

A lit purple candle with a bright flame, positioned on the left side of the image. The flame is yellow and orange, and the candle is a deep purple color. The background is black.

Welcome  
to GIFT

ADVENT 2018



A time  
for us to  
hear  
the call

ADVENT 2018

# How do we celebrate Advent in a joyful way?



Invitation to be  
thoughtful,  
intentional and  
faith-filled

What is this season  
truly about for  
you?

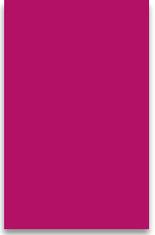
ADVENT 2018

# Everything Advent

**OBSERVE**

**RECOGNIZE**

**WORDS OR  
PHRASES THAT  
DESCRIBE**



**Observe**

**Recognize**

**Words or  
phrases that  
describe**

**EVERYTHING  
CHRISTMAS**

# A bit counter cultural...



# My Christmas Values



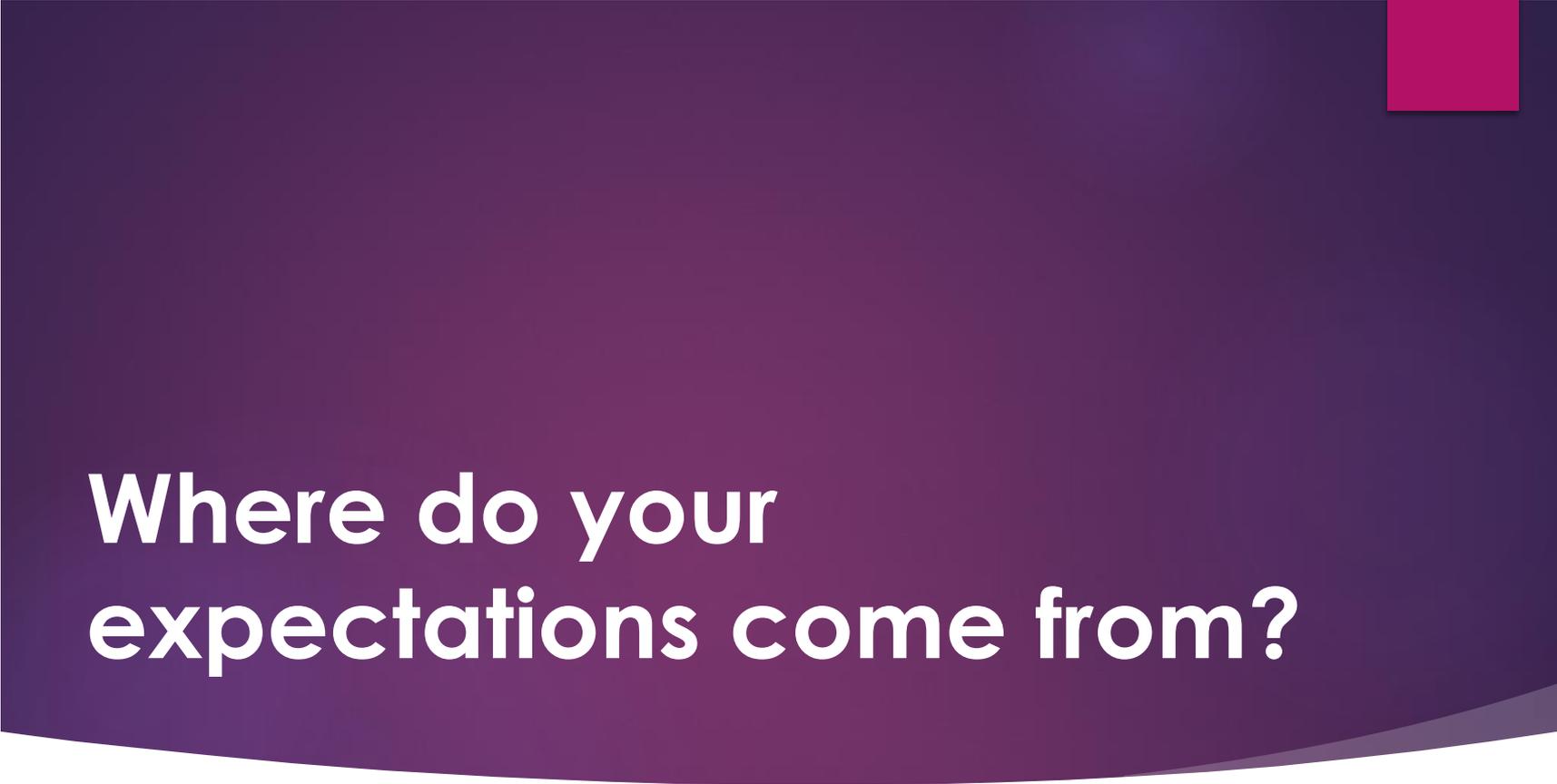
**What Does Christmas  
Mean to Me?**

## 3 common mistakes

**We don't  
take time  
to identify  
our values**

**We don't  
practice  
what we  
believe in**

**We don't  
choose  
between  
competing  
values**



# Where do your expectations come from?

What different things or people helped form your expectations?

## Possible answers might include:

- **Memories of my childhood**
- **Watching other families**
- **Reading books or magazines**
- **Television programs**

**What are some things that form your opinion?**

- **How do you feel when you look at December issues of magazines?**
- **See Christmas commercials on TV?**
- **Hear friends or family talk about their holidays?**
- **Think about Christmases from your childhood?**
- **Dream about future Christmases?**

“ affluenza, n. a painful, contagious, socially transmitted condition of over load, debt, anxiety and waste resulting from the dogged pursuit of more.

affluenza, n. 1. The bloated, sluggish and unfulfilled feeling that results from efforts to keep up with the Joneses.

2. An epidemic of stress, overwork, waste and indebtedness caused by the pursuit of the American Dream. ”

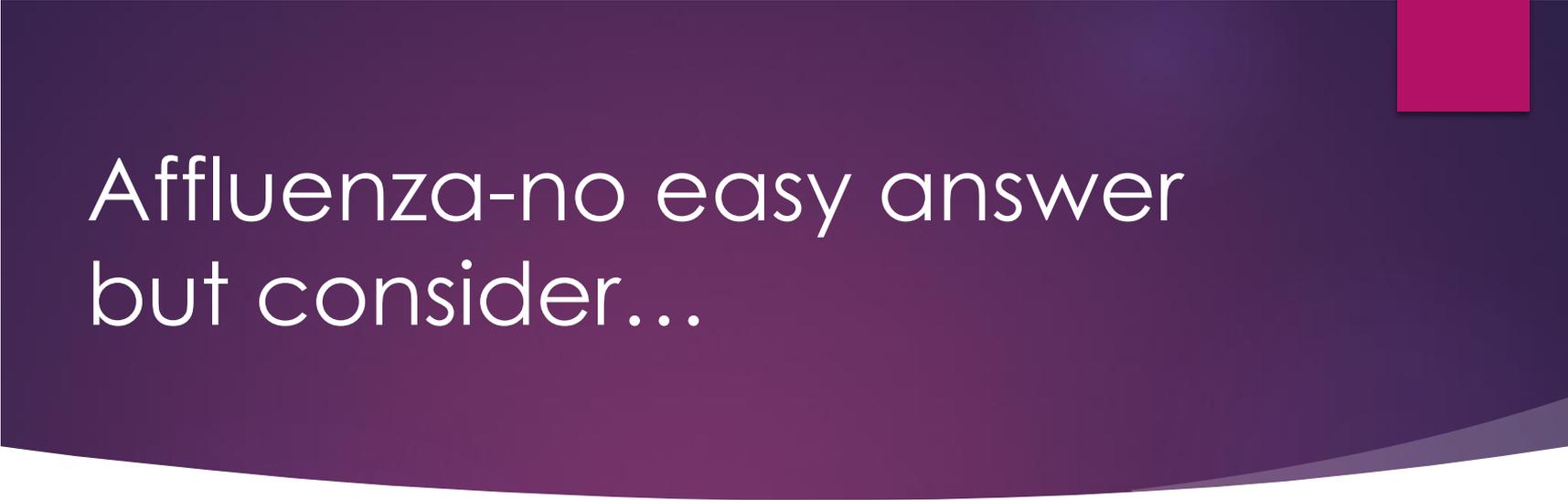
3. An unsustainable addiction to economic growth.

# Affluenza



**900+ passages in the Bible talk  
about wealth and the poor**

**Pretty good evidence that wrestling  
with this question in an important  
thing for Christians to do...**



Affluenza-no easy answer  
but consider...

- Does it decrease our dependency on God?
- Does it affect our level of gratitude?
- How are your possessions a blessing?
- How are your possessions a burden?
- How do **you** *interact* with the “poor”?

# Christmas

- One can say that Christmas is about others.
- Beginning with God. God gave us Jesus.
- Jesus came to live, serve, save, and die for others.
- We live, work and do to serve and care for others.
- For in loving and serving God by loving and serving others, we do find the true meaning of life and the true meaning of Christmas.

**Do something special as a gift to Jesus. Ask Him what He might have you do and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.**





Just ONE thing

Identify one thing you'd like to do differently this year....

# Breakouts



Called to  
prepare  
the way  
for Christ

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Called to  
say “yes”  
to God

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Called to  
be  
followers  
of Christ

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Called to  
be family  
with Jesus,  
The  
Messiah

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Called to  
be the  
light of  
Christ

ADVENT 2018

