



**December 7, 2011**

Advent Conspiracy

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## Leader Notes

Lots of words used to describe Christmas. Manger, Bethlehem, Mary, Jesus, Wisemen, lights, trees, Santa might be a few to include.

What about Rebellion? What about scandalous? What about subversive? When we look at the political and social structure(s) into which the Christmas story is told, and specifically what the first Apostles said about the event, we begin to uncover a deeply subversive and rebellious conversation going on. What does it mean for us in 2011 to live amidst his rebellious and subversive story and allow it to speak into our lives when our culture is telling us to buy more, spend more, give more...then you'll be happy?

## Opening Prayer

***Make sure you take time each week to open in prayer.***

Jesus, please don't let us lose the subversive nature of your story. Help us to see that you challenged the systems that you were born into. Help us to see that the way of Jesus, and therefore the story of Christmas is one that confronts the assumptions that we hold about money, stuff, happiness and joy.

Father, as we anticipate the birth of your Son, meet us, shake us, move us!

Holy Spirit, prompt us and lead us by your power into the lives you've called us to

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## KICKER

**What's the most subversive and/or counter cultural thing you've ever been a part of?**

**How did that make you feel? Would you do it again, why or why not?**

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### Leader: (A story from Micah)

When I was in 9th grade I stood around a flag pole at Central High School with about 8 other kids for See You at The Pole. I remember hearing the snickers and comments of my friends and classmates as they passed by. "What the h\$#@ are they doing?" "What a bunch of losers" "Those people are freaks." And I remember the things that I felt and thought, the way my temperature rises when I get embarrassed, and the feeling of wanting to leave. But, by God's grace and confidence, I didn't leave. I stayed. I endured, and the experience has shaped me.

### Kicker Notes:

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# DISCUSSION

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## Discussion Notes:

What did you think about what Micah was saying tonight.

Talk about things that stood out.

What are your family's Christmas giving traditions?

What is your family's view of what the rest of the world is doing during the Christmas season?

Oblivious?

Engaged?

Doing something about it?

What can you do to change the way your family thinks?

How can you bring some of these subversive ideas to light in your spheres of influence?

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# BIBLE

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## Bible Notes:

In light of the historical things Micah shared, let's read the scriptures passages and see if they take on a different tone and meaning.

Someone read Matt 2: 1-12 & Luke 2:1-20

What do think this meant in the Kingdom that Jesus lived in?

Put yourself in the shoes of Herod or Caesar, what does this event mean and how do you respond?

Someone read Acts 4: 8-12

Have you ever heard a phrase that was connected with something you knew used in a totally different or contrary way?

What was it and how did it sit w/ you?

Does anyone remember how Peter died? Any guesses why they crucified him (upside down according to history because he didn't see himself worthy to die the way Jesus did)

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# CRUNCH

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## CRUNCH NOTES:

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If Christmas was a subversive, counter cultural event in the 1st century, what does it look like for us to do something counter cultural and subversive this Christmas?

What are some creative ways you can give gifts without spending money?

How can you use your personality/time/gifts/passions to bless people at Christmas?

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# SO WHAT

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## So What Notes:

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Would you consider taking money you would have spent on Christmas, being more creative about the gifts you do give and making something, so you could give the money towards something else of greater importance and need?

If you are, where could you put that money? Brainstorm some ideas of things you could do as individuals.  
OR brainstorm things you could do together as a group.