

## Advent Take Home

*Please take this sheet home and over the course of the week and reflect on the following questions.*

- \*If the Grinch were looking down on your household during the holidays, what do you think he would consider most important to you?
- \*What is the most important or most meaningful part of the Christmas season for you? What do you do to celebrate Christ's birth?
- \*How do you determine what is essential and what is not in how we celebrate Christmas?
- \*The story of the magi hints at the redemption of Babylon and Egypt. What does the inclusion of these historic enemies of God's people in the Messiah's birth communicate about the salvation he brings?
- \*How do we celebrate the birth of Christ in our own way, while retaining the heart of the story? How do we know when we've gone too far and made the celebration more about us than about Christ?

## Advent Summary

*Each week builds on the last. Here are a few bullet points from what we have learned thus far. Use the rest of the space for notes from this week.*

Week 2-

- \*Everyone can be a bit *grinchy*, the holidays can be hard for a variety of reasons.
- \*The Grinch hated Christmas. In scripture our God calls us to hate things that are not of God, such as evil, injustice and things that are not authentic to who God is.
- \*One of the reasons that the story of the Grinch has lasted the test of time is that it defies expectations. We all have expectations of our holidays and our lives and when things don't go the way we expect we should look to God, as our God defies expectations. The Christmas story foretells the ways in which Jesus will be unexpected; coming in the flesh, taking the form of the created, becoming vulnerable, being born to a commoner, in a cave, etc.

