

Dwelling Richly
COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

A hand holding a globe with stars hanging above it. The background is a textured, light-colored fabric. The globe is blue and green, with a hand holding it from the bottom left. Stars of various colors (yellow, orange, purple) are hanging from the top. The text 'GENESIS: Lost & Found' is written on a white banner across the globe. The text 'Advent Devotional' is written on a white banner at the bottom right, next to a lit candle.

GENESIS:

Lost & Found

Advent Devotional



"Let the Word of Christ
dwell in you richly."

Colossians 3:16

Dwelling Richly

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...Quiet Time / Review...

- Quiet Time is set aside for each of us to settle in and prepare for our Bible study group time ahead. Breathe. Pray. Reflect and Prepare quietly on your own and allow others to do the same
- **Please refrain from talking to others during this time, instead** – Quietly reflect on the questions here and prepare your heart for your Grace Group time.
- **New here? Didn't get the lesson done?** If today is your first time at Bible study or you weren't able to complete the previous lesson, complete #1 below, then skim through the previous lesson (you can get a packet from a group leader) and skip to #4 below.

1. **Skim Genesis 4-10.** Write one or two questions that you still have from these passages.

2. **Thinking back** over your study time, what made it...
...successful?

...challenging?

3. **Which passage from Genesis 4-10...**
...was the most interesting to you?

...helped you understand God better?

4. **Look over the Grace Group** questions on the next page.

Before Grace Groups, we'll recite our verse together:

**"Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil.
This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones."**

Proverbs 3:7-8

...Grace Groups - Review Previous Lesson...

- ☐ God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the New English Translation (NET) Bible for this study.
- 🤝 We come from varying religious & political backgrounds. Remember: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'
- 🚫 Avoid commentaries or study notes in your Bible - do your own thinking. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
- ❤️ We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- 👍👎 This is a Bible study - not a personal-opinion group. So, there are going to be "right" and "wrong" answers in keeping with the truth of God's Word.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!
- 😊 Discussion questions are written with care to move you through the previous lesson and prepare you for the lesson to come. Please read and answer them all and do not skip over any.
- 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. **You're here! Yay you!** This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down thoughts as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of how much you're talking. Share your thoughts and allow time for others to do the same - limit yourself to about 2 minutes maximum. Your group leader will help with that.
- 🕒 Watch the time. Teaching Review begins promptly at 10:40 (morning session) and 7:40 (evening session) and is about 40 minutes. Leaders will wrap up the discussion time at 10:30am or 7:40pm to allow for prayer and a bathroom break.

...Let's Look Back Together...

- *Pass around the Prayer Journal. If you have a prayer request that is more personal, you can share privately with your group leader or our teaching leader, Jennifer, after the study.*

DAY 1... Share a point that was helpful to you from the Lesson 4 Teaching Time (pg 88)

DAY 2... How is the overview reading on this day been helpful or challenging?

Share your responses to...

DAY 3... #9 and #10

DAY 4... #1 and #8 or #9

DAY 5... share any response

DAY 6... #5 and #10

DAY 7... #2 and #8

DAY 8... #2 and #8

DAY 9... #8 and #9

DAY 10... Share your Create & Share

- *As time permits share your Quiet Time responses.*

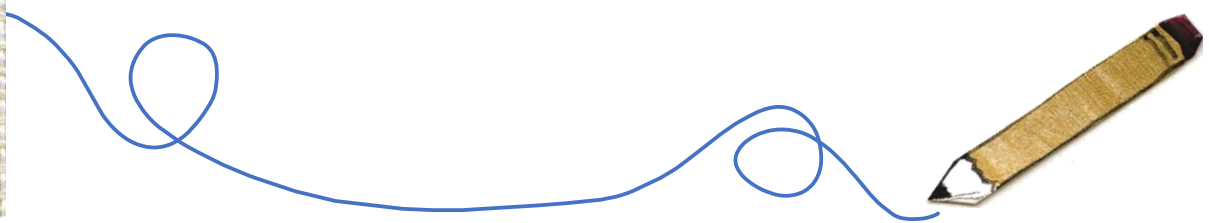
Reminders...

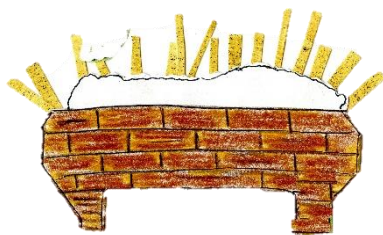
- **Scripture** references are from the New English Translation unless noted otherwise
- **Join me** on YouTube where you'll find the messages and other resources
www.YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond
- **TIP:** Scripture and website references are hyperlinked when you use the online version.

Next up...teaching time...take notes on the next page. 😊

..Teaching Time...

“





The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light.

Isaiah 9:2

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

When it comes to entering into the holiday season there are different kinds of people.

Those who are giddy and delighted – you’ve been thinking about this since late-summer, already shopping for fall and even Christmas décor. You’ve got pumpkin spice *something* in your fridge, you have a box of seasonal mugs ready to swap out for your tea or coffee time, and you have all your outfits ready with matching accessories to get you from the Harvest party to Thanksgiving all the way through Christmas and maybe even on to New Years.

Then there’s those who just let the season happen as it comes feeling either a little blasé about it all, content to let it happen with or without any change of décor. You may still have a carved pumpkin on your porch that now looks more like a moldy science project than a Jack-o-lantern. You’ll decorate... or maybe you won’t.

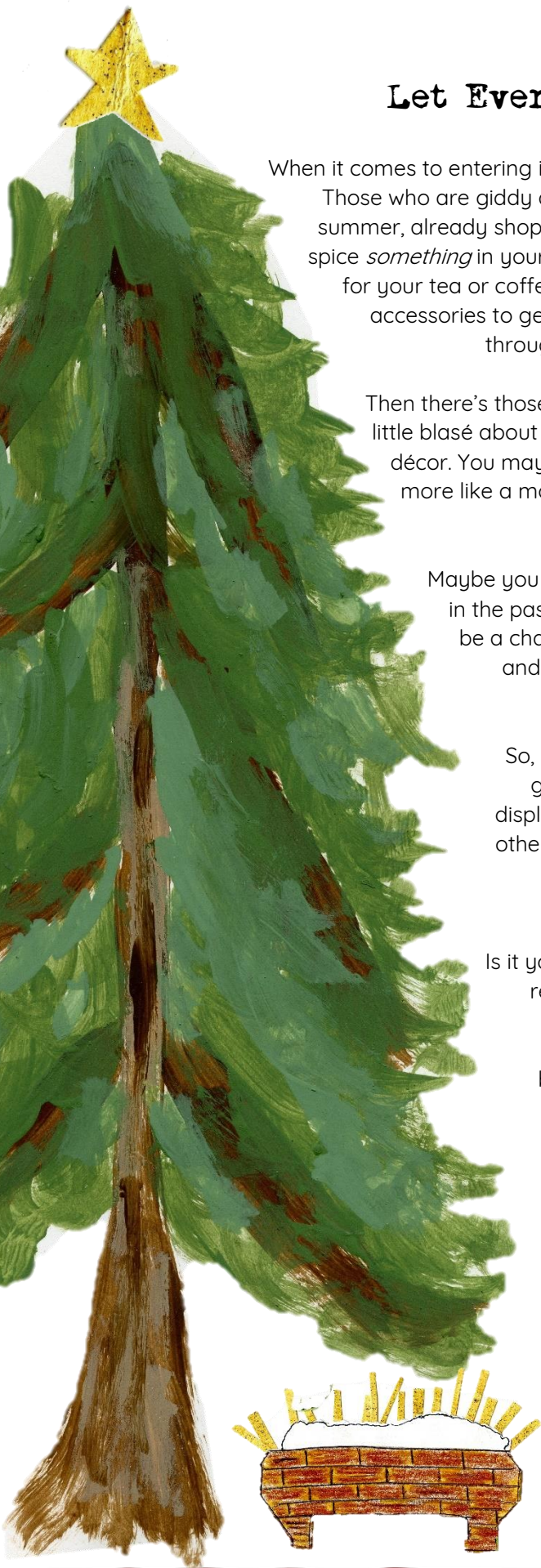
Maybe you are among those who feel dread anticipating what has been in the past a difficult season or thinking ahead to what you feel might be a challenging time this year. You know the days will come and go, and you’ll get through it with or without stringing any lights or changing any pillow covers.

So, here we are, a few days away from the swing of things. The giddy have their porches festooned with colorfully themed displays drumming their happy fingers together in approval while others are blithely sipping their coffee as the calendar pages turn no matter their state of readiness... and what does *readiness* look like?

Is it your lovely home? Your perfect porch? Is it awful if neither are ready? Whether your home is ready for a spread in a home décor magazine or not, the only readiness that ultimately matters is the same that mattered yesterday before the season began and the only place that will matter when the last light gets put back in the holiday storage box ...your heart.

I invite you to bring your heart into this season to set aside a few moments a day...breathe, pray, open your heart to what God has for you as you see anew and let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly. Let this be a season when you bring your hopes and your fears and let them be found in Him in your quiet time.

Enjoy this devotional study as a guide to help center and ready your heart on the most important light, the Light of the world – Jesus Christ.



How to Approach this Devotional Study

For the next few weeks we'll be dwelling in God's Word making room in our heart for our Savior and allowing the Holy Spirit to teach us.

It's a devotional - but it's different.

Instead of a daily "devotional thought" to read, this devotional will give you a daily passage from God's living Word to read.

Let the Word be your guide.

Instead of connecting the dots for you in summary devotional paragraph, this devotional gives you space to write out the prompting God brings to your own heart from His Word.

Let the Spirit be your Teacher.

Here's how to approach this devotional study:

- 1) **Pray.** Take the time to speak to the Father and let Him speak to you. Be thoughtful and intentional in this opening time and let it set the tone for your time in the Word.
- 2) **Memorize.** Each week you'll have a verse to memorize. Read, write, meditate on that verse throughout the week. Highlight the verse in your Bible. Write it on a sticky note. Keep those words before you all week and let those words dwell in you.
- 3) **Dwell.** Read the passage for that day with a heart first to see God. As you read ask, "How can I know God better?"

A new week of readings will be available on Sundays through the first week of the new year. Here's how you can get the next week's devotional study:

- ...pick up at La Mirada Church
- ...print from either LaMiradaChurch.com or JenniferGRichmond.com
- ...in your email inbox (Email Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com to register. Subject: "Advent Devotional")

Contact me with any questions or comments:

Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com

562.755.4964

Blessings in Christ,

Jennifer

Where's week 2?
Go back to page 2 for information on how to get the
next week of this six-week devotional.

Save this for your notes...

Advent Devotional

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>Available Sunday of...</u>
Week One -	November 21-27
Week Two -	November 28-December 4
Week Three -	December 5-11
Week Four -	December 12-18
Week Five -	December 19-25
Week Six -	December 26-January 1

Women's Bible Study

We resume the week of January 2-8

Tuesday, January 4, 9am

Tuesday, January 4, 6pm

Wednesday, January 5, 6pm

When we resume, we'll be reviewing Genesis chapters 1-10 (Lessons 1-4) and beginning Lesson 5 of the "Genesis: Lost & Found" study.

Register for the study at

www.LaMiradaChurch.com

and join us in January!



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Colossians 3:16