

*Advent Series*

DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 31, 2023



the  
**Great**  
*Exchange*

UNWRAPPING THE WONDERS OF CHRISTMAS

## NOTES & QUOTES

### **DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERVICE?**

You can watch all past messages on our YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/@thisiscompass](http://www.youtube.com/@thisiscompass) or you can listen to our podcast at [www.thisiscompass.com/podcast](http://www.thisiscompass.com/podcast).

Participate in an opportunity to give to someone in need. (i.e. You can help those in need in our community through a donation to the Special Christmas fund at Compass or you could purchase a gift in someone's name through a Christian relief agency).

Light a candle and sit in silence for five minutes each day. Sit somewhere that allows you to enjoy your Christmas tree or a manger scene. Become aware of God's presence around and in you.

### **PAUSE, PONDER & PRAY**

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."

1 JOHN 4:9

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## **CONNECT** (BUILD RELATIONSHIPS)

1. How are your Christmas plans coming along? What are the negative and positive things you are facing this holiday season?
2. Christmas is a five senses experience! Name one element of Christmas that you love to experience with each sense: smell? sound? sight? taste? touch? (i.e. I love to smell pine trees, I love to hear Bing Crosby, I love to taste fruitcake)
3. If you could "exchange" places with one biblical character from the Christmas story that very first Christmas, who's sandals would you like to walk in? (i.e. Mary, Joseph, shepherds, etc.)
4. What is one thing you would love to see the world lay down and one thing for it to pick up in a "great exchange" this holiday season?

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## **THRIVE** (EXPLORE BIBLICAL TRUTH)

5. Answer the following questions as you reflect on this week's teaching in 'The Great Exchange' series (Use this as a reflection after every message):

Was there anything you heard for the first time?

What challenged or confused you?

What stands out to you as particularly helpful or insightful?

What does the passage we looked at teach us about God?  
Yourself?

6. The candles on the Advent wreath focus on the themes of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. Read the following verses and discuss what a biblical definition would be for each term.

Peace: John 16:33, Philippians 4:6 and Isaiah 26:3.

Hope: Hebrews 11:1, Romans 15:13 and Psalm 39:7.

Joy: Galatians 5:22, Proverbs 17:22 and 1 Peter 1:8.

Love: John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and John 13:34-35.

How have you been challenged and/or encouraged to receive and live out each truth in your own life? How is each one intricately linked to the Incarnation (Jesus coming in the flesh)?

7. Read John 1:1-5, 14. Why does John start his gospel with, "In the beginning" rather than at Jesus' birth? What facts do we discover about "The Word"?

8. Take time this Advent to read the full Christmas Story. Luke 1:26-2:40, Matthew 1:18-2:23, John 1:1-5, 14. Ask God to speak to you in a fresh way as you read the familiar story. What aspects of the story stand out to you or linger in your thinking? Why do you think Mark skips the nativity altogether in his gospel?

9. In John 1:14 The Message paraphrases the incarnation as "The Word becoming flesh and blood and moving into the neighborhood." What are implications of this truth in your life? How does this model a call to missional living?

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## COMMIT (BE ON MISSION)

10. What are some things that the Lord might be asking you to lay down in your life this week that might help you grow closer to him?
11. Christmas is an opportunity to seek after God in a fresh way. Here are some ideas for meeting Christ during Advent. Pick a couple that are realistic for your life and will be an encouragement to you:

Spend some extended time (an hour) in silence reading the Christmas narrative.

Intentionally display Christmas decorations that remind you of Jesus or of God's love.

Buy or make an Advent wreath and light the appropriate candle(s) at dinner each night.