



[Hand Out: Cards & Pens]

[Have a mic on a stand for people to come up and share ideas on HOW to put a verse into an action.]

[Keep in mind ALL verses can be put into an Art Form. The process of taking a verse and turning it into Art = Meditation.]

Walking Towards Christmas

Four traditional focuses in Advent: Hope. Love. Joy. Peace.

- Tonight, we are not following this traditional focus.
- Rather, we are specifically focusing on ACTIONS to be assigned to verses and concepts of Christmas.

1 Peter 1:13

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.

- We have been saved. (Death, Burial, Resurrection) I am saved.
- We are saved. (Accepting Christ). I am being saved.
- We will be saved. (2nd Coming) I will be saved.

HOW? Prepare YOUR MIND for Action

You have 25 cards in your stack.

Your goal tonight is to write an ACTION on each card.

*We cannot embrace something that is not close to us.
The closer we are, the more we see.*

Walking towards.....

[You could design a 'game board' of 25 days where each day you move ahead (action) by reading verse and finding a way to put it into an action.]

Example #1

Matthew 1:1

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

The son of David:

[2 Samuel 7:12-2Sam](#), [Psalm 132:11](#), [Isaiah 11:1](#), [Jeremiah 23:5](#), [Luke 1:32](#), [Luke 1:69](#), [John 7:42](#), [Acts 2:30](#), [Acts 13:23](#), [Romans 1:3](#), [2 Timothy 2:8](#), [Revelation 22:16](#)

The son of Abraham:

[Genesis 22:18](#), [Galatians 3:16](#)

There is a promise coming.

- List something you have had to wait for. How long did you have to wait?
- What would it be like to hear a 400 year old promised was being fulfilled?????



- How would you behave? What would you do? What would you talk about?

Would those same answers you gave work with the following verse?

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

How do we enact a promise fulfilled? [Celebrate. Thankfulness.]

- ♥ How do we put an action to it? [Birthday Cake!]
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Example #2

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 37:30 "And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the...

Isaiah 38:7-8 "This shall be the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that he has...

Think of the last trip you took.

What would it have been like if there were no signs or directions to get there?

Life w/o GoogleMaps or Waze!!!

What is it like to have good directions?

What is it like to have trustworthy signs?

- ♥ How can we put having trustworthy signs into an action? [Make actual signs(Art It) to hang on the tree or put up around the house. (Jesus loves me. He came to earth as a human to prove it.)]
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Example #3

Can you think of a time you felt all alone?

Can you list some words that describe how that felt?

Now, read what Matthew says about Jesus and His desire to be with us:

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).



Matthew 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew opens and closes the Book with the promise of 'with-ness'.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

John 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that...

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my

Acts 18:10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are...

How do all these verses speaking of His declaration to be with you make you feel?

What does Jesus' action to be with you say about your worth? [I am valuable.]

- ♥ What action shows that you believe you are a valuable person?

Walking Towards Christmas

- ♥ Art it?

Example #4

Luke 2:25-38

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. **She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.** ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.



Anna lived her life awaiting a promise.

How did she live in wait? [Worshipping = Fasting, Prayer, Giving Thanks, Expecting]

- ♥ How can I do the same this month of December as I await the 2nd Coming?
Walking Towards Christmas
- ♥ Art It [Turn my prayers into poetry?]

Example #5

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for^[1] you. Do this in remembrance of me."^[2] ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

What does the Action of Communion celebrate?

[His sacrifice. His return.]

- ♥ What can I do to show I appreciate His sacrifice? [Take Communion]
- ♥ What can I do to show I am awaiting His return? [Share my testimony. How many times during Christmas month can I share what He has done in my life?]
Walking Towards Christmas

Example #6

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Good shepherd:

Isaiah 40:11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them...

Ezekiel 34:12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I...

Ezekiel 34:23 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall...

Ezekiel 37:24 "My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall walk...

Zech 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the Lord...

Hebrews 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of...

1 Peter 2:25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

John 21:15-17 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me..."

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to...

What is a Shepherd's job?

How does Jesus fulfill that with us?

- ♥ How do we respond in action to what Jesus has done as our Shepherd:



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. = Live thankful

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures.* = Live

He leads me beside still waters = Live

³ *He restores my soul.* = Live

*He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.* = Live

⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,* = Live

for you are with me; = Live

*your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.* = Live

⁵ *You prepare a table before me* = Live

in the presence of my enemies; = Live

you anoint my head with oil; = Live

my cup overflows. = Live

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,* = Live

*and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.* = Live

Walking Towards Christmas

♥ Craft Idea (Art it): Cotton Ball Sheep ornament



[Art helps us meditate on the truth of the verses we are putting into 3D form.]

**Example #7****Romans 8:38-39**

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Share a time when you felt loved.

How does 1 Corinthians 13 outline the actions of love?

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

*⁴ Love is **patient and kind**; love **does not envy or boast**; it is **not arrogant ⁵ or rude**. It **does not insist on its own way**; it is **not irritable or resentful**; ⁶ it **does not rejoice at wrongdoing**, but **rejoices with the truth**. ⁷ Love **bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**.*

*⁸ **Love never ends**. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

♥ Pick an action of Love from 1 Corinthians 13 and practice it today.
Walking Towards Christmas

♥ Art It?

MAKE A PLAN OR YOU WILL NOT BE WALKING TOWARDS CHRISTMAS.

YOU WILL BE WALKING AWAY FROM IT TOWARDS: BUSYNESS. DEMANDS. CELEBRATIONS. TRADITIONS.



Blogs:

We cannot embrace something if it is not close to us.

The closer we are, the more we see.

MAKE A PLAN OR IT WON'T HAPPEN (keep it simple)

Create your calendar NOW.

Just list in a notebook

Post on your digital calendar

Fancy paper thing on the fridge

Begins with cultivating a heart of Thanksgiving...

11/25 – Attend (virtual) Thanksgiving at Maranatha – List one thing I am thankful for

11/26 – Prayer of thanks

11/27 – Scripture verse of thanks

11/28 – Share a thanks story with someone

11/29 – Attend a worship service (live or virtual) Give thanks for the Body of Christ

11/30 – Share with a someone a thing you learned from the Worship service on Sunday

Activities to mark each day as we walk closer to Christmas (Advent Calendar):

- Music -Listen, read the words, dare we sing it? (Carols)
- Share a Christmas Carol with someone
- Scripture Reading
- Share a scripture verse with someone
- Book Reading
- Share what was read with someone/Read to someone
- Crafting
- Give a crafted gift to someone
- Journaling
- Prayer for someone every day to begin their walk towards Christ
- Place an ornament a day on your Christmas Tree or up in your home
- Share your Walking Towards experience with someone

Notecards for the advent message

Freestanding microphone. Taking someone else along with you on the walk towards Christmas.
Sharing your faith over the month of December.

12/1

12/2

12/3

12/4

12/5



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