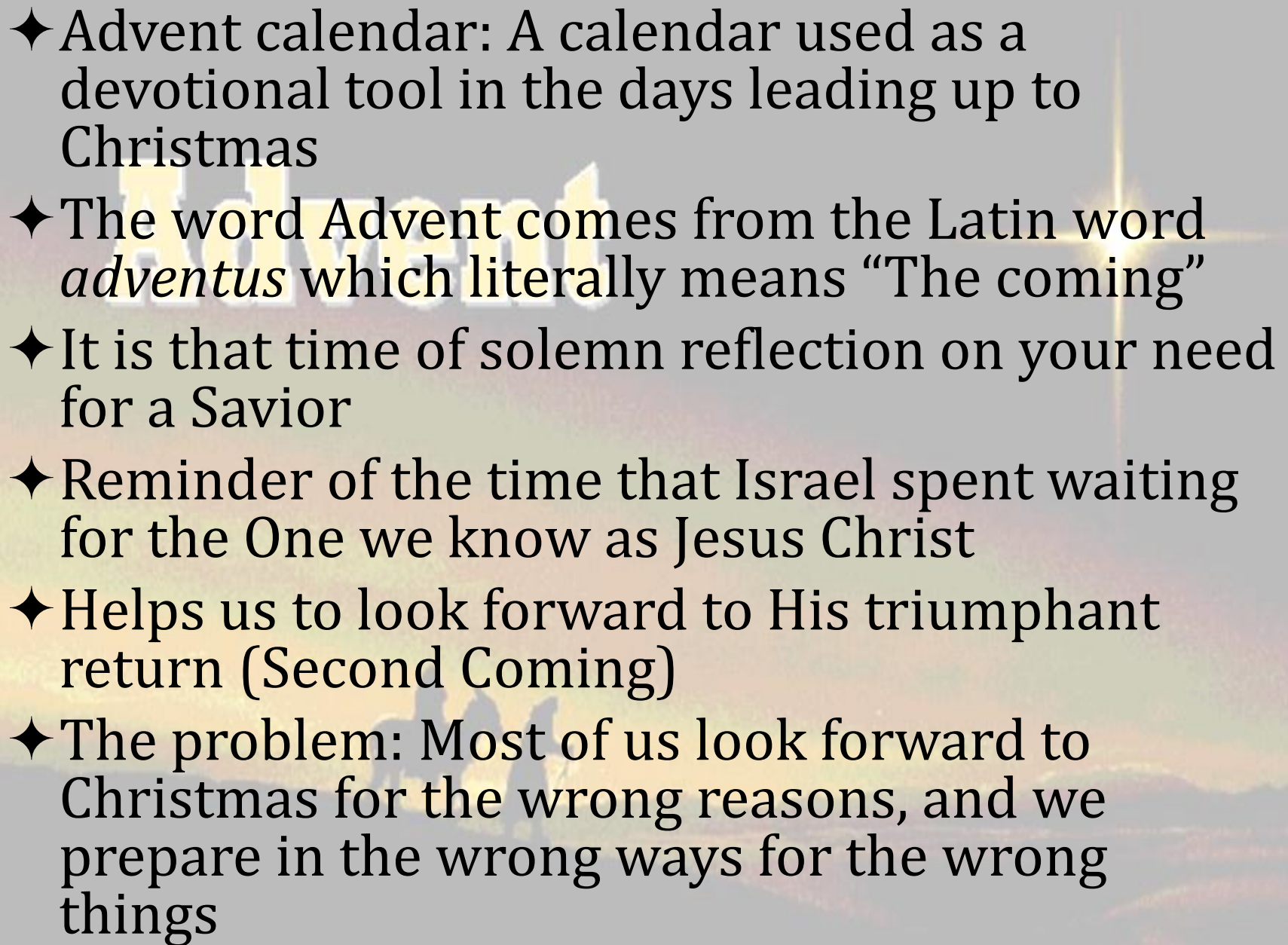
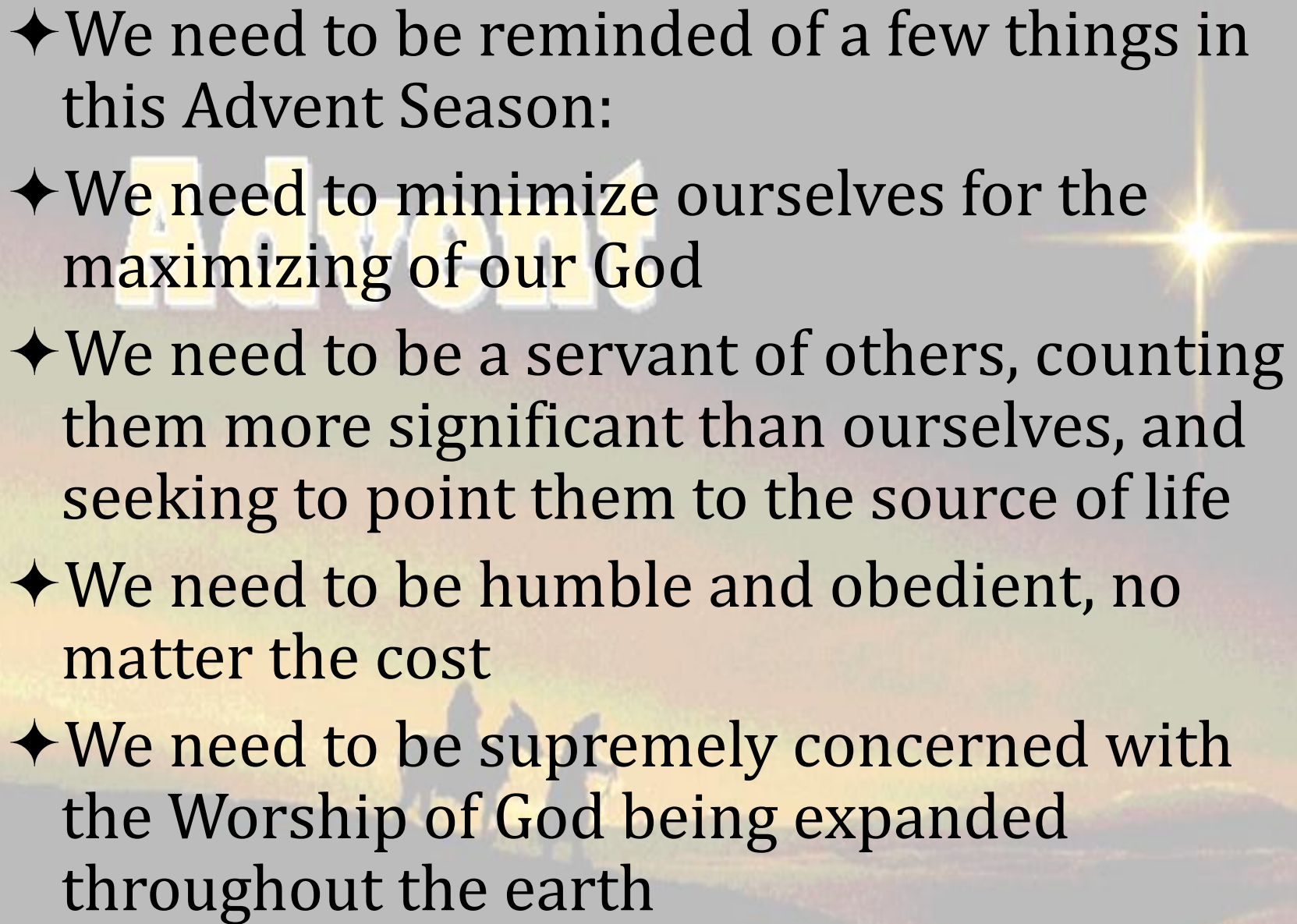


# Advent



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- ◆ Advent calendar: A calendar used as a devotional tool in the days leading up to Christmas
  - ◆ The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* which literally means “The coming”
  - ◆ It is that time of solemn reflection on your need for a Savior
  - ◆ Reminder of the time that Israel spent waiting for the One we know as Jesus Christ
  - ◆ Helps us to look forward to His triumphant return (Second Coming)
  - ◆ The problem: Most of us look forward to Christmas for the wrong reasons, and we prepare in the wrong ways for the wrong things

- ◆ BLACK FRIDAY
- ◆ 158 million shoppers / \$465.6 billion spent
- ◆ Amount of money given to charity last year - \$211.77 billion
- ◆ This means that if the estimate is correct, in one day (Black Friday), the average American will spend over two times more than they will give to charity over the course of the entire year
- ◆ Christmas time has become an excuse to spend buckets of time, money, and energy on stuff... material goods that ultimately are the things that we bow down to
- ◆ SO, What is the Advent Season and Christmas SUPPOSED to be about? And what does it look like for a follower of Christ to RIGHTLY Celebrate Jesus' birth?

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- Advent
- ◆ We need to be reminded of a few things in this Advent Season:
  - ◆ We need to minimize ourselves for the maximizing of our God
  - ◆ We need to be a servant of others, counting them more significant than ourselves, and seeking to point them to the source of life
  - ◆ We need to be humble and obedient, no matter the cost
  - ◆ We need to be supremely concerned with the Worship of God being expanded throughout the earth

## Philippians 2:5-11 - 5

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

✦ Jesus set aside all of His rights and comforts, and came to be with us... Jesus is a missionary...

✦ John Piper: “Missions exists because worship doesn’t.”

✦ We should seek to fulfill Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

✦ To assess ourselves, why not take the themes found in Philippians, and measure ourselves against them?

◆ Will you give yourself to the preparation of Jesus' second coming, by doing everything that you can to look more like Him, tell more people about Him, and rejoice more fully in Him?



## Zephaniah 3:14-17

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.



# Advent

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric night scene. In the upper right, a bright, multi-pointed star shines against a dark sky. Below the star, a dark silhouette of a person on a horse is visible, with another person standing beside it. The scene is set against a backdrop of rolling hills and a dark sky with some light clouds.

**Pick up your advent guide  
today at the resource table...**

# Women's Ministry

## Upcoming Events



Ladies Bible Study ~ December 5<sup>th</sup> the home of  
Nicole Page

Progressive Dinner – 12/12 from 6:30–9:30 PM  
Details in your bulletin



# McAllen Mission Trip

Your second \$50  
deposit is past due

Food & clothing  
donations are being  
collected...

# Prayer Team

We are looking for  
prayer warriors...  
Join our team to  
pray for the service  
or sign up to pray  
for prayer  
requests...

Details in your  
bulletin

