



Making Advent Meaningful

“The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before... .What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God’s [back] fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.” ~ Jan L. Richardson, Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas

What could you BUY differently, or DO differently, so that Jesus’ coming is given the right kind of attention in your home this year?

There are some amazing books to read, and some to colour, either to give as presents or to help you in your own walk with Jesus. www.eden.co.uk has a whole host of goodies, for example. Why not get yourself or someone else subscription to Bible notes (for children or adults) or to a magazine such as Christianity Today?

Meaningful Christmas Crackers: (made by the Real Advent Calendar team)

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/christmas/products/meaningful-christmas-crackers>

Each cracker contains:

- Fun Christmas table quiz question
- A joke

- Full colour print crown
- Bag of High Quality Swiss Fairtrade Milk Chocolate Chunky Buttons (25g)
- Eco friendly 'snap' (The dynamite free design uses a clever card mechanism to add fun to the pulling of each cracker)

Real Advent Calendar

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/products/real-advent-calendar>

Meaningful Features

- Behind each of the 25 windows there is a line from the Christmas story with colourful matching picture
- Foiled for freshness
- 25 Festive chocolates made from a quality Fairtrade blend-35% cocoa
- Palm oil free
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box and tray
- Made, designed and produced in the UK

“Real” Decorations

<https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/products/host-of-angels-case-of-18-3-99-per-box>

(contains colouring poster and story sicker set)

Christmas tree decoration books:

<http://www.eden.co.uk/shop/bauble-book-set-value-pack-4370847.html>



Advent into Lent

It might be challenging with all the Christmas baking and party invitations, but if we can fit some of our more Lenten practices into our Advent preparation, they might make the season more spiritual and help us to better prepare for the great gift that is Christmas. I've wanted to test this theory on many occasions, and failed. Any ideas?

Ideas for making the most of this time with God:

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5595/5-ideas-to-make-the-most-of-advent>

Some ideas for those who find that Christmas brings back bad memories:

<https://onethingalone.com/25-simple-ways-make-christmas-more-meaningful/>

Questions? Feedback? Ideas to share? Please contact me

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