

Notes from Advent Conspiracy

Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)

Rick McKinley, Chris Sea, and Greg Holder

McKinley, Rick, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder. *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018.

Introduction

“From the beginning this idea of a conspiracy made sense to us - we followers of King Jesus would *conspire with* other like-minded believers to resist what presses in on each of us during the Advent season.”¹

Chapter 1: A Radical Idea

“The creator of the cosmos chose, from among his numberless galaxies and spinning stars, one tiny rock of a planet on which he entered human life in the most natural and self-effacing of ways – through the womb of a willing teenage girl.”²

“Each year many of us routinely miss the wonder of God’s miraculous birth.”³

“...our overstuffed Decembers leave us wanting more. Our hyperconsumption leaves us empty. We worship less. We spend more. We give less. We struggle more.”⁴

“Missing the prophetic mystery of Jesus’ birth means missing God-with us, God beside us-God becoming one of us. Missing out on Jesus changes everything.”⁵

¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 11.

² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 19.

³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 20.

⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 20.

⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 20-21.

“If it doesn’t take money to love, a recalculation is needed. If love is to be the driving force of our gift giving, then money cannot be. Our dominating culture of consumerism can, and must, be rejected. When we refuse to equate money with love, we become free.”⁶

“Spending less freed us to give more. We replaced material *presents* with the gift of *presence*.”⁷

“Partnering with Living Water International, we began dreaming of using the money we saved from worshipping more and spending less and were able to build many wells.”⁸

“Entering the story was harder than we thought, more meaningful than we dared to dream, and one of the most beautiful encounters with Jesus that many of us have ever experienced.”⁹

Chapter 2: Idolatry Near The Manager

“Every day advertisements implore us to get more from life. Fulfillment is within our grasp - and we deserve it. Why wait when we can have everything now.?”¹⁰

“The fast growing religion in the world is not Islam or Christianity; the symbol of this rising faith is not the star and crescent or the cross but a dollar sign. This expanding belief system is radical consumerism. It promises transcendence, power, pleasure, and fulfillment even as it demands complete devotion.”¹¹

“...Christians have incorporated their devotion to consumerism with their Christian faith. With every decision comes a quiet compromise. Stone by stone, our monument to another god grows.”¹²

⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 22.

⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 23.

⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 25.

⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 26.

¹⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 31.

¹¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 32.

¹² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)* , 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 32.

“It is now clear that a primary threat to true Christianity in America is consumerism - not liberalism, fundamentalism, Darwinism, secularism, or any other -ism that happens to achieve some level of influence and power.”¹³

“Consumerism promises transcendence. Our consumer culture claims that the material thing we want most will elevate us above our current circumstances.”¹⁴

“Clothes protect our bodies from the weather and fit social norms. Yet most of us buy clothes to help us feel more attractive and successful.”¹⁵

“In the religion of consumerism, the thing we desire becomes the symbol of whatever meaning it insinuates. Because we buy into the meaning, we believe we have become more significant, able to rise above the circumstances, frustrations, and mundane moments of our everyday lives. In short, our consumerism tells us that we’ll be reborn.”¹⁶

“Consumerism can also poison our relationship with Christ. Jesus becomes a commodity we consume rather than a King who reigns.”¹⁷

“Left unchecked, our constant pursuit of the next big thing has fatal consequences. Our hyperconsumption all too easily becomes plundering and pillaging. “You’d better be on your guard,” Jesus warned, “against any type of greed, for a person’s life is not about having a lot of possessions.” Despite this caution, many of us still seem eager to give it a try.”¹⁸

“The founder of Frontier Mission Fellowship, Ralph Winter, writes: “The undeveloped societies suffer from one set of diseases: tuberculosis, malnutrition, pneumonia, parasites, typhoid, cholera, typhus, etc. Affluent America has virtually invented a whole new set of diseases: obesity, arteriosclerosis, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, venereal disease, cirrhosis of the liver, drug addiction, alcoholism...In saving ourselves we have nearly lost ourselves.”¹⁹

¹³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 33.

¹⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 33.

¹⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 34.

¹⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 34.

¹⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 35.

¹⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 37.

¹⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 39.

“When “more” becomes our highest aim, the greatest danger comes when we get exactly what we want - more. More debt, more struggle, more dissatisfaction, more envy, more...well, you get the idea.”²⁰

Chapter 3: Worship Fully

“Our hearts are formed by what we worship. Excitement, anticipation, hope - each of these emotions swells around the object of our dearest affection. We spend our time and energy on what matters most to us.”²¹

“We spend hundred of billions of dollars during the holiday season, hoping - whether we admit it to ourselves or not - that the latest and greatest gift will fulfill us and those we give gifts to. This (we think) will bring us joy. This will make our Christmas memorable. We spring through store after store, or these days, scroll through page after page on Amazon, trying to find the perfect gift to express our love because we crave to be loved in return. We long for peace in place of the annual holiday family soap opera. We shop till we drop so we can finally rest. We go into debt and assume we’re entitled to whatever we want.”²²

“We sit in church drained and exhausted - but still restless because we’re too far from the stable to see much of anything. The heart of what we’re truly searching for - hope, peace, love, rest, worship - is buried in the seasonal chaos. Each step we take toward an overstuffed schedule and an overextended budget is one step further away from the nativity.”²³

“We are not the humble lifted by God of whom Mary sings. We are the powerful, the rich, the self-absorbed. Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world live without clean water, housing, food, and education. These are the humble and hungry to whom Mary promises deliverance. Through her son, the Messiah, tyrants will be defeated and the oppressed will be liberated and ushered into a kingdom that will have no end.”²⁴

“Mary announces that God is here! She carries him in her womb. The mystery of the moment is mind-bending. This Liberating King is nothing less than her son and her God. Mary’s worship

²⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 39.

²¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 45.

²² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 46.

²³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 46-47.

²⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 51.

begins with the ultimate paradox: a young girl, unwed and without power, influence, or wealth, cradles within her womb the divine power of the universe.”²⁵

“What do we owe a God who entered our world to bring justice to his children? With Mary as our model, let poets pen odes, musicians compose songs, and prophets stand and call us to see what God sees: the birth of his Son signifies the beginning of the end of injustice.”²⁶

“Is it possible that all these years later, one of the ways we can still celebrate Advent is by honoring those who never thought they’d be welcomed by anyone?”²⁷

“If the ancient practice of hospitality showed up in the Christmas story, why can’t it show up in our Advent season?”²⁸

“Living out our worship in tangible ways begins here and becomes the way we are invited to live and breathe in the moments of the glorious ordinary of our lives.”²⁹

“Our Liberating King’s entrance stands in contrast with Herod’s tyranny - and that of the surrounding empires. Herod’s citizens were controlled by military power, financial strength, and technological development. But Jesus’ kingdom rises up differently. Jesus reveals his kingdom in vulnerability, solidarity with the poor, and self-sacrifice - far from the worldly power of Herod’s world.”³⁰

“What might happen if, at Advent and throughout the year, all of God’s people worshiped more like the Magi? What transformation would occur as God’s people moved across the globe loving Jesus with our time, attention, and money?”³¹

“As followers of Jesus, our options are clear: we can inhabit the story of a corrupt world and bow to a counterfeit king, or we can enter the story of God and celebrate the world’s one true Lord.”³²

²⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 51.

²⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 51.

²⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 54.

²⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 55.

²⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 59.

³⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 60.

³¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 62.

³² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 62.

Chapter 4: Spending Less

“Spending less requires us to plan, research, and cultivate relationships - pursuits that are more taxing than flipping through the latest catalog or bingeing online.”³³

““Spend less” is an ambiguous goal. Spend less than last year? Spend less than my neighbor? Spend less than the average American, who spends almost one thousand dollars on Christmas gifts? Yes and no. The key is to ask such questions aloud and then be willing to engage the emerging tensions. How much is too much? How can you tell when you have too much?”³⁴

“The challenge is to balance our desires with the needs in our communities and the rest of the world.”³⁵

“Spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather, we strive to thoughtfully evaluate what we support with our spending, and we allow our spending to support products, people, and causes that are worthy of being supported.”³⁶

“We spend less at Christmas, except when we should spend more.”³⁷

“How strange and sad it is that debt and consumerism reach their pinnacle on the morning we celebrate the birth of Jesus - the Savior who came to liberate us from these things. When we give gifts without regard to “the least of these,” it reflects a brand of capitalism gone wrong.”³⁸

“Are we willing to rethink the way we use our wealth?”³⁹

“C.S. Lewis believed that the best way to break money’s power is to give it away... “I don’t believe one can settle how much we ought to give,” he wrote. Lewis continued: “I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all punch or hamper us,

³³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 67.

³⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 68.

³⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 69.

³⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 72-73.

³⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 73.

³⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 75.

³⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 78.

I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them.”⁴⁰

Chapter 5: Give More

“We can all agree that there is still something deeply moving and beautiful about certain gifts. Think about the most memorable Christmas present you’ve ever received. What was it that touched you? Why do you still remember it to this day? You probably aren’t remembering a pair of new cars sitting in the driveway with big red bows on top or a huge diamond bracelet hanging on the tree (does that happen outside of those December commercials?). For most of us, the special gift we best remember is a different kind of gift - a relational gift. The best gifts celebrate a relationship.”⁴¹

“The simple truth is why giving is still a good way to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It also points to a way out of the chaos of consumerism that Christmas has become, taking us back to the joy that can still be found at the heart of this story. Our giving can actually reflect in some small way the power and beauty of God coming into our world as one of us.”⁴²

“The one who spoke galaxies into existence, in the words of author Alan Hirsch, “moved into our neighborhood in an act of humble love likes of which the world has never known.”⁴³

“Because of the Incarnation, the infinite god becomes more tangible, more approachable, and more (though never completely) comprehensible. It’s because of Jesus that we know who the Eternal God of the universe is and what he’s really like. Talk about a relational gift! But it gets even better.”⁴⁴

“In the strong words of theologian N.T. Wright, “Jesus exploded into the life of ancient Israel - the life of the whole world in fact - not as a teacher of timeless truths, nor as a great moral example, but as the one whose life, death, and resurrection God’s rescue operation was put into effect, and the cosmos turned its great corner at last.” Apart from the Incarnation, we would never fully know the depths to which we are loved or the lengths to which God can be trusted.”⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 79.

⁴¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 86.

⁴² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 87.

⁴³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 90.

⁴⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 90.

⁴⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 91.

“God gave us his presence...Consider how can you creatively express to that friend or family member how much you want to *be* with them.”⁴⁶

“The gift of Jesus was personal...Relational giving means that we pay attention to the other person. We think about who they are and what they care about.”⁴⁷

“His gift was costly...The gift God gave us cost him everything. What does that mean for us as we now give to one another? In practical terms, it means we must accept that relational giving will cost us...Relational giving will also be risky at times...Didn’t Jesus give himself knowing full well that some would reject or misunderstand him?”⁴⁸

“He gift bridged the gap...Most of us have experienced the inability to spend time with someone because of distance or circumstance. What might our gift look like?...Such a gift takes time and thought”⁴⁹

“If we can resist the trap of giving easy gifts, and if we can reject the assumption that giving expensive gifts or many gifts is the best way to express love, something else might begin to happen. We might experience moments of relational giving that our friends and family will care about and remember. Our kids will learn what it means to give gifts that are personal and meaningful. Our neighbors and coworkers and friends will watch us celebrate Christmas differently, and they’ll hear the good news loud and clear through the seasonal static.”⁵⁰

Chapter 6: Love All

“Author Scot McKnight warns us that the church suffers when it treats humans as souls made for eternity instead of whole persons made for now and eternity.”⁵¹

“Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to be born into a sin-scarred world. That glorious night in Bethlehem, every day of his life, and in the deadly pain of the cross, Jesus became poor for our sake. Jesus entered our poverty so we would no longer be poor.”⁵²

⁴⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 92-93.

⁴⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 94.

⁴⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 96.

⁴⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 99.

⁵⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 100.

⁵¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 106.

⁵² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 107.

“Over and over we see Jesus teaching that God is on the side of the impoverished, even when no one else is. Throughout the Gospels, he raises the status of those the world mistreats and marginalizes - people who are deemed hopeless and beyond help. Jesus is clear: he expects his followers to do the same.”⁵³

“We cannot allow the broken and vulnerable world to become invisible.”⁵⁴

“God is up to something in his world. When God’s people serve the poor in humble, generous ways, the story of Jesus is told again and again. The poor in our world will be touched by God through how we choose to celebrate Christmas.”⁵⁵

“Of course, as Reggie McNeal reminds us, “God is the One doing the heavy lifting!” Through his worthy Spirit, God is sending us into a broken but beautiful world on which he will never give up. When we show up and love in the name of God, God shows up. That’s part of the mystery of partnering with Jesus in the work he is still doing.”⁵⁶

“As we love our neighbors *and* one another, the kingdom of God grows and the world takes notice.”⁵⁷

Chapter 7: What If?

“By trusting in his Spirit who lives in us, we can be to a hurting world God’s presence and beauty and glory and power in bigger ways than we ever thought possible. God is *still* moving into the neighborhood! The Incarnation isn’t about only the *one* glorious moment in history when Jesus walked this earth - it’s also about a God who still wants to make an appearance in this world through his followers.”⁵⁸

“The Advent of Christ is an opportunity to declare to the world that God has given us the greatest gift. Advent Conspiracy exists to help the church awaken, realign with God’s movement, and worship Jesus wholly at Christmas - and thus be transformed by the God of Advent.”⁵⁹

⁵³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 108.

⁵⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 109.

⁵⁵ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 111.

⁵⁶ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 112.

⁵⁷ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 113.

⁵⁸ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 121.

⁵⁹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 125.

“What if Christmas was no longer about *stuff*?”⁶⁰

The Continuing Adventure

“For many of us, this comes down to what Thom Rainer once called “creative redundancy.” It really is embarrassing how forgetful we become. That’s why it is essential to remind your churches and small groups of these basic principles again and again. Never forget how relentlessly the other messages will come every December.”⁶¹

“...we’ve found it extremely helpful to remember the words of author and popular TED talk speaker Simon Sinek: start with the “why.” All the time. Every season.”⁶²

“And then there is this: It is important to remind each other that we are not crazy for dreaming these dreams and inviting our families and friends to a countercultural approach to celebrating Christmas.”⁶³

“But in a very practical sense, one of the ways we can “*stir up one another to love and good works*” is by telling stories.”⁶⁴

⁶⁰ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 126.

⁶¹ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 132-133.

⁶² Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 134.

⁶³ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 135.

⁶⁴ Rick McKinley, Chris Seay, and Greg Holder, *Advent Conspiracy: Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), 135.