



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT

# TREASURED

"YOU ARE ALTOGETHER BEAUTIFUL, MY LOVE... THERE IS NO FLAW IN YOU." SONG OF SOLOMON 4:7



DECEMBER 8, 2023 5:30 PM • \$30



ADVENT AT AWAKEN

# THE COMING OF CHRIST

DEC. 3  
ADVENT - HOPE

DEC. 8  
TREASURED WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS EVENT 5:30 PM

DEC. 10  
ADVENT - PEACE

DEC. 17  
ADVENT - JOY  
(CHILDREN'S SERVICE)

DEC. 21  
DIG DEEPER SERVICE CANCELED



ADVENT AT AWAKEN

# THE COMING OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 23 | 6:30 PM  
DECEMBER 24 | 9AM 11AM 6:30PM



# WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD

“BE A CHAMPION BY CHAMPIONING OTHERS”

PHILEMON 17-25



WEEK 3

**Your suffering doesn't hurt the mission; it enhances it  
When you choose to champion others.**

Last week, I watched a few TED talks on smartphones and their societal influence. I heard concerns I was already aware of, such as the excessive use of smartphones leading to a decrease in relational engagement and a simultaneous increase in mental health struggles. I learned that many reputable sources consider selfies to be a public health crisis, noting that they statistically are the leading cause of injury and death. I found it particularly interesting how smartphones have redefined what it means to share.

In today's smartphone-saturated world, sharing means forwarding images, posts, viral videos, reels, stories, and collaborative opportunities. It's a type of sharing that is untethered from the human touch. It's designed not only to project our narrative but to create it. We are the first generation ever to exist that can build our narrative, a story that defines us. But while we busily build our narrative, we have little time and a decreasing interest to help build the narratives of others.

Paul was oddly occupied with the narrative of others. I say oddly because his commitment to champion God's work in the lives of those around him was counter-cultural. He intentionally looked to share opportunities, encourage others to use their spiritual gifts, and use the influential platform God had given him to empower people. For Paul, it was personal. Paul understood that living God's mission meant championing His work in the lives of others.

## **(10 min) PRAY**

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray that God will root out any self-centeredness and teach you the way of Jesus in championing others.

## **(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER**

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. As you read Philemon, it is evident that while Paul was in a challenging situation, he was also steadfastly focused on Christ and His work in the lives of others. Paul wasn't in competition with the other church leaders. He wasn't looking for people's pity. He understood that God could use His suffering to advance others. Why do you think this was the case? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-6. How does this apply? How is the way of Jesus the greatest example of this?
2. Paul made Onesimus' situation personal. He got involved as God was leading Him. As our world becomes more disconnected, how can we follow the example of Paul and Jesus and be involved in the lives of others in a meaningful way? Has God been showing you how you can champion others by being involved in what He is doing in their lives? How are those people? What steps do you think you need to take?
3. Paul worked with his own hands to pay what Onesimus owed Philemon. He was willing to make the sacrifice if necessary. Our society stokes our fears. Tempting us to turn inward and focus on ourselves. How is this in conflict with the Christian life? How does real sacrifice demonstrate that we trust God and live to His story?

**What makes the church the church is that while everyone turns inward,  
we turn upward and outward.**

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Proverbs 3:27-28** *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you.*

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** *Pray for the next 15-20 minutes as a Life Group. Ask God to guide you in this time of prayer. You have choices to make this week. In this Advent season, as we reflect on Christ's incarnation, we remember how Jesus was willing to champion us in His suffering and with great sacrifice. He took our reconciliation personally. He now calls us to live this way towards those He has placed in our lives and this lost world. To follow His way, we must break the tendency to be consumed with our lives and stories. We have to make space in our lives and generate genuine concern for what God is doing in the lives of others. Don't end your time together without concrete decisions and action items on how you will accomplish this.*

## **(5 min) LIVE IT**

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer, looking up to God and choosing to look to the needs of others around you. Look for at least one meaningful way to champion what God is doing in someone else's life each day of this week.