



**Special
Advent
Supplement
Inside!**

2012
DISCIPLESHIP
Planning Guide

A Year of Discipleship Immersion

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AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES / www.abhms.org

American Baptist Churches USA

What is Discipleship?

To begin, we must articulate the assumption that when we speak of discipleship, we mean *Christian* discipleship, that is, something specifically defined by the call given centuries ago—and anew to each generation—by Jesus, the Christ. For the very first followers of Jesus, the summons was an invitation to be redefined by relationship with Jesus and to join into community with others who enter into relationship with him. Early Jesus followers were referred to as people of The Way. This designation tells us that discipleship is about walking a particular path, a path initially trod by Jesus of Nazareth. In *The Cost of Discipleship*, German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer described the way of Jesus like this:

The way is unutterably hard, and at every moment we are in danger of straying from it. If we regard this way as one we follow in obedience to an external command, if we are afraid of ourselves all the time, it is indeed an impossible way. But if we behold Jesus Christ going on before step by step, if we only look to him and follow him, step by step, we shall not go astray. . . . For he is himself the way, the narrow way and the strait gate. He, and he alone, is our journey's end.

Bonhoeffer's distinction between an impossible externally imposed lifestyle and a relationship that makes discipleship possible is worth taking to heart. When we speak of Christian discipleship, we are speaking, first and foremost, of a relationship that changes who we are. The life we live as Christian disciples is a manifestation of internal changes that take place when we open ourselves up to the profound and unconditional divine love revealed in Jesus.

It is astonishing how dramatically the lives of the earliest Christians changed when they came to faith in Jesus. Some left homes, vocations, and families. Others gave up social

status to join a group of outcasts. Some, like Paul, went from persecuting followers to martyrdom for the faith. Many willingly faced imprisonment, torture, and death. Could they have sustained their walk with Jesus in the midst of such difficulties if they were adhering to an externally imposed lifestyle? Not likely. It was the relationship with Jesus, nurtured by everyday choices, that empowered those first followers. And it is that same relationship with Jesus that will give us strength to remain faithful followers in the midst of a dramatically changing context. Therefore, discipleship is a way . . . of being. It is a path defined by Jesus' example, his teachings, and his ongoing guidance that, when followed, opens us to the transformative power of divine love, making us disciples from the inside out.

Efforts to grow as disciples ourselves and to nurture discipleship in others are not about imposing Christian living, but about connectedness to the love that makes us Christian. The distinction may seem subtle but it has a profound impact on how we approach Christian education. The word "educate" comes from the Latin *educere*, a word with a range of meanings, which includes use as a specialized term for assisting in the birth of a child. To *educate* means to support the emergence of new life. To engage in Christian education is to cultivate a context in which new life in Jesus can emerge and flourish. All aspects of church life, therefore, have the capacity to either cultivate or to impede discipleship. A congregation that does effective Christian education attends to every aspect of its life, seeking to allow the love of Jesus to flow unhindered so that discipleship can flourish from the inside out.

—Cassandra Williams, Ed.D. [Portions adapted from *Learning the Way* (The Alban Institute, 2009)]

FOR MORE ON DEFINING DISCIPLESHIP, DOWNLOAD *Deep Roots and Flexible Branches: Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century* at [www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen](http://www.abhms.org/about-us/publications/Christian-Citizen) or listen to podcasts on *Learning the Way* (09/08/2010) and *discipleship development* (08/04/2010) at [www.abhms.org >podcasts](http://www.abhms.org).



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About this Guide

The *2012 Discipleship Planning Guide* rests on three assumptions about Christian education/discipleship formation:

- 1)** Authentic Christian discipleship is about following Jesus; living out the gospel in every aspect of our lives.
- 2)** Authentic Christians create radical communities, formed around the presence of the resurrected Jesus and dedicated to being the presence of Jesus in, to and for the world.
- 3)** Growth in Christian discipleship is potentially nurtured (or impeded) by all aspects of church life; worship, meetings, budgets, internal and external relationships, and attitudes are as formative—or even more so—than are formal structured educational opportunities.

Effective formation of disciples depends largely on the Christian community's ability to communicate the very presence of Jesus through its practices and its relationships. Therefore, we need to endeavor to make local congregations entities through which members, visitors, onlookers, and all who come in contact with us are *immersed* in authentic Christianity. In addition to the planning calendar, the *2012 Discipleship Planning Guide* provides several tools to help congregations live out and nurture authentic Christian discipleship. These include:

What is Discipleship?

This one-page, easily photocopyable essay on discipleship appears on the inside front cover of the *Guide*. This article is an ideal discussion-starter for educational events. It can also be useful for helping to focus committee meetings, planning groups, or annual meetings on the mission of the church.

Advent Meditation Supplement

On pages 3–18 is found an Advent supplement that includes instructions for creating an onsite, low-cost labyrinth. Devotions provided are based on the Psalms and are presented in English, Spanish, and French. A photocopyable finger labyrinth for those unable to navigate the walking labyrinth appears on page 3.

Materials for Christian Education Sunday

A photocopyable bulletin and litany are on pages 32 (English), 33 (Spanish), and 34 (French). The theme for this year is “Discipleship: A Way . . . of Being.” This theme reflects an understanding that following Jesus is about following a path that opens us up to God's love in such a way that we are transformed. Through our walk with Jesus, we move toward being the persons God created us to be. The theme and the litany are designed to help congregations move away from an understanding of Christianity as adherence to external rules (doing this and not doing that) and toward an understanding of Christian discipleship as becoming new people through God's grace in relationship with Jesus.

Discipleship Immersion Section and Quick Reference

Each month of the planning calendar includes a “Discipleship Immersion” section that highlights resources, events, and ministries from the Home Mission Societies that will help congregations in their discipleship formation efforts. Additionally, a quick reference guide for key resources and ministries appears on page 35.

Our dream and our prayer is that each American Baptist congregation would increase in its capacity to immerse people in the loving presence of Jesus, becoming communities of authentic disciples whose passionate commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ changes persons, communities and the world.

Please feel free to contact me at

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I am always happy to receive your feedback.

Cassandra Carkuff Williams, Ed.D. serves American Baptist Home Mission Societies as national coordinator, discipleship resource development and is the author of Learning the Way: Reclaiming Wisdom from the Earliest Christian Communities (The Alban Institute, 2009).

A finger labyrinth provides an alternative for those who have difficulty navigating the walking labyrinth.
Slowly and deliberately trace the path, opening yourself up to God's presence.
Pause at each number to read the corresponding devotion.

Un labyrinthe manuelle offre une alternative pour ceux qui ont des difficultés à naviguer dans le labyrinthe de marche.
Lentement et résolument tracer le chemin, vous ouvrant à la présence de Dieu.
Marquez une pause à chaque numéro, afin de lire la dévotion correspondante.

Un laberinto digital proporciona una alternativa para quienes tienen dificultad de transitar en el laberinto para caminar.
Lenta y deliberadamente trace la trayectoria, disponiéndose hacia la presencia de Dios.
Deténgase brevemente en cada número para leer el devocional correspondiente.



Advent Meditation Supplement

Background

Labyrinths have been in use for centuries in various cultures as a symbol of life's journey and as a way to focus body and mind on spiritual matters. Although likely used earlier, the first written record of adapting labyrinths for Christian spiritual practice comes from the early fourth century when a labyrinth was placed on the floor of a church in Algiers. The use of Labyrinths is also noted in the writings of many early church fathers, such as Jerome, Ambrose, and Gregory of Nyssa. Walking labyrinths as a spiritual discipline became quite common in the ninth century and after as they were placed on the floors of many churches and cathedrals. Following the path of the labyrinth reminds us of the walk of discipleship and the journey of faith, in which God is both our guiding presence and our ultimate goal.

Below you will find instructions for creating an adapted "Labyrinth on a Shoestring" that can be set up in your church for Advent. We are indebted to Rev. Dr. Susan Panek Polizzi, pastor of First United Baptist Church of Lowell, Massachusetts for sharing these instructions and for providing foundational material for the labyrinth devotions. You will also find suggestions for how to create a portable labyrinth for shared spaces. The provided devotions correspond to numbered points on the labyrinth where journeyers will pause to reflect. The devotions also correspond to the four weeks of Advent, with three devotions for each theme of hope, love, joy, and peace.

Preparing the Labyrinth on a Shoestring

Materials: plastic carpet runner, large permanent marker, pillows, copies of devotions, Bibles

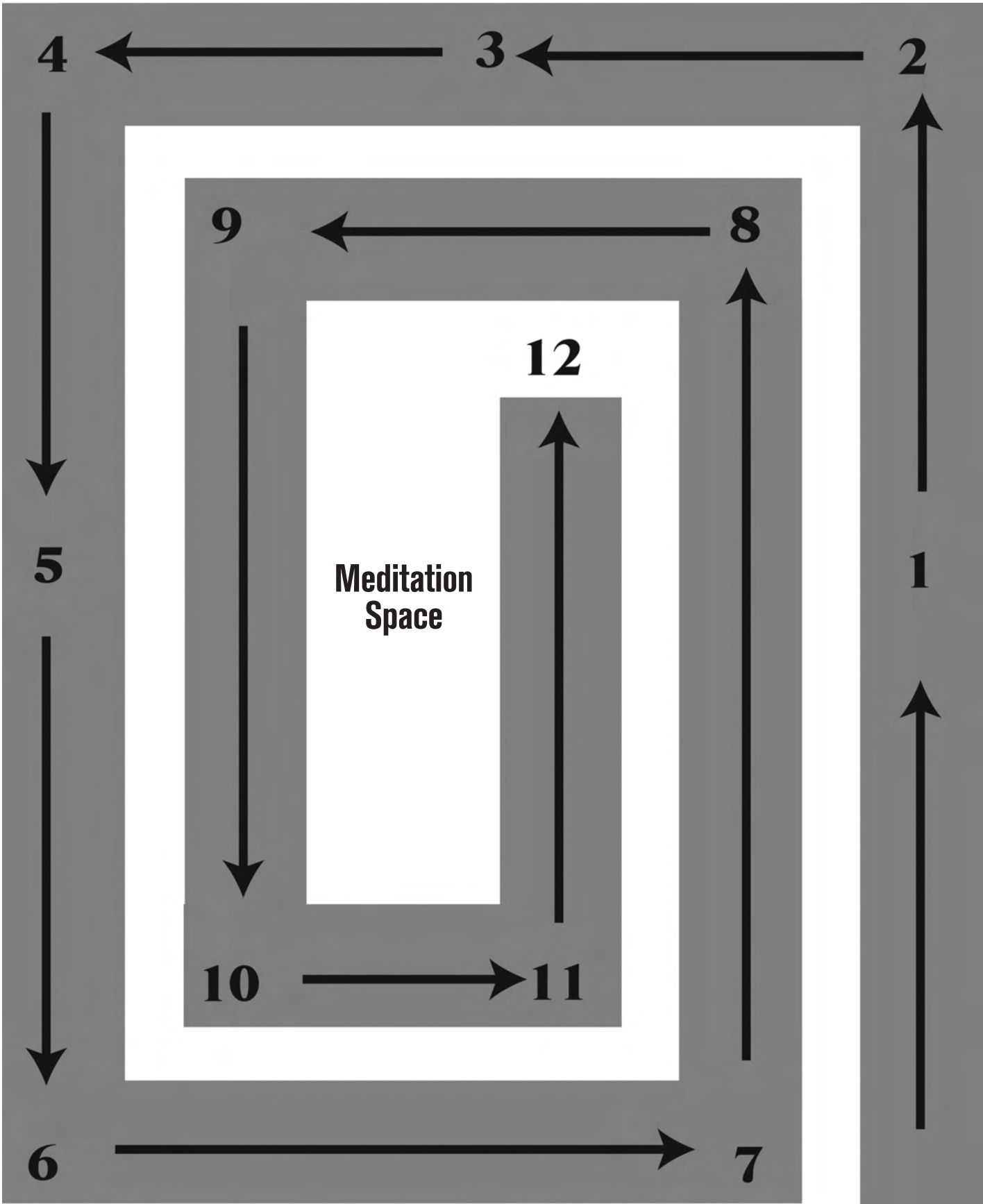
Lay out carpet runner pieces as shown in the image below. Number the devotion sites and place a copy of the appropriate devotion at each site along with a Bible with the text marked (all texts come from the Psalms). You may also wish to place pillows at the final devotion site (number 12) to create a meditation space at the end of the labyrinth. At a table near the start of the labyrinth, place copies of the finger labyrinth and additional copies of the devotions. (See below, "Adapting for persons with mobility limitations" and page 3 for the finger labyrinth.)

Adapting for shared spaces:

- Draw the pathway and mark numbers on a sheet or large piece of canvas. Be sure to tape or tack the fabric down so that participants don't slip or trip.
- Use carpet squares, marked 1–12, to indicate the devotion sites. Lay the squares out according to the labyrinth path. Place paper arrows between the sites to guide participants along the way.
- Use cones and rope to mark the path, labeling twelve of the cones with the devotion number. The cones can be stacked and stored out of the way when not in use.

Adapting for persons with mobility limitations: See page 3 for a photocopyable finger labyrinth. Be sure to provide a comfortable chair and a separate space for this activity.





Start

1 ADVENT HOPE

Psalm 130

“Out of the depths I call you, O LORD. LORD hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!” (vs. 1-2)

Identified as a “Psalm of Ascent,” Psalm 130 may have been sung by pilgrims on their way to the Jerusalem temple. It speaks of the paradoxical nature of the human experience of God. While encounter with divine righteousness reveals our sinfulness, leading to anguish, it is in God that is found our only hope of rescue from those depths.

Prayer: Even in my darkest moments, you are with me God, inviting me through Jesus to receive forgiveness and start again. Help me to trust in the hope that lies in your grace. Amen.

2 ADVENT HOPE

Psalm 13

“How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? . . . But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.” (vs. 1, 5)

Even when feelings of abandonment overtake us, God is with us. When words fail, the longing of our hearts makes its way toward heaven, with those very feelings marking the pathway from God’s heart to ours.

Prayer: Ever-present God, in the moments when I feel as though I cannot go on any longer, give me the confidence that you hold me in loving arms. Give me perspective on my feelings and help me trust that nothing stands between me and your love. Amen.

3 ADVENT HOPE

Psalm 149

“Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.” (vs. 1)

The Hebrew for “Praise to God” is *hallelujah*. When we focus our thoughts on our blessings, our brain chemistry actually changes. Practicing gratitude rewires our brain pathways, bringing “new songs” from our lives. Think of something you are thankful for and gently breathe in and out, whispering “Hallelujah” with each breath.

Prayer: God of new life, help me to heal from the wounds of my life. Transform my scars by the wounds that Jesus bore. Turn my sad songs into songs of praise so I might witness to the hope that lies in you. Amen.

4 ADVENT LOVE

Psalm 90

“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” (vs.14)

The focus of Psalm 90 is “our days,” as it ponders the question of how to find meaning in this transitory earthly life, knowing that it will come to an end. The psalm’s answer is that having meaning in our time requires looking outside ourselves to God’s timeless love. There is no moment in this life or in the life to come in which we are beyond God’s grasp.

Prayer: Eternally loving God, transcend any narrowness in my heart and help me each day to make *my* time *your* time. Amen.

5

ADVENT LOVE

Psalm 136

“O give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his steadfast love endures forever.” (vs. 1)

Psalm 136 celebrates the greatness of God as revealed from creation to the gift of the Promised Land. Liturgical recitation of God’s works was part of the worship of ancient Israel long before the story was recorded in historical narrative. As Christians we celebrate God’s work in the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ongoing presence of Jesus. How will you celebrate God’s acts in history and in your personal history this season?

Prayer: God of action, remind me of the ways you have worked in human history and in my history, so that I might daily celebrate your goodness. Amen.

6

ADVENT LOVE

Psalm 118

“Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.” (vs. 19)

Psalm 118 is one of three royal thanksgiving psalms, which reflect the complex liturgical ritual of thanksgiving that was part of Israel’s worship. The ritual included summons to offer thanksgiving, description of situations of distress and subsequent redemption, communal song, and priestly blessing. What situations has God seen you through? What rituals of Advent can help you recall and give thanks for God’s redemption?

Prayer: God of redemption, give meaning to my private and communal rituals. Help me to participate in the activities of this season with an attitude of worship and gratitude. Amen.

7

ADVENT JOY

Psalm 138

“For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives far away.” (vs. 6)

A pregnant Mary sang that God had “brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly . . . filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty” (Luke 1:52-53). This reversal characterizes Jesus’ Kingdom ministry. Consider your preparations and celebration of Christmas. Do they reveal to the world the God who is exalted as he exalts the lowly?

Prayer: Compassionate God, give me eyes to see the hungry, the weak, and the outcast as you see them. Help me to bring joy to those in need and to myself by living out the values of your Kingdom. Amen.

8

ADVENT JOY

Psalm 148

“Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!” (vs. 6)

Psalm 148 presents an inclusive call to worship, beckoning sun, moon and stars, the sea and its creatures, angels and birds, royalty, old men and young women to praise God. The jubilation of Israel was meant to spill out into the world. Soon many of us will celebrate the birth of Jesus calling upon heaven and nature to sing. How will you share the joy this holiday?

Prayer: Mighty yet gentle God, help us to see the world as you see it—as beloved, created, and blessed by you. Remind us that you are not our private property but that your goodness is available to all. Amen.

9

ADVENT JOY

Psalm 150

“Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!” (vs. 1)

The Psalter’s final entry consists of invitations to praise God as the God of Israel (in his sanctuary) and also of the world (in his firmament). The world has co-opted this holy season and made it a cultural holiday. Christians often participate in the world’s version with its chaotic shopping and excessive busyness. How might you bear witness to Advent as a time for introspection and repentance (a “penitential season”) in preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus?

Prayer: Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

10

ADVENT PEACE

Psalm 8

“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them?” (vs. 3-4)

The Creator of this vast world invites us to personal relationship. Do you ever feel insignificant and powerless? There is peace in knowing that the One who is all-powerful is also all-compassionate and at work in this world.

Prayer: Creator God, in spite of the damage we have done and the fallenness we have perpetuated, the world in its beauty continues to speak of you. Help me to remember the depth of your goodness, revealed in creation and affirmed in the gift of Jesus. Give me your peace. Amen.

11

ADVENT PEACE

Psalm 51

“Create in me a clean heart of God, and put a new and steadfast spirit within me.” (vs. 10)

Psalms confessing sins and asking for forgiveness played a role in the atonement rituals of ancient Israel. Psalm 51 makes it clear that “sin” is not about individual acts that make us “sinners,” but about a sinful nature revealed in self-centered and self-destructive acts. The plea for forgiveness reflects confidence in a restored relationship that renovates the very essence of the supplicant.

Prayer: Give me peace, O God. Help me to open myself up to the power of your love to transform my self-centeredness and heal me from self-destructive and hurtful actions. Amen.

12

ADVENT PEACE

Psalm 73

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (vs. 26)

The way the world works just doesn’t make sense, especially when many prosper through acts of injustice and cruelty. Hard times are not divine punishment nor is wealth divine reward. The reward for faithfulness is to find God present with us always. The abundance Jesus offers is a renewed relationship with God that sustains us, no matter what life brings.

Prayer: Help me God, not to blame others for their difficult times. When life hands me good things, make me generous. And when my hard times come, remind me that your love remains constant. Amen.

Suplemento para meditaciones de Adviento Trasfondo

Los laberintos han sido usados durante siglos en diversas culturas como símbolo del viaje de la vida y como una forma de enfocar el cuerpo y la mente en temas espirituales. Aunque probablemente se hayan utilizado antes, el primer registro escrito de adaptar los laberintos para prácticas espirituales cristianas viene a partir del siglo IV cuando un laberinto fue colocado en el piso de una iglesia en Argel. El uso de laberintos también se observa en los escritos de muchos de los primeros padres de la iglesia, tales como Jerónimo, Ambrosio y Gregorio de Niza. Los laberintos para caminar, como disciplina espiritual, llegaron a ser muy comunes en el siglo IX y, posteriormente, al ser colocados en los pisos de muchas iglesias y catedrales. Seguir la trayectoria del laberinto nos recuerda la ruta del discipulado y el camino de la fe, en el cual Dios es nuestra guía presente y nuestra meta final.

A continuación encontrarán instrucciones para crear un laberinto adaptado con un presupuesto mínimo que se puede colocar en su iglesia para Adviento. Estamos en deuda con la Rev. Susan Panek Polizzi, pastora de la Primera Iglesia Bautista Unida de Lowell, Massachusetts, por compartir con nosotros estas instrucciones y proporcionar el material base para los devocionales del laberinto. También encontrarán sugerencias sobre cómo crear un laberinto portátil para espacios compartidos. Los devocionales proporcionados corresponden a puntos numerados en el laberinto donde las y los caminantes se detendrán brevemente para reflexionar. Los devocionales también corresponden a las cuatro semanas de Adviento, con tres meditaciones para cada tema: la esperanza, el amor, el gozo y la paz.

Preparando el laberinto con un presupuesto mínimo

Materiales: alfombra de plástico, marcador de tinta permanente grande, almohadas, copias de los devocionales, Biblias.

Coloque las piezas de la alfombra de plástico tal y como se muestra en la imagen abajo. Enumere los sitios para devocionales y ponga una copia del devocional correspondiente en cada sitio, con una Biblia con el salmo marcado. También puede colocar almohadas en el último punto de los devocionales (número 12) para crear un espacio de meditación. En una mesa cerca al lugar de inicio del laberinto, ponga copias del laberinto digital y copias adicionales de los devocionales. (Vea también la sección

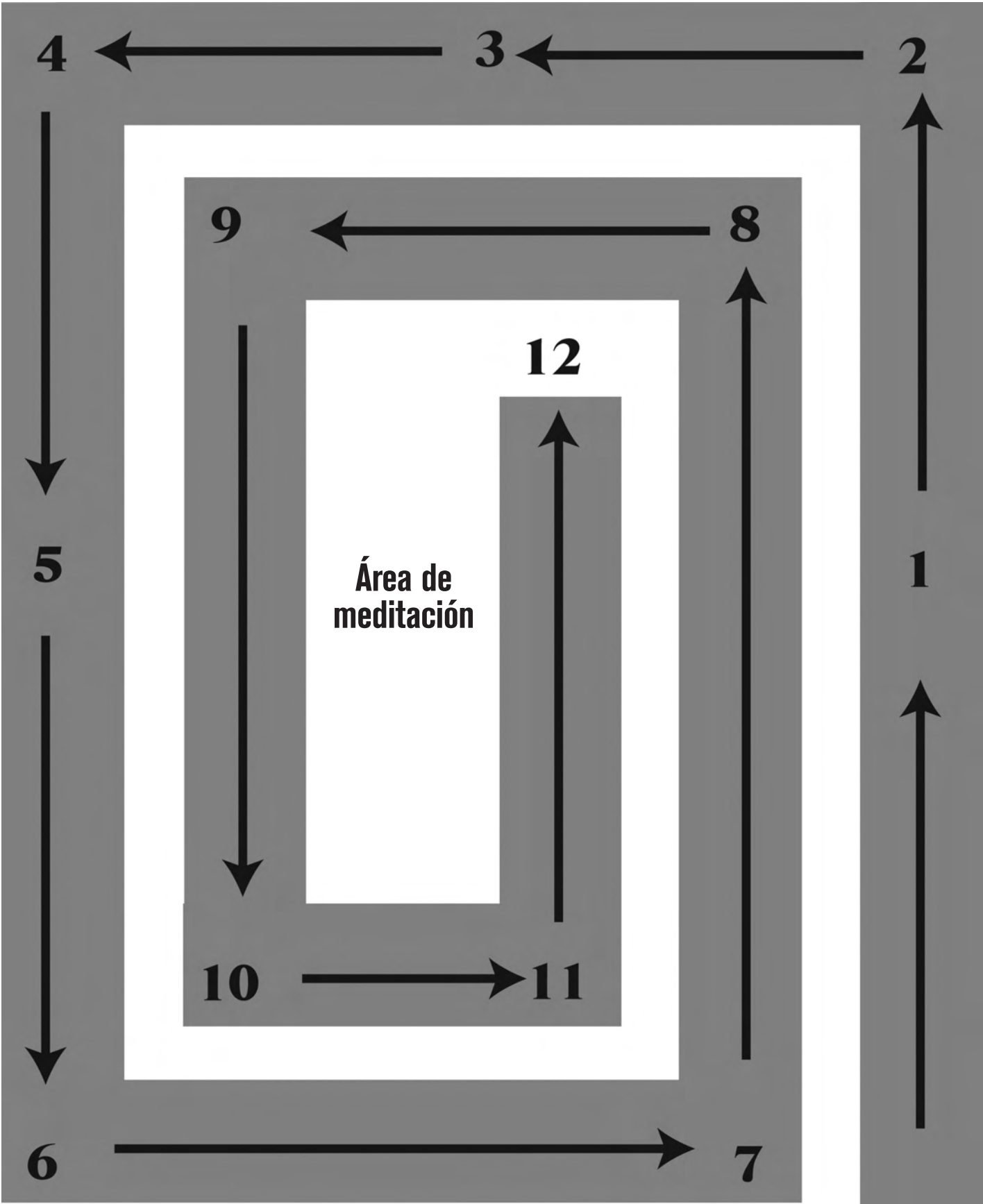


abajo: “Adaptación para personas con movilidad limitada” y la página 3 para laberintos digitales).

Adaptación para espacios compartidos:

- Trace el laberinto y escriba los números en una hoja o un pedazo grande de lona. Asegúrese de pegar o clavar la tela con tachuelas de modo que los participantes no se deslicen ni tropiecen. Utilice piezas cuadradas de alfombra, marcadas del 1 al 12 para indicar los sitios de los devocionales. Coloque los cuadrados según la trayectoria del laberinto. Coloque flechas de papel entre los sitios para dirigir a participantes a lo largo del camino.
- Utilice conos y sogas para marcar la trayectoria, etiquetando doce de los conos con el número de cada devoción correspondiente. Los conos se pueden apilar y guardar fuera del camino cuando no estén siendo usados.

Adaptación para personas con limitaciones de movilidad: Vea la página 3 para un laberinto digital fotocopiable. Asegúrese de proporcionar una silla cómoda y un espacio aparte para esta actividad.



Start

1 ESPERANZA DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 130

“A ti, Señor, elevo mi clamor desde las profundidades del abismo. Escucha, Señor, mi voz. Estén atentos tus oídos a mi voz suplicante”. (vs. 1-2, NVI)

Identificado como “el salmo de la ascensión”, el salmo 130 pudo haber sido cantado por los peregrinos en su camino al templo de Jerusalén. Habla de la naturaleza paradójica de la experiencia humana de Dios. Mientras que el encuentro con la rectitud divina revela nuestra naturaleza pecadora, lo cual nos lleva a la angustia, es en Dios que encontramos nuestra única esperanza de ser rescatados de esas profundidades.

Oración: Aun en mis momentos más oscuros, tú estás conmigo Dios, invitándome a través de Jesús a recibir el perdón y empezar de nuevo. Ayúdame a confiar en la esperanza que hay en tu gracia. Amén.

2 ESPERANZA DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 13

“¿Hasta cuándo, Señor, me seguirás olvidando? ¿Hasta cuándo esconderás de mí tu rostro?...Pero yo confío en tu gran amor; mi corazón se alegra en tu salvación”. (vs.1,5, NVI)

Incluso cuando los sentimientos de abandono nos alcanzan, Dios está con nosotros. Cuando las palabras fallan, el anhelo de nuestros corazones traza su camino hacia el cielo con estos mismos sentimientos, marcando el camino del corazón de Dios hacia nosotros.

Oración: Dios omnipresente, en los momentos en los que sienta que no pueda ir más allá, dame la confianza de que me sostienes en tus brazos amorosos. Dale perspectiva a mis sentimientos y ayúdame a confiar en que nada se interpondrá entre tu amor y yo. Amén.

3 ESPERANZA DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 149

“¡Aleluya! ¡Alabado sea el Señor! Canten al Señor un cántico nuevo, alábenlo en la comunidad de los fieles”. (vs. 1, NVI)

La palabra hebrea para “alabanza a Dios” es aleluya. Cuando enfocamos nuestros pensamientos en nuestras bendiciones, la química de nuestro cerebro cambia realmente. El practicar la gratitud renueva nuestras vías en el cerebro, trayendo “cántico nuevo” a nuestras vidas. Piensa en algo por lo que debas estar agradecido/a y respira suavemente inhalando y exhalando, susurrando “aleluya” con cada respiración.

Oración: Dios de nueva vida, ayúdame a sanar las heridas de mi vida. Transforma mis cicatrices a través de las heridas de Jesús. Convierte mis canciones tristes en cánticos de alabanza para así poder testificar de la esperanza que hay en ti. Amén.

4 AMOR DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 90

“De mañana sácianos de tu misericordia, y cantaremos y nos alegraremos todos nuestros días”. (vs.14, RVA)

El enfoque del salmo 90 está en “nuestros días”, pues reflexiona sobre la pregunta de cómo encontrar significado en esta vida terrenal transitoria, sabiendo que se acabará. La respuesta del salmo dice que tener significado en nuestro tiempo requiere buscar el amor intemporal de Dios fuera de nosotros mismos. No hay momento en esta vida o en la vida venidera en el cual estemos fuera del alcance de Dios.

Oración: Eternamente amante Dios, supera cualquier estrechez en mi corazón y ayúdame cada día a hacer de *mi* tiempo, *tu* tiempo. Amén.

5

AMOR DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 136

“Den gracias al Señor, porque él es bueno; su gran amor perdura para siempre”. (vs. 1, NVI)

El salmo 136 celebra la grandeza de Dios según lo revelado desde la creación hasta el regalo de la tierra prometida. La recitación litúrgica de las obras de Dios era parte de la adoración en el antiguo Israel mucho antes que estas prácticas fueran registradas en narrativas históricas. Como cristianos y cristianas celebramos la obra de Dios en la vida, el ministerio, la muerte, la resurrección y la presencia permanente de Jesús. ¿Cómo celebrarás las acciones de Dios en la historia y en tu historia personal en estas fiestas?

Oración: Dios de acción, recuérdame las maneras en las que has trabajado en la historia de la humanidad y en mi historia, de modo que puede celebrar diariamente tu bondad. Amén.

6

AMOR DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 118

“Ábrame las puertas de la justicia para que entre yo a dar gracias al Señor” (vs. 19, NVI)

El salmo 118 es uno de tres salmos reales de acción de gracias, que reflejan el complejo ritual litúrgico de la acción de gracias que era parte de la adoración en Israel. El ritual incluía llamamientos para ofrecer acción de gracias, descripción de situaciones de desolación y la subsecuente redención, cánticos comunales, y la bendición sacerdotal. ¿En qué situaciones has visto a Dios obrar en tu vida? ¿Qué rituales de Adviento pueden ayudarte a recordar y a dar las gracias por la redención de Dios?

Oración: Dios de redención, da significado a mis rituales privados y comunales. Ayúdame a participar en actividades de esta estación con una actitud de adoración y gratitud. Amén.

7

GOZO DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 138

“El Señor es excelso, pero toma en cuenta a los humildes y mira de lejos a los orgullosos”. (vs. 6, NVI)

Una María embarazada cantó que Dios “quitó de los tronos a los poderosos, y exaltó a los humildes. A los hambrientos colmó de bienes, y a los ricos envió vacíos” (Lucas 1:52 - 53). Este contraste caracteriza el ministerio del Reino de Jesús. Considera tus preparativos y la celebración de la Navidad. ¿Muestran ellos al mundo al Dios que fue exaltado y que exalta al humilde?

Oración: Dios compasivo, dame ojos para ver al hambriento, al débil y al marginado como tú los viste. Ayúdame a dar alegría a aquellos en necesidad y a mí mismo/a, viviendo conforme a los valores de tu Reino. Amén.

8

GOZO DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 148

“¡Aleluya! ¡Alabado sea el Señor! Alaben al Señor desde los cielos, alábenlo desde las alturas”. (vs. 1, NVI)

El salmo 148 presenta un llamado inclusivo a la adoración, señalando al sol, la luna y las estrellas, el mar y sus criaturas, las aves, ángeles, la realeza, hombres viejos y mujeres jóvenes, para que alaben a Dios. El júbilo de Israel debía derramarse hacia el mundo. Pronto muchos de nosotros celebraremos el nacimiento de Jesús que invita al cielo y a la naturaleza a cantar. ¿Cómo compartirás el gozo esta celebración?

Oración: Dios todopoderoso y tierno, ayúdanos a ver el mundo como tú lo ves, creado, amado y bendecido por ti. Recuérdanos que tú no eres nuestra propiedad privada sino que tu bondad está disponible para todos. Amén.

9

GOZO DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 150

“¡Alabado sea el Señor! ¡Alaben a Dios en su santuario, alábenlo en su poderoso firmamento!” (vs. 1, NVI)

La nota final del salterio consiste en invitaciones a alabar a Dios como el Dios de Israel (en su santuario) y también del mundo (en su firmamento). El mundo ha tomado esta estación santa y la ha convertido en un feriado cultural. Los cristianos a menudo participan de la versión del mundo, con sus compras caóticas y negocios excesivos. ¿Cómo puedes testificar del Adviento como época para la introspección y arrepentimiento (una “estación penitencial”) con objeto de celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús?

Oración: Te elabamos Dios, de ti vienen todas las bendiciones. Te alabamos Dios, todas las criaturas. Te alabamos Dios, junto con los ángeles. Te alabamos Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo. Amén.

10

PAZ DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 8

“Cuando contemplo tus cielos, obra de tus dedos, la luna y las estrellas que allí fijaste, me pregunto: ¿Qué es el hombre, para que en él pienses? ¿Qué es el ser humano, para que lo tomes en cuenta?” (vs. 3-4, NVI)

El Creador de este vasto universo nos invita a relacionarnos personalmente. ¿Alguna vez te has sentido insignificante e impotente? Hay paz en saber que la única persona todopoderosa es también todo-compasiva y obra en este mundo.

Oración: Dios Creador, a pesar del daño que le hemos hecho y las fallas que hemos perpetuado, el mundo en su belleza continúa hablando de tí. Ayúdame a recordar la profundidad de tu bondad, revelada en la creación y afirmada en el don de Jesús. Dame tu paz. Amén.

11

PAZ DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 51

“Crea en mí, oh Dios, un corazón limpio, y renueva la firmeza de mi espíritu”. (vs. 10, NVI)

Los salmos que confesaban pecados y que pedían perdón desempeñaron un rol en los rituales de expiación del antiguo Israel. El salmo 51 deja en claro que “el pecado” no está en los actos individuales que nos hacen “pecadores”, sino en una naturaleza pecadora revelada en actos egocéntricos y autodestructivos. La súplica por el perdón refleja confianza en una relación restaurada que renueva la esencia misma del suplicante.

Oración: Dame paz, Oh Dios. Ayúdame a abrirme al poder de tu amor para transformar mi egocentrismo, y sáname de mis acciones autodestructivas y dañinas. Amén.

12

PAZ DE ADVIENTO

Salmo 73

“Podrán desfallecer mi cuerpo y mi espíritu, pero Dios fortalece mi corazón; él es mi herencia eterna”. (vs. 26, NVI)

La manera en la que el mundo funciona no tiene sentido, especialmente cuando muchos prosperan con actos de injusticia y de crueldad. Las dificultades no son un castigo divino ni tampoco la riqueza es recompensa divina. La recompensa por la fidelidad es encontrar a Dios presente con nosotros siempre. La abundancia que Jesús ofrece es la de una relación renovada con un Dios que nos sostiene, sin importar lo que nos traiga la vida.

Oración: Ayúdame Dios, a no culpar otros por las épocas difíciles. Cuando la vida me dé buenas cosas, hazme generoso/a. Y cuando lleguen mis tiempos difíciles, recuérdame que tu amor sigue siendo constante. Amén.

Supplément de méditation de l'Avent

Contexte

Les labyrinthes ont été en usage durant des siècles dans différentes cultures comme symbole de voyage de la vie et comme un moyen de concentrer son corps et son esprit sur les questions spirituelles. Probablement utilisé plus tôt, la première mention écrite de l'adaptation de labyrinthes pour la pratique spirituelle chrétienne vient du début du quatrième siècle quand un labyrinthe a été placé sur le sol d'une église à Alger. L'utilisation des Labyrinthes est également mentionnée dans les écrits de nombreux Pères de l'Eglise, tels que Jérôme, Ambroise, et Grégoire de Nysse. L'usage des labyrinthes de marche en tant que discipline spirituelle est devenu assez fréquent dans le 9^{ème} siècle et après, ayant été placés sur le sol de nombreuses églises et cathédrales. Suivre le chemin du labyrinthe nous rappelle la marche du disciple et le chemin de foi, dans laquelle Dieu est à la fois notre guide accompagnateur et notre but ultime.

Ci-dessous vous trouverez les instructions pour la création d'une adaptation "labyrinthe bon marché" qui peut être mis en place dans votre église pour l'Avent. Nous en sommes redevables au révérend Susan Polizzi Panek, pasteur de la "First United Baptist Church" de Lowell, au Massachusetts, pour le partage de ces instructions et pour avoir fourni les documents fondamentaux des dévotions du labyrinthe. Vous trouverez aussi des suggestions sur la façon de créer un labyrinthe portable pour les espaces partagés. Les endroits de dévotions correspondent à des points numérotés sur le labyrinthe où les participants feront une pause pour réfléchir. Les dévotions correspondent également aux quatre semaines de l'Avent, avec trois dévotions pour chaque thème sur l'espérance, l'amour, la joie et la paix.

Préparation du labyrinthe bon marché

Matériaux: des tapis en plastique, un marqueur large permanent, des oreillers, des copies des dévotions, des Bibles.

Disposez les tapis, comme indiqué dans l'image ci-dessous. Numérotez les endroits de dévotions et placez une copie de la dévotion appropriée à chaque endroit, avec une Bible comportant le Psaume marqué. Vous pouvez aussi placer des coussins sur l'endroit de la dévotion finale (numéro 12) pour créer un espace de méditation. Sur une table près du début du labyrinthe, placez des copies du labyrinthe manuelle et des exemplaires supplémentaires des dévotions. (Voir ci-

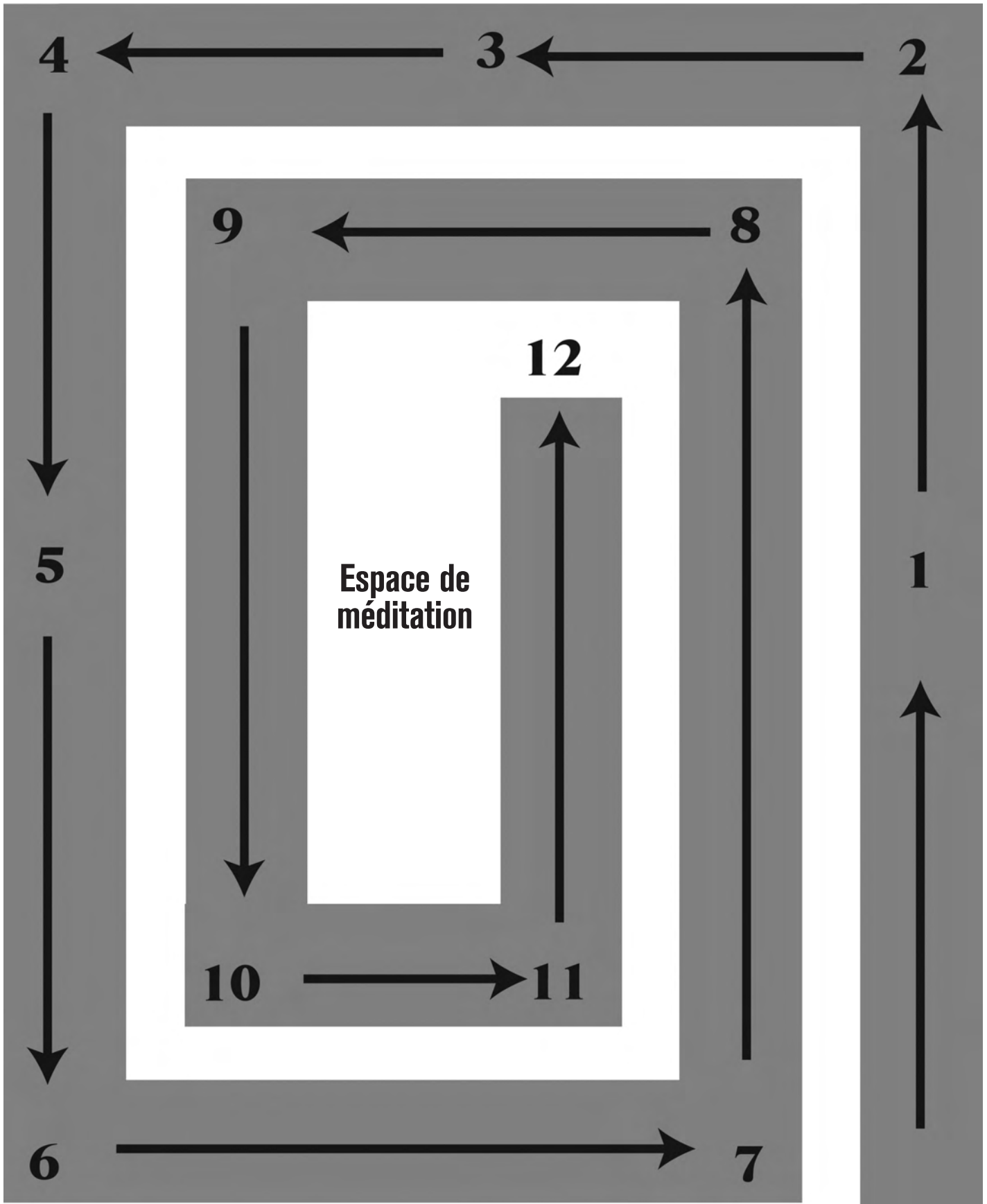
dessous, "S'adapter aux personnes à mobilité réduite" et la page 3 pour le labyrinthe manuelle).

S'adapter aux espaces partagés:

- Dessinez le chemin et marquez les nombres sur une feuille ou un grand morceau de toile. Soyez sûrs que le tapis adhère au sol afin d'éviter que les participants ne glissent ou ne trébuchent.
- Utilisez les carrés de tapis, marquée de 1 à 12, pour indiquer les stations de dévotion. Poser les carrés sur le chemin en fonction du labyrinthe. Placez les papiers fléchés entre les stations afin de guider les participants le long du chemin.
- Utilisez des cônes et des cordes pour marquer le chemin, en étiquetant les douze cônes avec le numéro de la dévotion correspondante. Les cônes peuvent être empilés et stockés à l'écart lorsqu'il ne sont pas utilisés.

Adaptation pour les personnes à mobilité réduite: Voir page 3 pour un labyrinthe manuelle photocopié. Assurez-vous de fournir un siège confortable et un espace séparé pour cette activité.





Espace de méditation

Start

1 ESPOIR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 130

“Des profondeurs je t'appelle, ô Éternel. Seigneur, écoute ma voix! Que Tes oreilles soient attentives à la voix de mes supplications!” (vs. 1-2).

Identifié comme “psaume de l'Ascension», le Psaume 130 pourrait avoir été chanté par les pèlerins sur leur chemin vers le temple de Jérusalem. Il parle de la nature paradoxale de l'expérience humaine de Dieu. Alors que la rencontre avec la justice divine nous révèle notre nature pécheresse, conduisant à l'angoisse, c'est en Dieu que l'on retrouve notre seul espoir de la sauver de ces profondeurs.

Prière: Même dans mes moments les plus sombres, tu es avec moi Dieu, m'invitant à travers Jésus pour recevoir le pardon et renaître. Aide-moi à avoir confiance en l'espérance qui est dans ta grâce. Amen.

2 ESPOIR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 13

“Jusqu'à quand, ô Éternel, m'oublieras-tu sans cesse? Jusqu'à quand me cacheras-tu Ton visage? . . .Moi, j'ai confiance en ta bonté, j'ai de la joie dans le cœur à cause de Ton Salut” (vs. 1, 5).

Même lorsque les sentiments d'abandon nous submergent, Dieu est avec nous. Quand les mots ne suffisent plus, le désir de nos cœurs fait son chemin vers le ciel, avec ces sentiments intenses jalonnant le chemin entre le cœur de Dieu et le nôtre.

Prière: Dieu, toujours présent, dans les moments où je me sens incapable d'aller plus loin, donne-moi l'assurance que tu me tiens dans tes bras aimants. Donne-moi des conseils sur mes sentiments et aide moi à croire que rien ne s'interpose entre moi et ton amour. Amen.

3 ESPOIR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 149

“Louez l'Éternel! Chantez à l'Éternel un cantique nouveau, sa louange dans l'assemblée des fidèles” (v. 1).

En Hébreu, “Louange à Dieu” se traduit *alleluia*. Quand nous nous concentrons nos pensées sur nos bénédictions, notre chimie du cerveau change réellement. Pratiquer la gratitude reconnecte nos voies cérébrales, apportant de “nouvelles chansons” à nos vies. Pensez à une chose pour laquelle vous êtes reconnaissants et inspirez et expirez doucement, en murmurant “Alleluia” à chaque respiration.

Prière: Dieu de la nouvelle vie, aidez-moi à guérir des blessures de ma vie. Transformez mes cicatrices par les blessures que Jésus a subi. Changez mes chansons tristes en chants de louanges pour que je puisse témoigner de l'espérance qui est en vous. Amen.

4 AMOUR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 90

“Rassasie nous chaque matin de Ta bonté, et nous serons toute notre vie dans l'allégresse.” (v. 14)

L'accent du Psaume 90 est “nos jours”, considérant la question de savoir comment trouver un sens à cette vie passagère terrestre, sachant qu'elle arrivera à une fin. La réponse du psaume est que pour en donner un sens à notre époque, il faut regarder en dehors de nous vers l'amour intemporel de Dieu. Il n'y a aucun moment dans cette vie ou dans la vie à venir dans lequel nous au-delà de l'entendement de Dieu.

Prière: Éternel Dieu aimant, transcende toute étroitesse dans mon cœur et aide-moi chaque jour pour faire *mon* temps de *votre* temps. Amen.

5

AMOUR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 136

“Rendez grâce à Yahvé, car il est bon, sa miséricorde dure éternellement.” (v. 1)

Psaume 136 célèbre la grandeur de Dieu tel qu'elle est révélée depuis la création jusqu'au don de la Terre Promise. La récitation liturgique des œuvres de Dieu faisait partie du culte de l'ancienne Israël, bien avant que l'histoire ait été consignée dans un récit historique. En tant que chrétiens, nous célébrons l'œuvre de Dieu dans la vie, le ministère, la mort, la résurrection et la présence permanente de Jésus. Comment allez-vous célébrer les actes de Dieu dans l'histoire et dans votre histoire personnelle cette saison ?

Prière: Dieu de l'action, rappelez-moi les actes que vous avez accompli dans l'histoire humaine et dans mon histoire, afin que je puisse quotidiennement célébrer votre bonté. Amen.

6

AMOUR DE L'AVENT

Psaume 118

“Ouvrez-moi les portes de la justice, afin que je puisse entrer par elle et rendre grâce au Seigneur” (v. 19).

Ce Psaume 118 est un des trois psaumes royaux de grâces, qui reflètent le rituel complexe liturgique de grâce qui faisait partie du culte d'Israël. Le rituel comprenait des citations pour offrir des actions de grâces, des descriptions des situations de détresse et de la rédemption ultérieure, des chanson communes, et la bénédiction sacerdotale. Au travers de quelles situations Dieu vous a t'il vu? Quels sont les rituels de l'Avent qui puissent vous aider à vous rappeler et rendre grâce pour la rédemption de Dieu?

Prière: Dieu de la rédemption, donne un sens à mes rituels privés et publics. Aide-moi à participer aux activités de cette saison avec une attitude d'adoration et de reconnaissance. Amen.

7

JOIE DE L'AVENT

Psaume 138

“L'Éternel est élevé, mais il voit les humbles et Il reconnaît de loin les orgueilleux” (v. 6)

Marie, étant enceinte, chantait que Dieu avait “renversé les puissants de leurs trônes et élevé les humbles. . . rassasié de biens les affamés, renvoyé les riches les mains vides” (Luc 1:52-53). Ce renversement caractérise le ministère du Royaume de Jésus. Considérez vos préparatifs et la célébration de Noël. Est-ce qu'ils révèlent au monde le Dieu qui est exalté comme il exalte les humbles?

Prière: Dieu compatissant, donne-moi des yeux pour voir les affamés, les faibles et les exclus comme vous les voyez. Aide-moi à apporter de la joie à ceux qui en ont besoin et à moi-même en vivant les valeurs de ton Royaume. Amen.

8

JOIE DE L'AVENT

Psaume 148

“Louez l'Éternel. Louez l'Éternel du haut des cieux;! Louez-le dans les hauteurs” (v. 6).

Psaume 148 présente un appel général à l'adoration, saluant le soleil, la lune et les étoiles, la mer et ses créatures, les anges et les oiseaux, la Royauté, les vieillards et les jeunes femmes à la louange de Dieu. La jubilation d'Israël était censée se répandre dans le monde. Bientôt nous serons nombreux à célébrer la naissance de Jésus appelant le ciel et la nature à chanter. Comment allez-vous partager la joie cette fête?

Prière: Dieu Tout-Puissant mais doux, aide nous à voir le monde comme vous le voyez- bien-aimé, créé, et béni par vous. Rappelez-nous que vous n'êtes pas notre propriété privée, mais que votre bonté est accessible à tous. Amen.

9

JOIE DE L'AVENT

Psaume 150

“Louez l'Éternel! Louez Dieu dans son sanctuaire, louez-le dans l'étendue céleste où éclate sa puissance!” (v. 1).

La dernière introduction du livre des Psaumes consiste à des invitations à louer Dieu comme le Dieu d'Israël (dans son sanctuaire) et aussi du monde (dans son firmament). Le monde a adopté cette saison sainte et en a fait une fête culturelle. Les Chrétiens participent souvent à la version du monde, avec ses commerces chaotiques et son business excessif. Comment vous pourriez témoigner de l'Avent comme étant un temps d'introspection et de repentance (une “saison de pénitence”) en préparation pour la célébration de la naissance de Jésus?

Prière: Louez Dieu de qui toutes les bénédictions abondent. Louange à Dieu toutes les créatures ci-dessous. Louez Dieu au dessus des hôtes célestes. Louez le Père, le Fils et le Saint Esprit. Amen.

10

PAIX DE L'AVENT

Psaume 8

“Quand je regarde tes cieux, œuvre de tes mains, la lune et les étoiles que tu y as placé, je dis : qu'est-ce que l'homme, pour que tu te souviennes de lui?” (vs 4-5).

Le créateur de ce vaste monde nous invite à une relation personnelle. Vous-êtes vous déjà senti insignifiant et impuissant? Il est apaisant de savoir que Celui qui est tout-puissant est également rempli de compassion et qu'il est à l'œuvre dans ce monde.

Prière: Dieu Créateur, en dépit des dégâts que nous avons fait et la déchéance que nous avons perpétué, le monde dans sa beauté continue à parler de toi. Aide-moi à me rappeler de la profondeur de ta bonté, révélée dans la création et confirmée dans le don de Jésus. Donne-moi ta paix. Amen.

11

PAIX DE L'AVENT

Psaume 51

“Crée en moi un cœur pur divin, renouvelle en moi un esprit bien disposé” (v. 12).

Les Psaumes confessant les péchés et demandant pardon ont joué un rôle dans les rituels d'expiation de l'ancienne Israël. Dans le Psaume 51, il est clair que “péché” n'est pas à propos des actes individuels qui nous font “pêcheurs”, mais sur une nature pécheresse a révélée par des actes d'égoïsme et d'auto-destruction. La demande de pardon reflète la confiance dans une relation restaurée qui restaure l'essence même du suppliant.

La Prière: Donne-moi la paix, ô Dieu. Aide-moi à m'ouvrir à la puissance de ton amour pour transformer mon égoïsme et me guérir d'actions auto-destructrices et nuisibles. Amen.

12

PAIX DE L'AVENT

Psaume 73

“Ma chair et mon cœur peuvent s'épuiser, Dieu sera toujours le rocher de mon cœur et la bonne part” (v. 26).

La façon même dont le monde fonctionne n'a pas de sens, surtout lorsque beaucoup prospèrent à travers des actes d'injustice et de cruauté. Les temps difficiles ne sont pas une punition divine, ni la richesse une récompense divine. La récompense pour la fidélité est de trouver Dieu présent avec nous en permanence. L'abondance que Jésus offre est une relation renouvelée avec Dieu qui nous soutient, peu importe ce que la vie apporte.

Prière: Dieu, aide-moi à ne pas blâmer les autres pour leurs moments difficiles. Quand la vie m'offre des bonnes choses, rends-moi généreux. Et quand mes temps difficiles surviennent, rappelle-moi que ton amour reste constant. Amen.

The 2012 Year-At-A-Glance Calendar

JANUARY

America for Christ promotion begins.

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 15 Christian Unity Sunday
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (observed)
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

FEBRUARY

Black History Month

- 5 Baptist World Alliance Sunday
- 12 Church Vocations Sunday
- 22 Ash Wednesday
- 25 American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 26 1st Sunday in Lent
Single Adult Awareness Sunday

MARCH

America for Christ Offering Month and Women's History Month

- 2 World Day of Prayer
- 4 2nd Sunday in Lent
America for Christ Sunday
- 8 International Women's Day
- 11 3rd Sunday in Lent
American Baptist Seminary Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 18 4th Sunday in Lent
Women in Ministry Sunday
- 25 5th Sunday in Lent

APRIL

Prevention of Child Abuse Month

- 1 Palm Sunday
- 5 Maundy Thursday
- 6 Good Friday
- 7 World Health Day
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 15-21 National Volunteer Week
- 22 American Baptist Volunteer Sunday
American Baptist Camps and Conferences Sunday

MAY

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

- 3 National Day of Prayer
- 4 May Fellowship Day
- 6 Peace Sunday
Baptist World Alliance Day
- 6-13 Family Week
- 13 Mother's Day
- 17 Ascension
- 20 Baptist Heritage Day
- 27 Pentecost
- 30 Memorial Day

JUNE

One Great Hour of Sharing Month

- 3 One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday
Religious Liberty Sunday
- 10 Children's Day
Baptist Youth World Day of Prayer
- 17 Father's Day
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 24 American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries Sunday

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 24-28 Immerse 2012 Youth Gathering, Washington, DC

AUGUST

World Mission Offering promotion begins.

- 5 Friendship Day

SEPTEMBER

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)

- 3 Labor Day
- 9 Grandparent/Elder Appreciation Day
- 16 Women's Ministry Sunday
- 17 American Indian Day
- 18 International Day of Prayer for Peace
- 30 Christian Education Sunday

OCTOBER

Pastor Appreciation Month

- 7 World Communion Sunday
World Mission Offering Sunday
- 14 American Baptist Men's Sunday
- 16 World Food Day
- 21 National Observance of Children's Sabbath
- 21-27 National Pastoral Care Week
- 28 Campus Ministry Sunday
Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
American Baptist College Sunday
- 5 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
- 11 Stewardship Sunday
- 18 Asian American Baptist Sunday
Bible Sunday
- 18-23 Bible Week
- 22 Thanksgiving
- 25 Christ the King Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday

DECEMBER

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Month

- 2 1st Sunday in Advent
Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Sunday
- 9 2nd Sunday in Advent
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 16 3rd Sunday in Advent
- 23 4th Sunday in Advent
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 30 Student Recognition Sunday
- 25-Jan. 6 Christmastide
- 26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve (Watch Night)

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Christian Unity Sunday	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (observed)	17	18 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			February is Black History Month	Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Discipleship Immersion

How we invest and spend our money are matters of discipleship. To hear Michael Birdsall, treasurer and chief financial officer, speak about *Socially Responsible Investing*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (11-04-2010). For webinars and other information on *Socially Responsible Investing* and *The Interfaith Coalition of Corporate Responsibility*, visit www.abhms.org>ministries and programs>justice ministries.

Listen to the following podcasts at www.abhms.org>podcasts:

- *Celebrating the Black Church: Then & Now* (Three-part series—02/14, 16 and 18, 2011)
- *Teaching Children African American History through Literature* (02/02/2011)
- *The Work and Ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* (01/14/2011)

Journeys (www.judsonpress.com>church resources>curricula>adults) spring quarter theme is “God’s Creative Word.” Order by January 30, 2012 to ensure arrival before the first Sunday in the quarter. Visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (Oct. 13, 2010) to hear *Journeys* editor, Marcia Jessen, speak about this lectionary-based curriculum, written by and for American Baptists.

The 2012 National Gathering of American Baptist Youth (ages 14–19) will be held July 24–28 at American University

in Washington, DC. The deadline for registration is May 15, 2012. Visit www.abhms-immense2012.org for more information or contact Rev. Y. Trevor Beauford at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

Download Workshop 811, *Dealing with Conflict in Group Meetings*, at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership. For hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

Download *Race and Poverty: five-session study guide* at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs> discipleship & Christian education> resources.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Coming Together in the 21st Century and Reconciliation: Our Greatest Challenge—Our Only Hope*, Curtiss Paul DeYoung
- *An Encyclopedia of African American Christian Heritage*, Marvin A. McMickle
- *Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens*, Marvin A. McMickle
- *Roots of Resistance: The Nonviolent Ethics of Martin Luther King Jr.*, William D. Watley
- *Search for Beloved Community: The Thinking of Martin Luther King Jr.*, Kenneth L. Smith and Ira G. Zepp Jr.

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Church Vocation Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25 American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
26 1st Sunday in Lent	27	28	29			March is America for Christ Offering Month and Women's History Month

Discipleship Immersion

For a podcast by Rev. Dwight Lundgren, manager of the *American Baptist Personnel Services*, go to www.abhms.org>podcasts (06/23/2010).

To subscribe (at no cost) to *Ministry Opportunities Listing*, go to www.abhms.org >abps.

For more information or to request materials for the *America for Christ offering*, visit www.abhms.org>give now>America for Christ 2012 or call 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2028.

Since 2009, ABHMS has given 57 *Children in Poverty Grants* to American Baptist congregations and community ministries for creative outreach to children. Grant proposals should focus on projects that address the needs of children (infant to 18) in the local community relating to literacy, completion of high school and continuing education, promoting healthy lifestyle, or working with parents to increase household income. Visit www.abhms.org>podcasts to hear about the 2012 grant process.

Download *Marks of the Transformational Leader in a Disciple-making Church* and *Church as Doing or Being/Iglesia Que Hace o Que Es* at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources.

Palmer Grants provide funds to enhance ministries of discipleship in American Baptist churches and organizations.

For more information, visit www.ABCofgiving.org>Palmer Grants.

Help make Immerse 2012 National Gathering of American Baptist Youth accessible to all youth by making a contribution. Contact Joanne Powers, 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452 for details.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *On the Cross Road: A Daily Devotional for Lent*, Joan Trusty Moore
- *Sorting it Out: Discerning God's Call to Ministry*, Alice R. Cullinan
- *Tempted to Leave the Cross: Renewing the Call to Discipleship*, and *study guide*, Ernest R. Flores (e-book www.judsonpress.com>E-Books)
- *When the Spirit Moves: A Guide for Ministers in Transition*, Riley Walker and Marcia Patton
- *The Work of the Bivocational Minister*, Dennis W. Bickers
- *The Work of the Pastor*, Victor D. Lehman

MARCH 2012

America for Christ Offering Month and Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					World Day of Prayer	
4 2nd Sunday in Lent America for Christ Sunday	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day	9	10
11 3rd Sunday in Lent AB Seminary Sunday Daylight Savings Time	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 4th Sunday in Lent Women in Ministry Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 5th Sunday in Lent	26	27	28	29	30	31

Discipleship Immersion

For a list of *American Baptist related seminaries* visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>education>seminaries.

To learn about scholarships and grants visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>education>scholarships & grants or listen to the podcast by Ed Evins, director of investments, at www.abhms.org>podcasts (09/01/2010).

For *disability resources*, go to www.abhms.org/ministries & programs>justice ministries> disability ministries.

The webinar, *A Place Called Acceptance*, on disability/inclusion is available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>webinars (April 8, 2010).

Download Workshop 602, *Ministries with Families of Children with Disabilities*, which raises awareness of the impact of disability on the family system and offers suggestions for welcoming children with disabilities—and their families—into the life of the church at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership. For hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

To hear Ginny Thornburgh, director of the Interfaith Initiative, speak on the importance of the *Statement of Solidarity*

for people with disabilities, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (10/21/2010).

To hear Rev. Marilyn Turner, associate executive director, Missional Life and Leadership, speak on *Challenges for Women in Ministry*, go to www.abhms.org>podcasts (09/15/2010).

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Autism & Alleluias*, Kathleen Deyer Bolduc
- *Church Programs & Celebrations for All Generations*, Rachel Gilmore
- *Let Us Pray: Contemporary Prayers for the Seasons of the Church*, Israel Galindo
- *God in Her Midst: Preaching Healing to Wounded Women*, Elaine McCollins Flake



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday	2	3	4 Maundy Thursday	5	6 Good Friday	7
8 Easter Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 15–21 National Volunteer Week	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 AB Volunteer Sunday AB Camps & Conferences	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month	May 20 is Baptist Heritage Day May 27 is Pentecost

Discipleship Immersion

Download Workshop 301, *Child Abuse Prevention in Churches* (in English, Spanish and Karen), which outlines the need to develop policies for protecting both children and churches at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership. For hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

Journeys (www.judsonpress.com>church resources>curricula>adults) summer quarter theme is “God Calls for Justice.” Order by April 30, 2012 to ensure arrival before the first Sunday in the quarter. Visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (Oct. 13, 2010) to hear *Journeys* editor, Marcia Jessen, speak about this lectionary-based curriculum, written by and for American Baptists.

Download *A Matter of Stewardship: Ecojustice in Biblical Perspective* and supplemental PowerPoint presentation at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources. To order hard copy call 1-800-458-3766. To hear a presentation about the *Bible and environmentalism*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (04/20/2011).

Download *Ecojustice: American Baptists’ Heritage and Hope for Creation* at www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen.

To hear a presentation on *Volunteer Ministries* by national coordinator Victoria Goff, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (05/12/2010). For *Volunteers in Mission Packet* or *Disaster Response Manual* (a guide securing One Great Hour of Sharing disaster funds and volunteers from the Volunteers In Mission program), call 1-800-222-3872, ext. 2449 or e-mail vim@abhms.org or visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>caring ministries>volunteer ministries.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care*, Marvin A. McMickle
- *The Complete Leader’s Guide to Christian Retreats*, Rachel Gilmore and webinar, *Relighting the Torch through Spiritual R & R* (www.judsonpress.com >free downloads>webinars)
- *Raising Boys to Be Like Jesus*, Sharon Norris Elliott

MAY 2012

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month / May 6–13 is Family Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer	4 May Fellowship Day	5
6 Peace Sunday Baptist World Alliance Day	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17 Ascension Day	18	19
20 Baptist Heritage Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pentecost	28	29	30 Memorial Day	31	June is One Great Hour of Sharing Month	June 10 is Children's Day June 20 is World Refugee Day

Discipleship Immersion

Download Workshop 107 *American Baptist Heritage/La Herencia de los Bautistas Americanas* at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership. For hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

To hear Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director, speak on the significance and legacy of *American Baptist Home Mission Societies*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (04/28/2010).

Missional Church resources are available at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>missional church transformation>resources.

To learn more about American Baptist beginnings, download *To Think it Happened on Mulberry Street* and *American Baptist Home Mission Roots* at www.abhms.org>about us or order print copies at 1-800-458-3766.

Webinars, *Domestic Violence: Profile of Victim & Perpetrator* and *The Do's and Don'ts of Counseling and the Church's Role and Response*, are available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Christian Peacemaking: From Heritage to Hope*, Daniel L. Buttry
- *Devotions for New Mothers*, Bonnie J. C. Taylor
- *Distinctly Baptist: Proclaiming Identity in a New Generation*, Brian C. Brewer, ed
- *Down by the Riverside: A Brief History of Baptist Faith*, Everett C. Goodwin
- *Herencia e identidad: Historia, principios, y prácticas bautistas*, Angel Luis Gutierrez
- *Honoring the Generations: Ministry & Theology for Asian North American Congregations*, M. Sydney Park, Soong-Chan, Rah, and Al Tizon, eds.
- *Mothering Heights: A Novel Approach for Christian Mothers*, Keitha Smith and Susan Brereton
- *Violence among Us: Ministry to Families in Crisis*, Brenda Branson and Paula J. Silva
- *We Are Baptists Series*, Jeffrey D. Jones and Debra L. Sutton
- *Worship on the Way: Exploring Asian North American Christian Experience*, Russell Yee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Children's Day Baptist Youth World Day of Peace	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20 World Refugee Day	21	22	23
24 AB Homes & Caring Ministries Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30

Discipleship Immersion

Learn more about *American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries*, which encompasses 74 retirement communities, 26 long-term care facilities, 20 children's homes and 8 administrative offices at www.abhms.org>caring ministries>american baptist homes and caring ministries.

For *children's ministry* resources, visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>children & youth>children's ministries.

To hear young people discuss their involvement in *The Penny Project*, go to www.abhms.org>podcasts (02/09/2011).

Download *Children, Poverty and the Bible* at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources or order print copies from 1-800-458-3766.

Download *Change for Children* at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>children in poverty>penny project.

For information on *immigrant, refugee and migrant ministries*, visit abhms.org>justice ministries>immigration & refugee services or call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2450.

To hear Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte, liaison for Burmese refugees, speak about challenges facing *Burma refugees*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (07-28-2010). *The Chin Baptist Churches USA national gathering* and the *national Karen Youth Conference* are both scheduled for July. For information, contact Rev. Rothangliani Chhangte at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2426.

To hear Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier discuss her book, *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families/Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (05-04-2011 and 04/27/2011).

Download *The Church and the Challenge of Immigration Reform*, at www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen.

Webinar, *Raising & Mentoring Black Teen Boys*, with Dr. James Perkins, is available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>webinars.

Immerse National Gathering of American Baptist Youth is next month. Please make this event a matter of prayer.

JULY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 24-28 Immerse 2012 Youth Gathering	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			World Mission Offering promotion begins in August	September 30 is Christian Education Sunday

Discipleship Immersion

Journeys (www.judsonpress.com>church resources>curricula>adults) fall 2012 theme is "A Living Faith." Order by July 30, 2012 to ensure arrival before the first Sunday in the quarter. Visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (Oct. 13, 2010) to hear *Journeys* editor, Marcia Jessen, speak about this lectionary-based curriculum, written by and for American Baptists.

Download *Race and Poverty: A Five-session Study Guide*, written in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources.

ABHMS' *Missional Church Learning Experience* currently has 29 learning communities in 16 American Baptist regions and involves more than 1,000 church leaders and more than 150 community projects. Hear Rev. Glynis LaBarre, transformation strategist, speak about the *MCLE* (11/17/2010) and about *church vitality* (05/26/2010) at www.abhms.org>podcasts.

Download *Small Church/Big Mission* at www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen.

Rev. David Cushman explains how churches can use *demographics to reach out to their neighborhoods* at www.abhms.org>podcasts (06/09/2010).

To hear Rev. Lisa Harris speak on *Christian Community Centers* for children and adults, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (05/19/2010).

Webinars, *Engaging All Ages with Church Programs & Celebrations* and *Curriculum: GPS for Faith Formation*, are available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads >webinars.

Be in prayer for those attending Immerse.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Baptism Ahead: A Road Map for Young Disciples*, Wallace R. Smith
- *Baptists in the Balance: The Tension between Freedom and Responsibility*, Everett C. Goodwin, ed.
- *Missional Preaching: Engage, Embrace, Transform*, Al Tizon
- *Got Style? Personality-based Evangelism*, Jeff Johnson (related webinar at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>webinars)
- *Liberty of Conscience: Roger Williams in America*, Edwin S. Gaustad
- Overview of Resources Chart: comparison of educational resources sold by Judson Press

AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 World Mission Offering promotion begins	2	3	4
5 Friendship Day	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Discipleship Immersion

Download the following at www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources:

- *Age-Appropriate Discipleship Formation and Life Span Development Chart*
- *Children Help Congregations Create a Culture of Relational and Spiritual Vitality*
- *La Niñez Ayuda y Uda a las Congregaciones a Crear una Cultura de Relaciones y Vitalidad Espiritual*
- *Selecting Curriculum Materials*
- *Teaching ≠ Talking: Learning Styles and Ministries of Education*

Download these workshops at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (for hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452):

- 104 Growing Persons/Personas en Crecimiento
- 201 Planning Your Discipleship/Christian Education Program
- 302 Basics of Teaching and Relating to Children
- 303 Teaching the Bible to Children/available in Karen
- 401 Evangelism and Discipleship in Youth Ministry/ Evangelismo y Discipulado en el Ministerio de Jóvenes/ Evangélisation et Formation de Disciples dans le Ministère des Jeunes/ available in Karen
- 403 Basics for Teaching Youth/available in Karen

- C404 Encounter: Come as You Are/ available in Karen
- C405 MtW: Equipped for Life
- 502 Methods for Bible Study with Adults
- 503 Maximizing Discussion in Adult Classes
- 702 Teaching with Respect for Diverse Learning Styles/Enseñando con Respeto para Diversos Estilos de Aprendizaje
- 703 Teaching Approaches for Discipleship Formation
- C903 Becoming a Disciple-making Community
- 601E Cultivando la Fe en las Familias

Listen to Dr. Lee Spitzer speak about *Making Friends, Making Disciples: Growing Your Church through Authentic Relationships* at www.abhms.org>podcasts (09/29/2010).

Webinar, *Friendship Circles & Church Growth*, is available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>webinars.



SEPTEMBER 2012

Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15-October 15)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Grandparent/Elder Appreciation Day	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Women's Ministry Sunday	17 American Indian Day	18 International Day of Prayer for Peace	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Christian Education Sunday						

Discipleship Immersion

On pages 32–34, you will find a photocopiable *bulletin and litany for Christian Education Sunday* in English, Spanish, and French.

To hear Rev. Salvador Orellana speak about *Latino Ministries*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (07-07-2010).

To hear *Celebrando La Misión de Dios y el ministerio de los Latinos en la Familia ABCUSA Pabellón Latino*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (04-06-2011 and 04-15-2011).

Download these workshops at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (for hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452):

- 101E Identificando y Usando los Dones en la Iglesia y en su Misión
- 104E Personas en Crecimiento
- 107E La Herencia de los Bautistas Americanas
- 301E Prevención del Abuso de Niños y Niñas en las Iglesias
- 401E Evangelismo y Discipulado en el Ministerio de Jóvenes
- 601E Cultivando la Fe en las Familias
- 702E Enseñando con Respeto para Diversos Estilos de Aprendizaje

To hear Rev. Harvey Stewart and Rev. Ben Sullivan speak about their roles and responsibilities as consultants for *ministry to Native Americans*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (03-09-2011).

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *School Is Where Home Is: 180 Devotions for Parents*, Anita Mellott
- *Morning Meetings With Jesus: 180 Devotions for Teachers*, Susan O'Carroll Drake
- *The Flavor of Our Hispanic Faith/El sabor de nuestra fe hispana* Karen Valentin
- *Herencia e identidad: Historia, principios, y prácticas bautistas*, Angel Luis Gutierrez
- *Para ser bautistas: Lecciones para nuevos miembros/Being Baptist: Lessons for New Members*, J. Manny Santiago
- *Letters of Light for First Ladies*, Cecilia Williams Bryant



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 World Communion Sunday/World Mission Offering Sunday	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 AB Men's Sunday	15	16 World Food Day	17	18	19	20
21 Children's Sabbath (www.children defensefund.org)	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Campus Ministry Sunday Reformation Sunday	29	30	31			November 11 is Stewardship Sunday November 18-23 is Bible Week

Discipleship Immersion

Journeys (www.judsonpress.com>church resources>curricula>adults) winter 2012-2013 theme is "Jesus is Lord." Order by October 30, 2012 to ensure arrival before the first Sunday in the quarter. Visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (Oct. 13, 2010) to hear *Journeys* editor, Marcia Jessen, speak about this lectionary-based curriculum, written by and for American Baptists.

For information on Children in Poverty, an initiative of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>children in poverty.

Download Workshop 804, *The Deacon as Servant-Leader*, (available in English and Karen) at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life & Leadership. For hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452.

Download the following issues of *The Christian Citizen* at www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen:

- *For theirs is the Kingdom*
- *Better Schools for All*
- *Children in Poverty: Local Churches Respond*
- *The Church and Public Education*
- *Ending Hunger*

To hear Rev. Paul Clark, ecclesiastical endorsing agent, chaplaincy, speak about *chaplains and pastoral counselors*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (05/05/2010).

For a list of *campus ministers*, visit www.abhms.org>ministries and programs>education> campus ministers.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Caring Pastors, Caring People: Equipping Your Church for Pastoral Care*, Marvin A. McMickle
- *Heart of a Shepherd: Meditations for Pastors*, Angie Best-Boss
- *Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities*, Ronald J. Sider and Heidi Unruh
- *A Pastor in Every Pew: Equipping Laity for Pastoral Care*, Leroy Howe
- *Rest in the Storm: Self-Care Strategies for Clergy and Other Caregivers*, Kirk Byron Jones

NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 All Saints' Day	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends AB College Sunday	5 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer	6	7	8	9	10
11 Stewardship Sunday	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Asian American Baptist Sunday 18–23 Bible Week	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25 Christ the King Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	December is retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering Month

Discipleship Immersion

Download *Sunday Advent readings* at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>book excerpts & extras.

For a list of *ABC-related colleges*, visit www.abhms.org>ministries and programs>education.

Download these workshops at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life & Leadership (for hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452):

- 303 Teaching the Bible to Children (available in English and Karen)
- 501 The Journey toward Wisdom
- 502 Methods for Bible Study with Adults

See the *Advent Meditation Supplement* on pages 3–18 of this *Guide*.

For information on *Asian ministries*, visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>intercultural ministries>Asian ministries or listen to the podcast by Rev. Florence Li, national coordinator, Asian churches strategist at www.abhms.org>podcasts (06/30/2010).

To learn about scholarships and grants, visit www.abhms.org>ministries & programs> education>scholarships & grants or listen to the podcast by Ed Evins, director of investments, at www.abhms.org>podcasts (09/01/2010).

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *The African Presence in the Bible: Gospel Sermons Rooted in History*, Watley and St. Clair
- *Money on Purpose: Finding a Faith-Filled Balance*, Shayna Lear
- *Preaching in Plenty and in Want*, Matthew Tennant
- *The Star Book for Stewardship*, Clifford A. Jones, Sr.
- *What the Bible Says about Stewardship*, A. Q. Van Benschoten, Jr.
- *Bring the Full Tithes: Sermons on the Grace of Giving*, William D. Watley
- *The Layperson's Introduction to the Old Testament* (Revised), Robert B. Laurin
- *The Layperson's Introduction to the New Testament* (Revised), Carl H. Morgan
- *Modeling Mary in Christian Discipleship*, John Burns; leader's guide, (www.judsonpress.com >E-books)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 1st Sunday in Advent Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 2nd Sunday in Advent	10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15
16 3rd Sunday in Advent	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas 25-Jan. 6 Christmastide	26 26-Jan. 1 Kwanzaa	27	28	29
30 Student Recognition	31 New Year's Eve					

Discipleship Immersion

Download these church leadership training workshops at www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life & Leadership (for hard copy, call Joanne Powers at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2452):

- 101 Identifying and Using Spiritual Gifts in the Church's Mission/ Identificando y Usando los Dones en la Iglesia y en su Misión/ L'Identification et L'Emploi des dons Spirituels dans L'Eglise Orientee à Faire des Disciples
- 804 The Deacon as Servant-Leader
- 802 The Work of the Nominating Committee
- 807 The Spiritual Life of Church Boards and Committees
- 808 Strategies for Moving the Small Church Forward
- 811 Dealing with Conflict in Group Meetings (coming soon in Karen & Chin)
- 812 Leadership as Enabling (soon in Karen & Chin)
- 813 Church Leader Development (soon in Karen & Chin)

To hear Laura Alden, associate executive director, publishing, speak about *The Secret Place*, a quarterly devotional magazine, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (05/25/2011).

To hear Michaele Birdsall, treasurer and chief financial officer, speak about *Socially Responsible Investing*, visit www.abhms.org>podcasts (11-04-2010). For webinars on *Socially Responsible Investing*, visit www.abhms.org>ministries and programs>justice ministries.

For information on helping incarcerated persons re-enter society, visit abhms.org>justice ministries>Prisoner Re-entry and Aftercare Ministry or listen to the podcast (www.abhms.org>podcasts, 08/18/2010) by Rev. Fela Barrueto, national coordinator, prisoner re-entry and after-care ministry.

Webinar, *The Black Church Responds to the Incarceration Crisis* is available at www.judsonpress.com>free downloads>webinars.

Consider the following from Judson Press (www.judsonpress.com; 1-800-458-3766):

- *Church Programs & Celebrations for All Generations*, Rachel Gilmore
- *Discovering Christmas: A Treasury of Useful Resources for Churches and Families*, Jeron Ashford Frame, ed.
- *Litanies for All Occasions* (E-Book available at www.judsonpress.com >E-books)
- *Ministry with Prisoners & Families: The Way Forward*, W. Wilson Goode, Sr., Charles E. Lewis, Jr. and Harold Dean Trulear, eds.
- *The Twelve Plays of Christmas: Original Christian Dramas*, Sheryl J. Anderson

On Discipleship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY 2012

Leader: Jesus, when I hear your voice,
Congregation: I am becoming a disciple.

Leader: When my striving becomes resting,
Congregation: Your peace is making me a disciple.

Leader: When my judgment is transformed into compassion,
Congregation: Your gentleness is making me a disciple.

Leader: When we look to the needs of one another,
Congregation: Your empathy is making us disciples.

Leader: When we walk together, accepting our differences,
Congregation: Your power is making us a community.

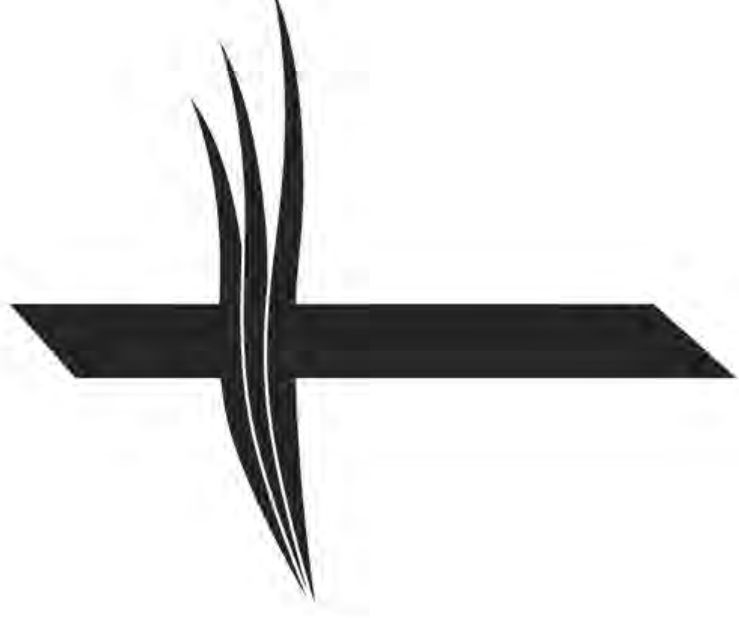
Leader: When the world hears your voice through us,
Congregation: Your presence is making us a community of disciples.

Leader: When your love flows through us to the world
Congregation: Your hope is making us a disciple-making community.

Leader: Transform us . . .
Congregation: that we might be transformed
All: and change the world. Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP

A Way . . . of Being



Sobre el discipulado

Líder: Jesús, cuando oigo tu voz,
Congregación: Soy un discípulo.

Líder: Cuando mi esfuerzo se convierte en descanso,
Congregación: Tu paz me hace una discípula.

Líder: Cuando el juicio se transforma en compasión,
Congregación: Tu ternura me hace un discípulo.

Líder: Cuando vemos las necesidades de unos y otras
Congregación: Tu empatía nos está convirtiendo en discípulos y discípulas.

Líder: Cuando caminamos juntos y juntas, aceptando
nuestras diferencias,
Congregación: Tu poder nos está convirtiendo en una comunidad.

Líder: Cuando el mundo a través de nosotros escucha tu voz,
Congregación: Tu presencia nos está convirtiendo en una comunidad de discípulos y discípulas.

Líder: Cuando tu amor a través de nosotros se manifiesta al mundo
Congregación: Tu esperanza nos está convirtiendo en una comunidad hacedora de discípulos.

Líder: Transformámanos....
Congregación: que podamos ser transformados y transformadas
Todos: y cambia al mundo a través de nuestro discipulado.
Amén.

DOMINGO DE LA EDUCACIÓN CRISTIANA

DISCIPULADO

Una manera

. . . de ser



De faire des disciples

Leader: Jésus, quand j'entends ta voix,
Congrégation: Je suis un disciple.

Leader: Quand mon effort devient repos,
Congrégation: Votre paix fait de moi un disciple.

Leader: Quand le jugement est transformée en compassion
Congrégation: Votre douceur me fait un disciple.

Leader: Quand nous regardons les besoins de l'autre,
Congrégation: Votre empathie est fait de nous des disciples.

Leader: Lorsque nous travaillons ensemble et accepter
nos différences,
Congrégation: Votre pouvoir nous fait une communauté.

Leader: Quand le monde entend votre voix à travers nous,
Congrégation: Votre présence nous fait une communauté
de disciples.

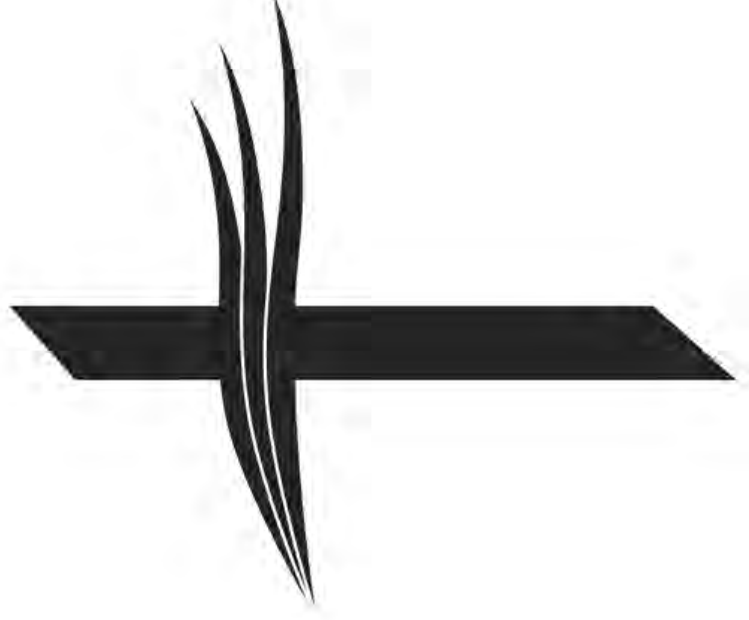
Leader: Quand votre amour coule à travers nous dans le monde
Congrégation: Votre espoir est en nous faisant une communauté
de disciples.

Leader: Transforme chacun de nous...
Congrégation: Afin que nous puissions être transformés
Tous: et transformer le monde pour faire plus de disciples. Amen.

DIMANCHE CONSACRÉ À L'ÉDUCATION CHRÉTIENNE

DISCIPLES

une manière d'être



Discipleship Immersion Quick Reference

Bible Studies:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources

or call 1-800-458-3766 for hard copies:

Children, Poverty and the Bible

A Matter of Stewardship: Ecojustice in Biblical Perspective

Race and Poverty: A Five-session Study Guide

Children and Youth Ministries:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>children and youth or call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2158

The Christian Citizen:

Subscribe at www.abhms.org>publications.

Deep Roots and Flexible Branches:

Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century:

www.abhms.org>about us>publications>Christian Citizen

Disability Resources:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>justice ministries>disability ministries

Disaster Response:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>disaster response

Discipleship Web pages:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education

Intercultural Ministries:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>intercultural ministries

Diversity Audit for Congregations

Life Span Development Chart:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>discipleship & Christian education>resources

Ministry Opportunities:

Subscribe at www.abhms.org>American Baptist Personnel Services or call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2414.

Missional Church:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>missional church

Immigration and Refugee Services:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>justice ministries> immigration and refugee services or call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2450

Higher Education Scholarships and Grants:

www.abhms.org>ministries & programs>education>scholarships and grants or call 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext.2385

Journeys:

www.judsonpress.com>church resources>curricula>adults or call 800-458-3766 to order; for more information, contact Marcia Jessen at 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2143

Judson Press:

(books, leader's guides, webinars, curriculum, and downloadable resources): www.judsonpress.com (right hand menu) or call 1-800-458-3766

Podcasts:

www.abhms.org>podcasts (right hand menu)

Workshops for Church Life and Leadership:

www.abhms.org>Workshops for Church Life and Leadership (left hand menu); for hard copies, call Joanne Powers at 1-800 ABC-3USA, ext. 2452

Translation into Karen and Chin are in process for the following:

- 201 Planning for Discipleship Formation/Christian Education
- 302 Basics of Teaching and Relating to Children:
- 502 Methods of Bible Study for Adults
- 812 Leadership as Enabling
- 811 Dealing with Conflict in Group Meetings
- 910 Introduction to the Missional Church



Discipleship, Community, Justice

The Mission of ABC Reads!



The American Baptist Home Mission Societies and Judson Press seek to support the work you do in bringing your church to an understanding of discipleship. This is the model for all we do, whether inside the church building or being the church in the world.

Since 2006, ABC Reads has presented resources designed to engage your congregation and connect you with others in the denomination around matters of discipleship, community, and justice. Sponsored by Judson Press, ABC Reads annually highlights a book that's appropriate for reading and discussion in small group settings, as well as for individual study. The book provides an opportunity for learning, sharing and growing in knowledge and faith in various small group settings, such as Sunday school, Bible study, and men's, women's and youth groups.

For the coming year, we encourage you and your church to join us in reading the timely and important bilingual book *Listen to the Children: Conversations with Immigrant Families/Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes*, by American Baptist educator and former pastor Elizabeth Conde-Frazier.

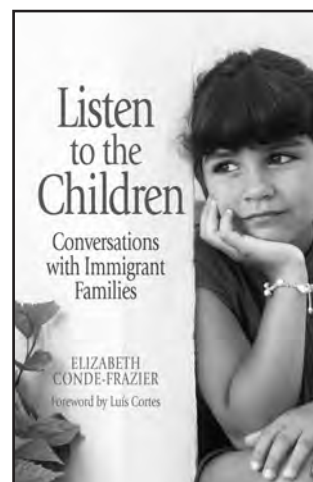
“Conde-Frazier’s book puts faces and voices to the children who live in the midst of the challenges of immigration. She has listened carefully and with deep respect, and she provides crucial practical advice for families struggling with the impact of immigration—as well as for all the rest of us who want to be truly present to them.”

—Mary E. Hess, president, Religious Education Association

Visit www.judsonpress.com and click on the ABC Reads logo on the left hand side of the home page for more on this discipleship program, including:

- A study guide for individuals and small groups
- A video recording of Dr. Conde-Frazier’s immigration presentation to the Ministers Council
- A link to the ABC Reads Facebook page
- A special offer when you order multiple copies of *Listen to the Children/ Escuchemos a los niños: Conversaciones con familias inmigrantes*,

Questions? Contact Judson Press at 800-458-3766
or email promotions@judsonpress.com.



SPIRITUAL, MISSIONAL, REFLECTIVE, CONNECTIVE, EXPERIENTIAL AND FUN!!!

2012 GATHERING OF AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH



JULY 24 - 28, 2012 WASHINGTON, DC

IMMERSE, the national gathering of American Baptist youth, will feature high-energy and transformative worship coupled with hands-on mission experiences, small group discipleship opportunities and interaction with members of the American Baptist family from across the nation. Sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission Societies, the event is for high school and college-age youth.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IMMERSSED...

Our desire is that each young person leaves Immerse with his or her HEART connected to God, MIND pondering faith and how it compels service to God and community, and SOUL at peace with itself but at war with injustice. As a participant returns home, he or she will begin actively seeking and asking others "What can I DO next?"

WWW.ABHMS-IMMERSE2012.ORG



OUR LOCATION...

The campus of American University and the city of Washington, D.C.

YOUTH & ADULT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION...

- Immerse is for youth, ages 14-19, who are entering at least freshman year of high school. A youth may also attend if he or she is entering freshman year of high school but will NOT be 14 until after the conference.
- Immerse welcomes youth of all eccumenical walks of faith.
- One adult chaperone must be sent to Immerse per five youth. If at least one youth in a group is female, then at least one chaperone must be female. If at least one youth in a group is male, then at least one chaperone must be male.

REGISTRATION...

The \$399 cost for each youth participant and each adult leader includes housing, food and program. Online registration will begin on **Oct. 15, 2011**. No onsite registration will be offered. All registrations must be fully paid by **May 15, 2012**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL Immerse2012@abhms.org
Like us on Facebook at Immerse: 2012 Gathering of American Baptist Youth
Follow us on Twitter at Immerse2012
www.abhms-immense2012.org

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2012 GATHERING OF AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH

JULY 24 - 28, 2012
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FEATURING...

- HANDS-ON MISSION OPPORTUNITIES
- DAILY SMALL GROUPS
- CREATIVE AND POWERFUL WORSHIP EXPERIENCES
- TOURS
- EXCITING RECREATION TIME
- YOUTH FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY MEETING EACH OTHER



ROMANS 12:1-2

IMMERSE

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETIES

WWW.ABHMS-IMMERSE2012.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT...

Trevor Beauford, lead conference planner, at trevor.beauford@abhms.org
or **Joanne Powers**, conference registrar, at joanne.powers@abhms.org

