

BE GENEROUS



AN ACTION PLAN FOR A RADICAL CHRISTMAS

BASED ON THE BOOK, *RADICAL*, BY DAVID PLATT

FOR LEADERS

- **Put “prayer ornaments” on your Christmas tree.**

Usually a Christmas tree set up in a church building is just decoration. Make yours more this year.

Hang it with ornaments that are labeled with the names and a little basic information about different unreached people groups around the world. Perhaps you have a particular team or small group you could call on to create these ornaments. Try to have one ornament for every person you expect to attend your Christmas service.

In the service, explain to church members what the ornaments are for. These ornaments represent millions of people who have no idea what Christmas is all about and don't understand the gift that God has provided for the world in his Son. Invite each person to take one ornament home and use it as a reminder to lift up this people group to God in prayer throughout the rest of the holiday season.

- **Hold Secret Church and teach the Bible in depth.**

The week between Christmas and New Year's has a feel to it that no other week in the year has. With so many people on vacation, and with the much-anticipated Christmas day behind, the frantic pace of American life finally slows down.

That makes it a perfect time for Secret Church.

Secret Church is something our church does to try to recreate the experience of an underground house church in a country where it's dangerous for Christians to meet. No longer caring about the clock or the service's production values, we put in an intense time — often four to six hours — of Bible study as well as prayer for the persecuted members of our worldwide Christian family.

Curious about what this experience might be like for your faith family? Give it a try. To learn how our church does it, go to our Secret Church website. You might also want to watch my sermon series called “How to Study the Bible.”

- **Give away your 2010 budget surplus.**

If your church members are being faithful in giving, and if your leadership team is being frugal with the church's finances, you hopefully have at least a small budget surplus going into the final days of the year. Sure, you could carry it over for use in 2011. But why not give it away for desperate needs that exist in the world right now? Trust God to provide for next year.

Being sure to get agreement from those who have financial oversight of the church, give your surplus away to a church or ministry you work with overseas. Invite the congregation to add to this Christmas gift through a special offering.

- **Adopt an unreached people group.**

Use the Christmas season to announce before the congregation that your church will be giving the greatest gift possible: you're going to be giving the gospel to one of the world's 6,000 unreached people groups.

Of course, you'll need to plan for this ahead of time as a leadership team. Research unreached people groups through websites such as Joshua Project or a denominational or parachurch organization your church is connected with. Pray for God to guide you in choosing one unreached people group to adopt. Begin planning how you will keep praying, giving, going, and sending until that people group is no longer classified as "unreached."

- **Make your Christmas services evangelistic.**

Christmas is the ultimate feel-good holiday. And it's tempting to design church services so that everybody gets to sing their favorite carols, watch the kids stage a pageant, and go away feeling as if they've had a "traditional" Christmas experience. But surely your church can do something more important than just impart a warm glow this Christmas.

Given that Christmas is one of two holidays in the year when unbelievers are most likely to come to church, make your Christmas services evangelistic this year. Beforehand, challenge your church members to each bring at least one unbelieving friend to a service. Make sure that nobody leaves in doubt of *why* the Second Person of the Trinity was born as a baby.

And yes, it's still okay to sing "Silent Night."

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in January for An Action Plan for a Radical New Year

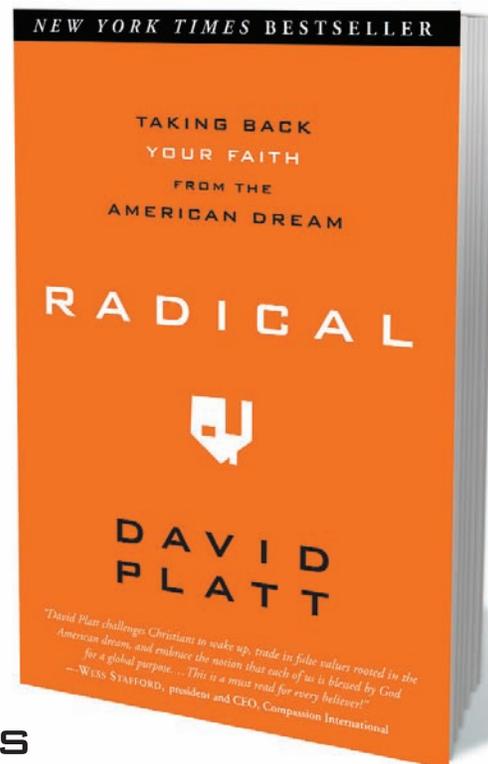
WHAT PART OF THE GOSPEL IS OPTIONAL?

WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?

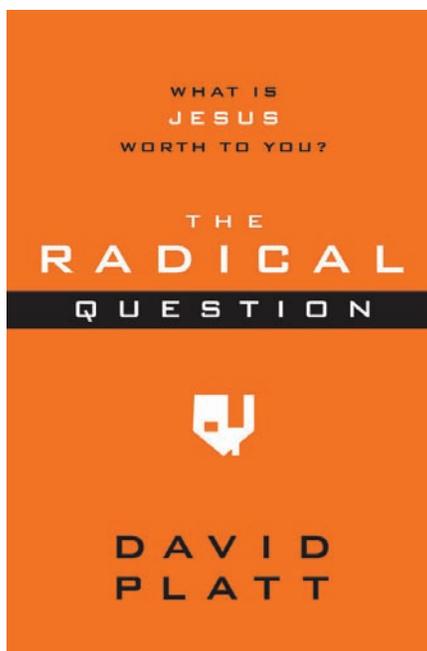
“David Platt challenges Christians to wake up, trade in false values rooted in the American Dream, and embrace the notion that each of us is blessed by God for a global purpose... This is a must-read for every believer!”

—WESS STAFFORD, President and CEO, Compassion International

Radical is a daring call for Christians to believe and obey the gospel according to Jesus—even if it flies in the face of success according to the American church. David Platt reveals what can happen when we exchange our convenient beliefs for authentic discipleship.



DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



The Radical Question

Take the first step into a life as a radical follower of Christ. In this companion booklet, David Platt reveals what can happen in the world when we exchange our convenient beliefs for authentic discipleship. **Available as a 10-pack.**

Find information, tools for individual application, church resources, and video at RadicalTheBook.com.

Radical: The Bible Study

Powerful truths to share with your church, Sunday school class, or small group.

- Eight Bible study lessons correspond to the eight book chapters of *Radical*
- Each lesson includes commentary, teaching plans, discussion questions, and more
- Designed to challenge believers to put the *Radical* concepts into practice

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