

Reinvigorating Advent: Exploring the "Why?" Behind Annual Traditions

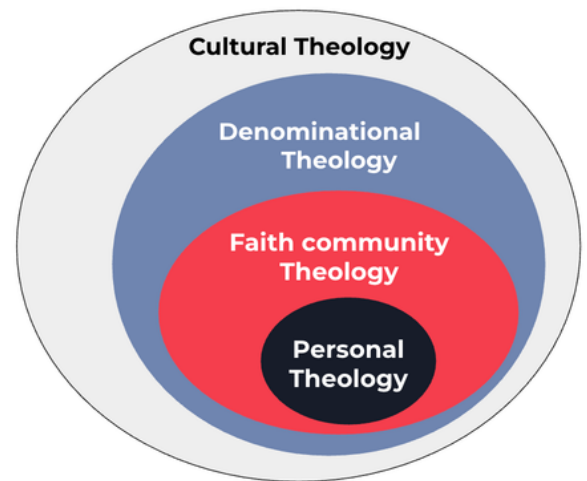
Opening Reflection: Advent Traditions in Your Faith Community

- What is one tradition, activity, program, or event that your faith community does every year to celebrate the Advent season?
- Why does your faith community do it? Use the template below to reflect on the "why?"

We do _____ SO THAT _____.

Discerning Theological Rocks: Step 1

- What is the broader **cultural theology** present in your context? How might this impact your church?
- What are some of the theological beliefs and values of your **denomination**, if applicable?



Discerning Theological Rocks: Step 2

- What are the core beliefs and values of your specific **faith community**?
- If it has one, what is your faith community's mission statement? What Theological Rocks are evident in this statement?
- What Theological Rocks are being hinted at in the faith community's life together (through how you worship, spiritual formation, churchwide communications, etc.)?



Discerning Theological Rocks: Step 3

- What **personal** theological beliefs are most important to YOU as a leader?
- What theological beliefs most guide how you approach your ministry?

Discerning Theological Rocks for Advent: Step 4

Now think about all the traditions, liturgies, events, and activities that typically occur during Advent in your faith community.

- To what extent do they reflect the Theological Rocks you identified in steps 1-3?
- What might need to change so people tangibly experience the Theological Rocks more this Advent season?

Notes

The BIG Question: Instead of just going through the motions of long standing traditions, how will the things your faith community chooses to do this season give people a transformational experience of the community's Theological Rocks?