

Hello Book Club Friends!

We love this time of year. And even though it's also a different kind of busy with concerts, gatherings, and managing expectations, we also love the joy that comes this time of year.

This holiday season, reconnect with your childlike awe, imagination, and love by reading *The Christ Child* by Adam Miller along with us.

This short, but impactful read, will help make your Christmas full of wonder. It will help you hold onto the joy of the gospel and keep the feeling of joy in your heart and home all season. How?

- Thoughtful questions throughout the book are a simple invitation to pause and ponder.
- A reexamination of scriptural accounts of Christ's birth with an eye for wonder.
- Learn to look at personal Christmases past to be reminded that like the Christ Child, we too are precious in God's eyes.

Join us for book club! Let's lean into the light, love, and warmth of friendship this season by reading together.

Read The Christ Child with Magnify!

- ✓ Pick up your copy of the book.
- ✓ Download the reading guide.
- ✓ Invite friends to read with you—the more the merrier!
- ✓ Listen to the Magnify podcast book club preview episode of The Christ Child. Out on November 11, 2024.
- ✓ Follow along with us on social media and add your thoughts to our weekly online discussions.
- ✓ Sign up for our Zoom gathering.
- ✓ Wrap it all up with a Magnify chat on Zoom: 7pm MST, December 5, 2024

Discussion Quotes and Questions

“The kingdom of God is hidden in plain sight. To see it, I just have to see the world as Christ sees it. I have to see the world through his childlike eyes, through the eyes of the Son.” (p.9)

- Perhaps Christmas is the easiest time to feel childlike wonder. We often talk about keeping this feeling alive throughout the year, but how do we actually do this in practice?
- What keeps us from feeling this kind of awe about our relationship with Christ?
- How can we remember to be as a little child, to always have that kind of faith?

“Every true act of repentance is, at least in part, a childlike act of imagination.” (p.49)

- One theme of the book is becoming like little children, being born again. We take the sacrament every week to be born again through Christ’s Atonement. Is it easier to feel born again at Christmastime than other times of year? Why or why not?

“I have a Christmas photo, also from 1984, of what counts in my family as an exotic and legendary gift.” Reread the passage where Adam’s dad gives his mom a horse for Christmas. (pgs. 68-69)

- Describe a special gift you received at Christmas, or at another time.
- What made that gift so memorable?
- How does that particular gift make Christmas more meaningful to you now?
- What about the gift points you to Christ?

“Everyone is smiling. Everyone is playing. Everyone is imagining they were there when God was born.” (p.36)

- Did you ever participate in a nativity story dress up/pageant? Who did you want to be? Who did you actually have to be?
- Which of the people in the Nativity story do you want to be more like now?

“For thousands of years now, we’ve been pretending to be wise men. We’ve assigned the parts, dressed up in costumes, and acted out the stories. We’ve imagined we were shepherds and kings.” (p.45)

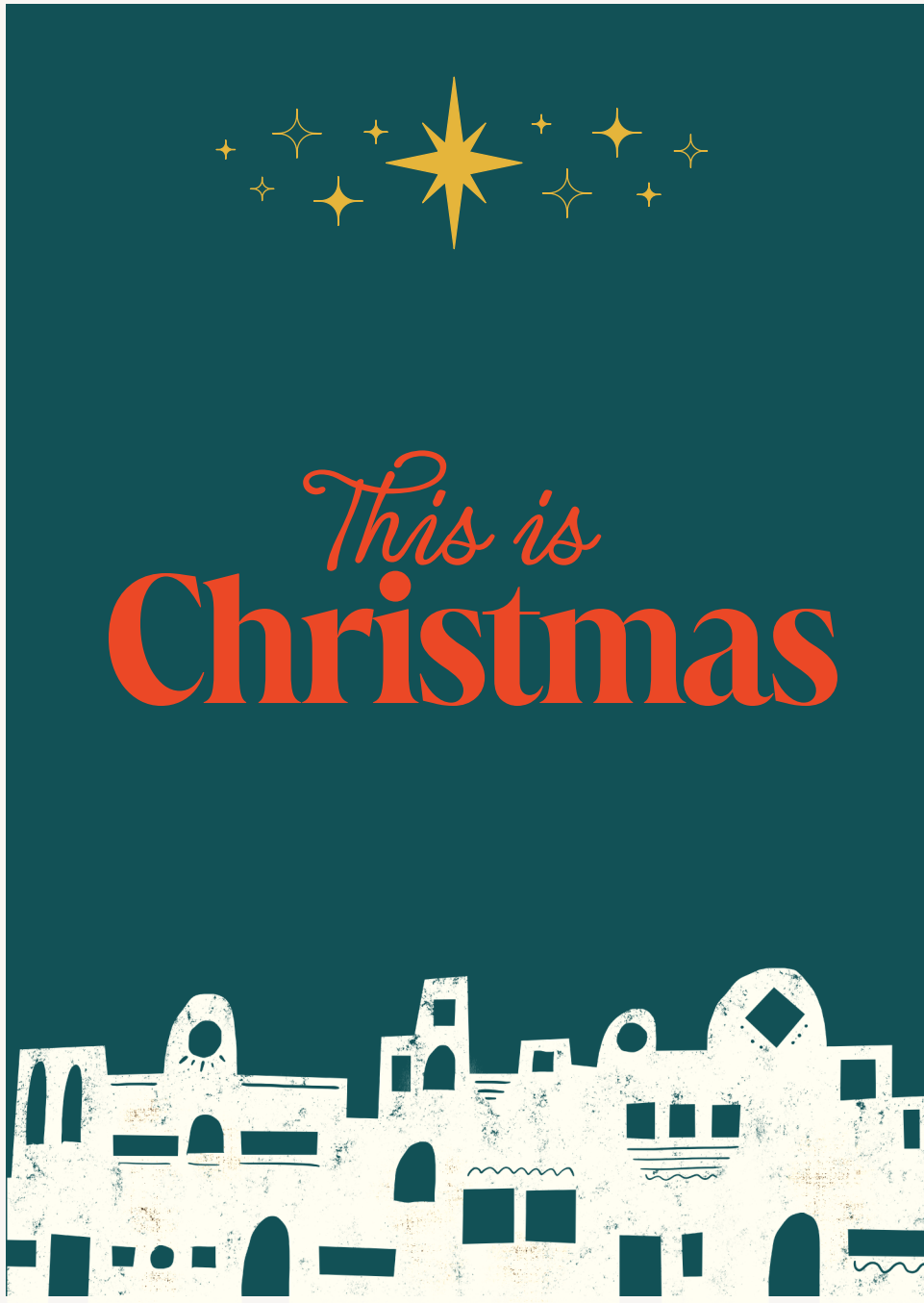
- As you learn about the wise men from the book, what surprised you?
- We profess to know a lot about the various people who show up in the Christmas story, but we know quite little. If you could go back in time, who would you talk with to know their story better? Why? What would you ask first?
- If you only had an hour to be with them in their story, what hour would you choose to walk by their side?

“Like Christ, children are quick to love, quick to trust, quick to forgive, quick to embrace. They’re built for empathy. They feel what others feel. They cry when we cry. They smile when we smile. They laugh when we laugh. All their windows are open and all their doors unlocked. This is atonement: in the garden and on the cross, Christ feels everything we feel.” (p.56)

- How could thinking like a child improve your outlook on life right now?
- How could it increase your faith?
- How could it strengthen your relationships?
- How could it change your life?

“Awe, like love, is often difficult and inconvenient. ... If you think you can find God without living in awe— without worship—good luck. Filled with awe, the whole world—including you—is born again. Everything is seen (again) for the first time. Everything is new.” (p.25)

- What brings you a sense of wonder and awe during this time of year?
- What reminds you to look at the world in wonder and awe daily?
- How can we push past the difficulty and live with a sense of wonder and awe?
- How do we keep our minds flexible and imaginations strong?



Print out this reminder for your home and place it near a favorite family Christmas photo, or gift it to others this holiday season

Book Club Activity Ideas

Before your book club gathering, ask for a Christmas photo from everyone in your book club. Print the photos and have them on display at your in-person meeting, or if you meet virtually, put all of them in a digitally shareable place.

After discussing the book, take turns talking about your personal pictures, sharing the behind-the-scenes moments that weren't captured by the camera, the way Adam does in the book. Over treats, share how these images can remind you to be full of childlike awe this Christmas season.

Make a craft

Print extra copies of each Christmas picture for everyone in the group and turn them into simple bookmarks.

Supplies: scissors, copies of photos, stickers, metallic markers
Optional supplies (to make a simple tassel): yarn or embroidery floss, hole punch

Steps:

1. Print photos on cardstock color of your choice, or order matte prints from your favorite photo printer.
2. Cut around the people in the image.
3. Decorate with metallic markers and stickers.
4. If adding a tassel, use hole-punch to make a hole in one end of your bookmark, then attach the tassel with a simple knot.

