willingness to stay longer and be with each other).
- How do you think we can represent Jesus to our loved ones over this season?

