



# Advent Conspiracy

We're Reclaiming Christmas



the  
Light shines in  
the Darkness

# Irrational Life

There is nothing so disastrous as a rational approach to life in an irrational world.

## WORSHIP FULLY

**It starts with Jesus.** It ends with Jesus. This is the approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burden and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.

## SPEND LESS

Before you think we're going all Scrooge on you, keep reading. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider spending less this Christmas (*maybe buying one less gift*). Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during advent.

## GIVE MORE

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder why we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found in any store. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving. Sounds a lot better than getting a sweater two sizes too big, right?

## LOVE ALL

When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined before. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. Advent Conspiracy has grown over the last two years into a global movement of distributing millions of dollars around the world to bring life and hope to the places in need. We offer light in the darkness, hope in the midst of despair.

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## Is Christmas really a Humbug?

**Humbug** --a pretense or hoax; something that pretends to be what it is not

**Giving** – “A poor excuse to pick a man’s pockets once a year”

**Charity** – “Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?”

**Faith** – “Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it.”

## RECLAIM CHRISTMAS!

### ► Irrational Exuberance - Joy

“Joy rises in me, like a summer's morn.” Scrooge

“My soul praises the Lord; my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl.” Luke 1:46

### ► Irrational Optimism - Faith

“I don't know anything, I never did know anything, and now I know that I don't know, all on a Christmas morning. I must stand on my head, I must stand on my head!” Ebenezer Scrooge

“God will show his mercy forever and ever to those who worship and serve him. He has done mighty deeds by his power.” Luke 1:50

### ► Irrational Forgiveness - Love

“Can you forgive a pig-headed old fool with no eyes to see with and no ears to hear with all these years?” Ebenezer Scrooge to Fred's wife

**Ebenezer:** I don't deserve to be so happy. [*laughing*] But I can't help it.

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## Luke 1:46-55 (NCV)

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Then Mary said,

*"My soul praises the Lord; my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl. From now on, all people will say that I am blessed, because the Powerful One has done great things for me. His name is holy. God will show his mercy forever and ever to those who worship and serve him. He has done mighty deeds by his power. He has scattered the people who are proud and think great things about themselves. He has brought down rulers from their thrones and raised up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with nothing. He has helped his servant, the people of Israel, remembering to show them mercy as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his children forever."*

The story of Christ's birth is a subversive story of an upside-down kingdom. It's a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love that is still changing the world to this day. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling that we somehow missed its purpose.

Is this what we really want out of Christmas?