

INFINITUM



INFINITUM ADVENT 2019

4X4.



Hillside



Firepit



Travel Hub



Shopping Centre

These 4 locations accompanied by the 4 suggested devotionals give you the opportunity to approach Advent in a different way and hopefully discover new depths of insight into living a life of love, surrender, mission (engagement) and generosity. During the 4 weeks of Advent we'd encourage you to plan trips to these four locations/scenes, or if that's not possible then you can use the video resource to help set the scene. Pack a notebook and a friend for the journey!



Hillside

WITH ELEVATION COMES PERSPECTIVE



Context



The hillside is one of the UK's classic Christmas card scenes. It just so happened that the one we found had sheep there as well! You may not live anywhere near a hillside, let alone one with sheep on, but your first challenge in December is to try find a place that gives you some peace and perspective.

Travelling to spaces that are "bigger than you" (this is a concept Richard Rohr explores in his writings when talking about male rites of passage) generates the opportunity for wonder, awe and perspective. Even if your journey to one of these takes a while, this might be an important step to the experience.

Consider

Take a few minutes to still your heart and mind.

Speak to me Lord through what I see and hear today. May it help me to follow you more deeply and nurture a love for you and others.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

Comment: Open to the Interruption

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 8-14

The shepherds were undoubtedly not prepared for the huge upheaval coming their way that "Christmas night". They were banking on a regular shift. But the arrival of a Heavenly Host was as shocking as it was surprising. Neither they, nor indeed anyone, could have prepared for that interruption.

"Christmas is not a time of pleasantries, but it is a show of power, a power to transform, but that means power to cause upheaval. It is the coming of the surprising, the awesome holy, disturbing presence of God himself."

- Walter Brueggemann

Challenge

In what ways are you open to the surprising, awesome holy and disturbing presence of God himself?

How will you remain open to interruptions and thus possible opportunities to live a life of love, surrender, generosity and mission/engagement?

Close

*Lord, Let me be open to interruptions
this Advent, in the revelation that it
might be you leading me to discover
a deeper life of love, surrender,
generosity and engagement with
people.
Amen*



Firepit

WITH FLAMES COMES WARMTH



Context



It doesn't take much for members of the Infinitem team to find and use a Firepit. Lighting a fire is an elemental moment and creates both a fascination and a focus: if you have the opportunity to light one this Advent then seize the chance. Fire connects us to specific Biblical passages, people and places. Just lighting one helps us to encounter and imagine that scene in a much more visceral way.

Consider

As you light the fire... Take a few minutes to still your heart and mind.

Speak to me Lord through what I see and hear today. May it help me to follow you more deeply and nurture a love for you and others.
Amen

How do you feel?
What do you notice about the fire?

Comment: Open to Change

Scripture Reading John 21: 9

A fire creates both a place for reflection and conversation. Either one can lead to a change of thinking and posture. Whether you are by yourself or with others give yourself the opportunity to engage in and reflect on this action...

Throw a small piece of wood onto the fire and watch its transformation from wholeness to ash. As the wood surrenders to the flames it undoubtedly helps us think about what elements, attitudes and behaviours in us need surrendering and transforming.

"The most tangible of all visible mysteries - fire"
- Leigh Hunt

Challenge

What attitudes or behaviours of yours
need writing on this piece of wood
and surrendering this Advent?
Who could benefit from you sitting
down and having a conversation -
maybe even round a fire?

Close

*Lord, Consume all behaviour and
attitudes that are not honouring to
you. I choose to adopt a posture of
surrender this Advent and welcome
your new work in me.
Amen*



Travel Hub

WITH JOURNEY COMES DISCOVERY



Context



Travel Hubs are places of both dreams and drudgery. Some people are about to undertake exciting journeys, ones they've anticipated, and look forward to for weeks: other people are at the start or end of a "commute" - the journeys they could make in their sleep.

Take a few minutes to still your heart and mind.

Speak to me Lord through what I see and hear today. May it help me to follow you more deeply and nurture a love for you and others.

Amen

Consider

Help me today Lord to see sights and sounds today that could deepen my love for you and my awareness of you in the world.

What do you see when you look around?

What do you hear?

Comment: Journey of Discovery

Scripture Reading Luke 2: 15-16

The Christmas Story is loaded with journeys. All of them are "first time journeys"; there are no commutes here. The "hopes and fears" each character goes through are tangible and palpable.

This location gives us the opportunity to consider journeys we will, or perhaps, need to make over Advent. It's a chance to reflect on our attitudes and approach and what God may be wanting to say to us through them.

Challenge

Is there one particular "Christmas Journey" that you could spend some time investigating and reflecting on this Advent- be it the kings, Mary and Joseph or the shepherds?

Consider your Advent / Christmas journeys or destinations through the lens of love, surrender, generosity and mission (engagement) - are there attitudes and behaviours that you need to change?

Close

Lord, Help me to be open to journeys of discovery this Advent. Help me to learn from the courage and trust displayed by those undertaking the biblical "Christmas journeys".
I place my hopes and fears into your hands.
Amen



Shopping Centre

WITH RECEIVING COMES GIVING



Context



A shopping mall at Christmas time is full of hustle and bustle. People rushing in and out, holiday decorations everywhere, and a surge of shopping for everyone on your list. Some are stressed, some are full of desires for the items on shelves, some are feeling inadequate to afford the perfect gift, and others are giddy with excitement about what they have picked up for a loved one.

Consider

Speak to me Lord through what I see and hear today. May it help me to follow you more deeply and nurture a love for you and others.
Amen

Pay attention to your own emotional temperature in this setting. Are you stressed? Dismayed at consumerism? Touched by the sight of children's excitement?

Who do you see around you?

How many stories and feelings can you count in the strangers walking by?

Comment: Open to Receive

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:1-8

We normally hear these verses in a church – and sometimes a nicely candle-lit one at that. How differently do they sound when you read them out in this location.

How differently do you picture a “wonderful counsellor” and a “Prince of Peace” in this place?

Challenge

In a season of giving and receiving—what do you need to receive from the Lord? What do you need to give over to him?

In the community around you, who is someone who you feel prompted to give a generous gift as an act of Christ’s love? How could you demonstrate the greatest gift through your own giving this season?

Close

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus, humble and full of love. We receive this gift, and in doing, let go of the things filling up our hands that are preventing us from fully receiving the joy of Christmas, and the greatest gift. `Holy Spirit, lead me to a spirit of joy and generosity this season, as a declaration of Jesus to the world. Amen.