

BE GENEROUS



AN ACTION PLAN FOR A RADICAL CHRISTMAS

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

FOR SMALL GROUPS

- **Praise God with Christmas prayers from the Bible.**

The Christmas story in Luke includes five hymns and prayers. These poetic outbursts have been so famous down through history that they have their own Latin titles.

- Ave Maria (Luke 1:42-45)
- Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)
- Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79)
- Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Luke 2:14)
- Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2:29-32)

Spend time reading these prayers as a group and discussing what light they shine on the gift God gave the world at the first Christmas. Then spend an extended time in prayer, using these themes as the basis of your own praise to God.

- **Go “scripturing” door to door.**

As a group, go caroling this Christmas season. But make it caroling with a twist. Along with your selection of songs at each doorstep, include a reading from the biblical Christmas story.

To get ready for this, read the two main Bible passages detailing Jesus’ birth: Matthew 1:18—2:23 and Luke 1:5—2:40. Decide together which verses to read out loud as you are caroling. Perhaps you could approach the scriptural material like a reader’s theater script, with different group members taking the parts of the narrator and various speakers in the Bible story. Practice before you go. Talk over the meaning of the story. Pray for the impact it will have on listeners.

- **Hold a Christmas fundraiser.**

At Christmas, people are in a giving—and a spending—mood. Take advantage of this to hold a fundraiser for a cause your group cares about, such as an upcoming missions trip.

Can you make and sell Christmas ornaments? Sell Christmas goodies? Wrap packages for a price? Be imaginative. And be sure to tell your customers where the money is going. They just might make an extra donation!

- **Deliver presents to overlooked children.**

A lot of children get more presents at Christmas than they really need. Others get too few and are left feeling unwanted. Work together as a group to deliver presents to needy or overlooked children in your community.

Do your research first. Ask the advice of experts, such as leaders at rescue missions and the director of your area's child welfare agency. Ask questions like "Do you know of children who could use gifts this Christmas? What gifts would you recommend we buy? How and when can we deliver these gifts?"

Deliver the gifts in person as a group. The looks on the children's faces will be all the reward you need.

- **Work together to make your church's Christmas a success.**

If your church is like most, it is busy throughout December carrying out special services and celebrations. And again if it is like most, it is desperate for volunteers to help. So, why couldn't your small group agree to pitch in and work together to make your church's Christmas a success?

Be intentional about helping the leaders of the church during this busy time. Volunteer to put up and take down decorations. Serve Christmas cookies and punch at an after-service mingle. Stand out in the cold directing traffic for the Christmas Eve service. Whatever is most needed.

Your service will be a gift to your church, and you'll have fun doing it together.

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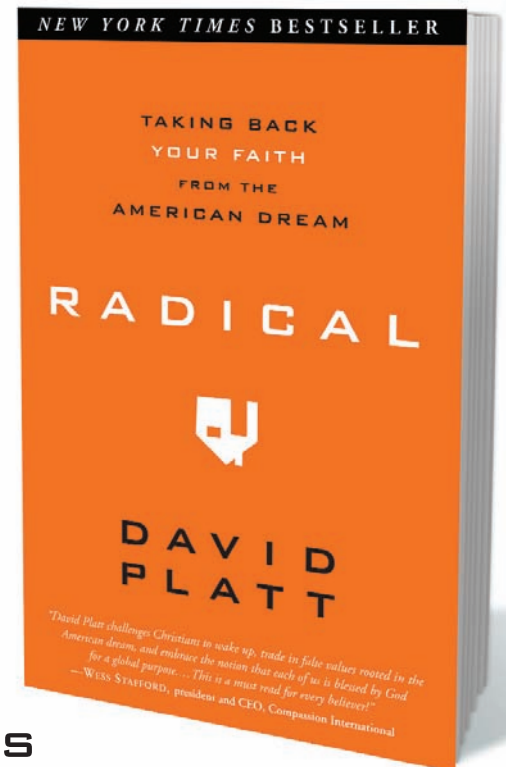
WHAT PART OF THE GOSPEL IS OPTIONAL?

WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?

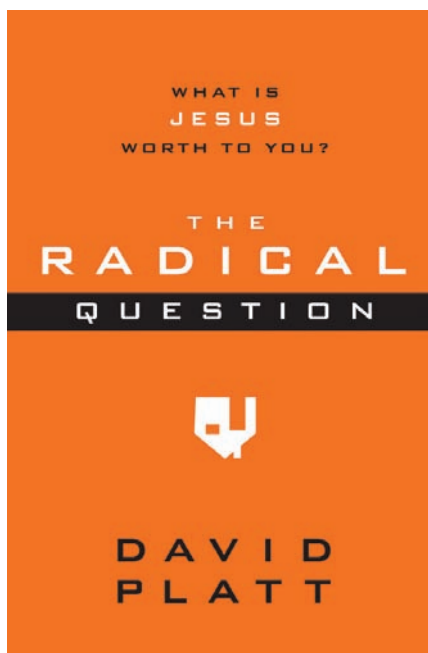
“David Platt challenges Christians to wake up, trade in false values rooted in the American Dream, and embrace the notion that each of us is blessed by God for a global purpose... This is a must-read for every believer!”

—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.



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