

HOW IT WORKS

This advent calendar isn't like other advent calendars. Instead of taking something out every day, you put something in!

This year, it's especially important that we keep perspective as we go through the Christmas season. Yes, we've lost some things because of COVID, but we still have so much, and it's important to remember to give thanks to God for it.

The point of this exercise is to take stock of everything we have, and especially the things that we take for granted.

Our goal is to have every person at Parkland take the time to answer these questions every day as a way to reflect on God's goodness. If you'd like to and are able to, you could also choose to donate some money to an organization outside of Parkland.

Here's what to do:

1. Before you start, decide whether you're going to tally up the money and give it away at the end. If you are, decide in advance what you're going to do with the money. We suggest contributing to FAIR's *Weathering the Storm* appeal (more information is on the back of this page), but you can pick any cause.
2. Read the daily question at the beginning of each day. If you're part of a family, try to do it together. Do this at the beginning of the day because some of the questions require you to keep a running tally of something you do that day.
3. At the end of the day, write the total in the right-hand column. If you're collecting money, write a dollar value; if you're not, write a numerical total.
4. Reflect on what you've learned. Does your answer surprise you? If so, how?
5. If you're collecting money, add up the total amount at the end and send the money to the organization you chose.

Here are a few more notes:

- Please keep in mind that this exercise, like every part of discipleship, is heart before hands. Don't participate out of a sense of spiritual guilt or obligation.
- There are no value judgements attached to these questions because the point here isn't to feel bad about having things. Instead, the point is to see what you have and thank God for it.
- If you're collecting money, feel free to set an upper limit before you start so that you're not nervous about whether the total at the end will be an amount you're able to give.
- Please share your stories on our Facebook page—we'd love to hear about your experiences and what the Spirit is showing you!

INFORMATION ABOUT FAIR'S *WEATHERING THE STORM* APPEAL

The first eight months of 2020 have left many struggling worldwide. The news of natural disasters, conflict, protests, and oppression are not new or unique. However, the "normal" newsworthy items are also shadowed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It affects every part of our lives, including how we get our groceries, how we connect with our church, family and friends, and the kind of decisions we hear that governments are making. When disaster strikes, relief workers and officials have to decide what it looks like to help those most affected. More people together means increased potential for spreading the virus, which could lead to life or death consequences.

In response to the threat of health care systems being overwhelmed, many governments closed their country's borders. Other strategies have included the enforcement of strict physical-distancing measures like the mandated closure of nonessential workplaces and stay-at-home orders. This meant that employees, small business owners, and a large portion of non-essential workers have been laid off or unable to find work. In some cases, countries have lifted or relaxed orders in an attempt to balance health care and economic needs. For countries without effective social systems in place, many of the most vulnerable have been left without the means to support themselves.

FAIR has been working with many Fellowship International missionaries to meet the needs of their communities during the worst of the pandemic. Through the *Weathering the Storm* appeal, FAIR is seeking to raise \$80,000 to support their work. Funds will be used towards the purchase of food baskets and cooking essentials. In cases where deemed appropriate, rent or income support and resources for families to get back on their feet may be provided. Currently identified missionaries and fields include Diego and Claudia Cardona (Colombia), Karim and Rita Anayssi and Bechara and Roula Karkafi (Lebanon), Edwin and Helmi Karwur (Indonesia), Ronald Jeyaseelan (Sri Lanka), the Walls (France), stranded international students in Canada, and in the area surrounding Shikarpur Christian Hospital (Pakistan). Due to this constantly evolving global crisis, additional missionaries and fields may be added as needs arise.

Please pray. Whatever our current circumstances, we are called to be people of prayer. Pray for the safety and health of those making deliveries; for effectiveness as they seek to get aid to those in greatest need in spite of travel restrictions put in place by some governments. Pray that the Lord would provide unique opportunities to share the Gospel as aid is distributed. FAIR is also inviting you to take part in the *Weathering the Storm* appeal through faithful giving. By prayerfully and wisely sharing your resources, you can help some of the most vulnerable during these challenging days.

For more information on any of these missionaries or to make a donation, please visit www.fellowship.ca/weatheringthestorm.

A PARKLAND REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR

The cause we’re supporting is:

Date	Question	Amount	Total
Dec. 1	How many times did you eat today?	25¢ each	
Dec. 2	How many pants/dresses/skirts do you own?	5¢ each	
Dec. 3	How many bathrooms are in your home?	25¢ each	
Dec. 4	How many electrical outlets are in your home?	5¢ each	
Dec. 5	How many beds are in your home?	25¢ each	
Dec. 6	How many blankets are in your home?	5¢ each	
Dec. 7	How many chairs do you have in your home?	5¢ each	
Dec. 8	How many water taps are in your home?	25¢ each	
Dec. 9	How many pieces of fruit are in your fridge?	5¢ each	
Dec. 10	How many vehicles does your family own?	25¢ each	
Dec. 11	How many glasses of milk did you drink today?	10¢ each	
Dec. 12	How many windows are in your home?	5¢ each	
Dec. 13	How many eggs do you have in your fridge?	5¢ each	
Dec. 14	How many stuffed animals do you have?	1-10: 25¢ >10: 50¢	
Dec. 15	How many drink containers are in your recycling?	5¢ each	
Dec. 16	How many pairs of socks do you own?	5¢ each	
Dec. 17	Did you eat any food packaged in plastic today?	25¢ each	
Dec. 18	How many TVs are in your home?	25¢ each	
Dec. 19	How many electronic devices are in your home (phones, tablets, computers, game consoles, etc.)?	10¢ each	
Dec. 20	How many garbage cans/wastebaskets are in your home?	10¢ each	
Dec. 21	How many boxes of cereal are in your cupboard?	10¢ each	
Dec. 22	Do you have outdoor Christmas lights?	25¢ each	
Dec. 23	Are you giving or receiving any presents this year?	25¢ each	
Dec. 24	To how many people are you giving presents?	5¢ each	
Dec. 25	How many light bulbs are on your Christmas tree?	1¢ each	
Dec. 26	How many boxes will you be putting into the recycling this week?	10¢ each	
Dec. 27	How many books are in your home?	1-50: 50¢ >50: \$1	
Dec. 28	How many hours of TV or video streaming (including YouTube and TikTok) did you watch today?	5¢/hour	
Dec. 29	How many pairs of shoes are in your home?	5¢ each	
Dec. 30	How many bicycles are in your home?	25¢ each	
Dec. 31	How many stairs are in your home?	5¢ each	
Jan. 1	How many condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing, etc.) are in your fridge?	5¢ each	
Jan. 2	How many rooms are in your home?	10¢ each	
Jan. 3	Have you eaten restaurant food in the past two weeks?	\$1 if yes	
Jan. 4	How many times have you turned on a tap today?	5¢ each	
Jan. 5	Do you have any pets?	\$1 if yes	
Jan. 6	How old are you turning this year?	5¢/year	
TOTAL AMOUNT:			