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## **"This is Advent: Grace"**

By  
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**What** Our houses were once just empty—four walls and a floor. Then we furnished and styled them to make them homes. This advent reading is about how God similarly fills our lives with grace. Part of the *This is Advent* series, readings that will help your church experience the heart of Christmas all over again.

Themes: Christmas, Advent, Grace, Traditions, Home, Reader's Theatre, Gifts, Decorating

**Who** Reader 1  
Reader 2  
Reader 3

**When** Present Day

**Costumes** Neutral clothing with no logos, or attire similar to attendees

**Props** Christmas ornament  
Candle  
Lighter

**Why** Proverbs 24:3-4

**How** Both a Reader's Theater version and a Monologue version are provided. Can be memorized or read off the page directly to the audience. Use black folders and/or music stands if not memorized but be familiar with the text for better audience connection.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

**Reader's Theater Version**

*\*Performance notes: If you are reading, read the script with emotion, in a way that's true to you. It's important to be yourself. Don't be afraid to take your time. Readers should look at the audience and at their fellow co-Readers.*

**Reader 1** holds up a small Christmas ornament.

**Reader 1:** This is grace.

**Reader 2:** Well, actually it's an ornament that you hang on a Christmas tree.

**Reader 3:** Does your family have a special tradition at Christmas?

**Reader 2:** Maybe you watch a movie as you wrap presents, the same one every year. You know it so well you can recite the lines together.

**Reader 1:** Or maybe you do an advent calendar. A little surprise every day in the lead up to Christmas. A new Lego everyday, or a special bag of tea, or better yet, chocolate. Do the parents in your household get an advent calendar too, or is it just the kids?

**Reader 2:** Maybe your tradition is to buy a special ornament (*hold up the ornament*) like this one, to mark the year. Your tree is a map of memories marking out your family history. Whenever you look at the tree it's like you're looking at part of the Christmas story and the history of your family, both at the same time.

**Reader 3:** These little traditions matter. They help us to shape meaning into our celebrations. Christmas to Christmas, year to year, grace to grace.

**Reader 2:** This advent season, take some time to walk through your home and to just look at all the things in it. The stuff you've gathered up over time. Furniture and bookshelves. Trinkets and souvenirs. Picture frames and coffee mugs and plant holders.

**Reader 3:** If you've already decorated for Christmas, take a few moments to really look at the ornaments and the objects you set up to bring some beauty into your rooms.

**Reader 1:** If you're older, it may be stuff from over a lifetime.

**Reader 3:** And yes, you may realize you need to purge.

**Reader 1:** If you're younger or starting over, you may just be starting to decorate a space or starting up some new traditions.

**Reader 2:** So think through how to fill your space with meaning.

**Reader 3:** But look closely at all the practical and decorative things in your home.

**Reader 2:** Because there was a day when those rooms were empty. Just four walls and a floor.

**Reader 3:** But *you* filled the space and made it yours.

**Reader 1:** My friends, God has done the same with you. Your life, just like that once-empty room, has been filled with good things from God.

**Reader 3:** Isn't that a wonderful thought?

**Reader 2:** What has he filled your heart and home with? Year to year, Christmas to Christmas, grace to grace?

**Reader 1:** Take an inventory of all the ways God has placed his goodness in you: answered prayers.

**Reader 2:** Victories, little and small.

**Reader 3:** Light in the darkness.

**Reader 2:** Grace where it wasn't deserved.

**Reader 1:** His Son Jesus lives in you and He fills you up with good things.

**Reader 2:** However you feel this Christmas,

**Reader 1:** and however prepared you are,

**Reader 3:** remember that God has furnished your life with wonderful things.

**Reader 2:** He's the God who cleans and polishes you.

**Reader 1:** He repairs and restores you. He clothes and washes you.

**Reader 3:** And adorns you with new clothes. Clothes of righteousness.

**Reader 2:** He holds you in his hand.

**Reader 1:** So whatever tradition you have in your home,

**Reader 2:** or whatever new tradition you will start this year,

**Reader 1:** may it help to remind you of grace.

**Reader 3** *lights the candle.*

**Reader 2:** Today as we light the candle of Advent, we declare that God has filled the world, and our lives, with grace.

*Lights fade to end the play.*

### **Monologue Version**

*\*Performance notes: embrace the subtlety and humor of the opening gesture when you feature the ornament. This is something everyone in the audience may have a connection to. Take time to pause and the moments that resonate with you, to breathe, and to look audience members in the eye for effect.*

The **Actor** holds up a small Christmas ornament.

**Actor:** This is grace.

Well, actually it's an ornament that you hang on a Christmas tree.

Does your family have a special tradition at Christmas?

Maybe you watch a movie as you wrap presents, the same one every year. You know it so well you can recite the lines together.

Or maybe you do an advent calendar. A little surprise every day in the lead up to Christmas. A new Lego everyday, or a special bag of tea, or better yet, chocolate. Do the parents in your household get an advent calendar too, or is it just the kids?

Maybe your tradition is to buy a special ornament (*hold up the ornament*) like this one, to mark the year. Your tree is a map of memories marking out your family history. Whenever you look at the tree it's like you're looking at part of the Christmas story and the history of your family, both at the same time.

These little traditions matter. They help us to shape meaning into our celebrations. Christmas to Christmas, year to year, grace to grace.

This advent season, take some time to walk through your home and to just look at all the things in it. The stuff you've gathered up over time. Furniture and bookshelves. Trinkets and souvenirs. Picture frames and coffee mugs and plant holders.

If you've already decorated for Christmas, take a few moments to really look at the ornaments and the objects you set up to bring some beauty into your rooms.

If you're older, it may be stuff from over a lifetime. And yes, you may realize you need to purge. If you're younger or starting over, you may just be starting to decorate a space or starting up some new traditions. So think through how to fill your space with meaning.

But look closely at all the practical and decorative things in your home. Because there was a day when those rooms were empty. Just four walls and a floor.

But *you* filled the space and made it yours.

My friends, God has done the same with you. Your life, just like that once-empty room, has been filled with good things from God. Isn't that a wonderful thought?

What has he filled your heart and home with? Year to year, Christmas to Christmas, grace to grace?

Take an inventory of all the ways God has placed his goodness in you: answered prayers, victories little and small, light in the darkness. Grace where it wasn't deserved.

His Son Jesus lives in you and He fills you up with good things.

However you feel this Christmas, and however prepared you are, remember that God has furnished your life with wonderful things. He's the God who cleans and polishes you. He repairs and restores you. He clothes and washes you. And adorns you with new clothes—clothes of righteousness. He holds you in his hand.

So whatever tradition you have in your home, or whatever new tradition you will start this year, may it help to remind you of grace.

The **Reader** lights the candle.

Today as we light the candle of Advent, we declare that God has filled the world, and our lives, with grace.

*Lights fade to end the play.*