Shalom Christmas Cards

AN ADVENT RESOURCE

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Shalom is the state of complete wholeness, right order, peace and flourishing under God's reign. Shalom is fullness of life.

It is right relationship: with God, others, creation, and within ourselves. Shalom is only made possible by God's covenant faithfulness ultimately restored in Christ.

This Advent season, let's explore how God brings Shalom through Jesus.

HOW TO USE

Life is busy…and Christmas makes it busier! Take time to slow down, read, discuss, and pray together in order to remember Jesus' first coming and anticipate His second coming.

Use these *Shalom Christmas Cards* daily to **read** the story of Jesus' first coming. **Ask** the daily question to help you engage the story. Then, **pray** in response. We've also included *Live It Out* activity cards to help you enjoy this season of remembering and anticipation together.

DECEMBER 1

Shalom Before Time

READ John 1:1-5

ASK What does it mean that Jesus is the light of the world?

PRAY Jesus, thank You for being our light. Please shine Your light through us this Christmas.

DECEMBER 2

Down the Family Line

READ Matthew 1:1-17

ASK Who stands out in Jesus' family tree? Why?

PRAY Father, thank You for including people like me in Your family. Please help us love others like You love us.

DECEMBER 3

The Prophet Promised

READ Luke 1:5-25

ASK Why is it so hard sometimes to believe that what God says is true?

PRAY God, help me to trust Your Word, especially the truth about Jesus.

DECEMBER *4*

Shalom Foretold

READ Luke 1:26-38

ASK What is the difference between Mary's and Zechariah's question?

PRAY Spirit, would You illuminate our minds and hearts to believe Your Word and live like we believe?

DECEMBER 5

Shalom Meets Prophet

READ Luke 1:39-45

ASK What promises of God are hard to believe? Why?

PRAY God, thank You for making and keeping promises. Help us trust.

DECEMBER *6*

Shalom Sent

READ Luke 1:46-56

ASK What promises does Mary sing about in her song? Why *these* promises?

PRAY God, thank You for Your mercy. Enable us to remember it and tell more people about it this Advent.

DECEMBER 7

The Prophet Arrives

READ Luke 1:57-66

ASK Why did the neighbors fear? Was that good or bad fear?

PRAY Father, help me to trust Your Word. Help me to trust Your promises this Advent.

DECEMBER 8

The Prophet Prophesied

READ Luke 1:67-80

ASK What do we need to know to be saved from our sins?

PRAY Jesus, help us to know You, Your life, death, and resurrection for us.

DECEMBER 9

Witness for Shalom

READ John 1:6-8, 15

ASK What is a witness and how did John bear witness to Jesus?

PRAY Jesus, help us to be a witness to who You are and what You have done. We trust You.

DECEMBER *10*

Christ is Born

READ Luke 2:1-7

ASK Why do you think there was no place for Jesus and His family?

PRAY Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself so that we could be saved.

DECEMBER *11*

Shalom Embodied

READ John 1:9-14

ASK Why is it so important that Jesus became human?

PRAY Jesus, thank You for becoming like us so that You could save us.

DECEMBER *12*

God Made Known

READ John 1:18

ASK How has Jesus made God known to us?

PRAY Help us to know You better this Christmas, Jesus.

DECEMBER *13*

Shalom Announced

READ Luke 2:8-14

ASK What does it mean to have real peace?

PRAY God of Peace, we ask You to show us what it means to trust You as our peace and to bring peace to this world.

DECEMBER *14*

Shalom Visited

READ Matthew 2:1-12

ASK Why was Herod troubled? How do we worship the True King?

PRAY Jesus, everything tries to convince us that You are not King. Help us to know and live the truth: You are the only True King!

DECEMBER *15*

Shalom and the New Exodus

READ Matthew 2:13-15

ASK What was the Exodus? How does Jesus free us from sin?

PRAY Jesus, everything tries to convJesus, it is for freedom You have set us free. Help us to live free.

DECEMBER *16*

Shalom Confronts Herod

READ Matthew 2:16-18

ASK How is Jesus a better king than Herod?

PRAY God, sin broke the world, but we thank You for being a better King.

DECEMBER *17*

The First Promise of Shalom

READ Genesis 3:1-15

ASK How is this promise fulfilled in the story of Christmas?

PRAY Father, thank You for the promise of a snake-crushing King.

DECEMBER *18*

The Prince of Shalom

READ Isaiah 9:6-7

ASK Which of Jesus' titles is your favorite? Why?

PRAY We are so grateful that You are all of this and more to us, Jesus. Help us trust Your forever-peace.

DECEMBER *19*

Gospel Freedom Promised

READ Isaiah 61:1-3

ASK How does Jesus fulfill this promise of God?

PRAY Thank you for saving us, Jesus. Please save our friends and family.

DECEMBER *20*

Shalom Received

READ Luke 2:13-21

ASK What does it mean to treasure and ponder God's Word?

PRAY Lord, teach us to love and meditate on Your Word.

DECEMBER *21*

My Eyes Have Seen

READ Luke 2:22-38

ASK What makes waiting so hard?

PRAY Lord, teach us to wait for Your return with the faith and hope that Simeon and Anna had. We trust You.

DECEMBER 22

Wisdom and Favor

READ Luke 2:39-40

ASK Why is it so important that Jesus grew like we grow?

PRAY Jesus, help us to grow in trust, wisdom, and strength this Christmas.

DECEMBER *23*

Grace and Truth

READ John 1:16-17

ASK What is grace and why do we need it?

PRAY Thank You for being both grace and truth to us, Jesus. Help us to embrace both this Advent.

DECEMBER *24*

Shalom With Us

READ Matthew 1:18-25

ASK How will Jesus save His people? How do we become God's people?

PRAY Jesus, we entrust ourselves to You. Help us trust You more.

DECEMBER 25

Shalom Returns

READ Revelation 1:12-18

ASK What's the difference between Jesus' first coming and His second coming?

PRAY Jesus, we praise You. In You is Life and we are grateful that You give us eternal life!

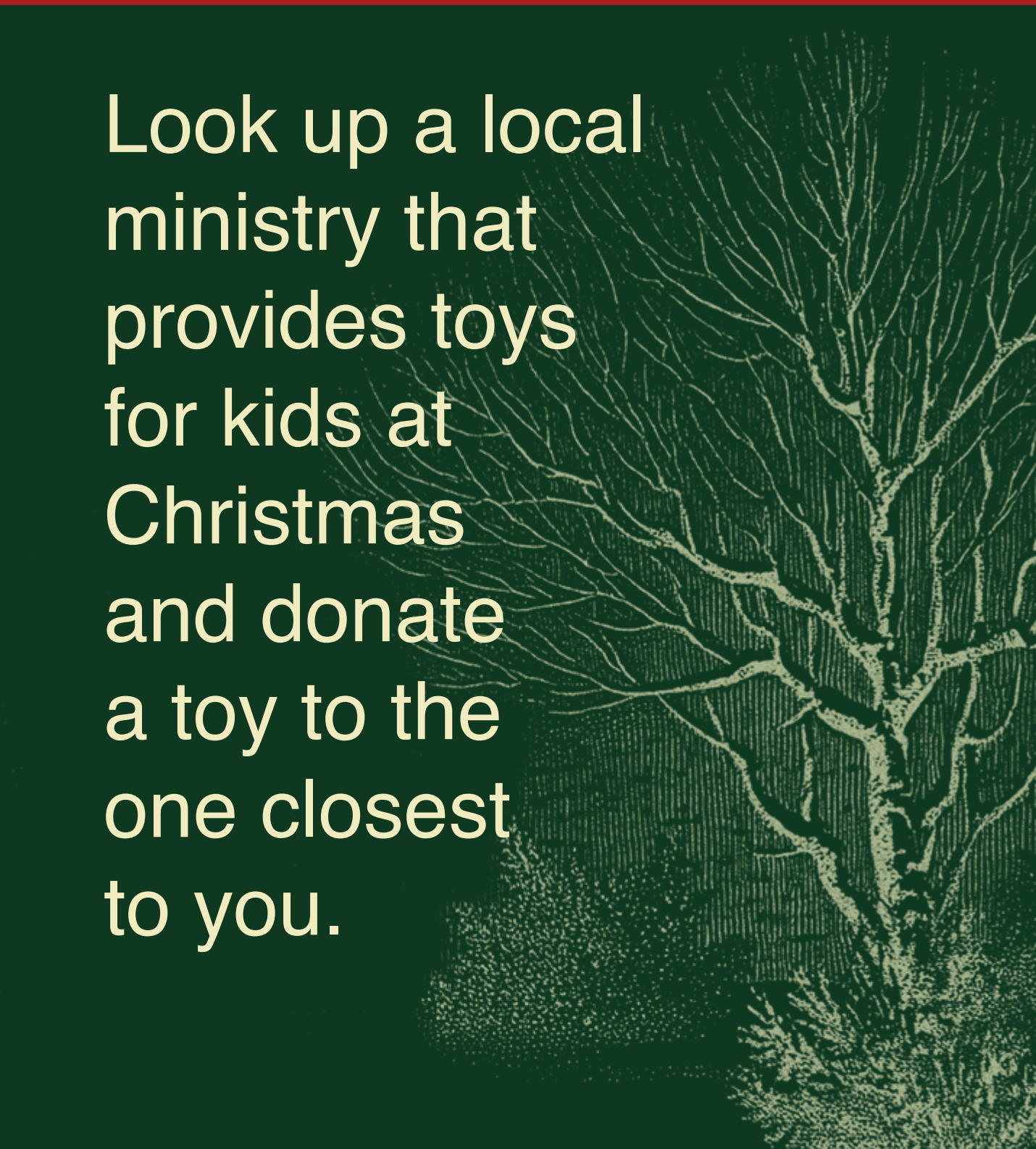
Live It Out

Eat dinner entirely by candlelight or Christmas tree lights.



Live It Out

Look up a local ministry that provides toys for kids at Christmas and donate a toy to the one closest to you.



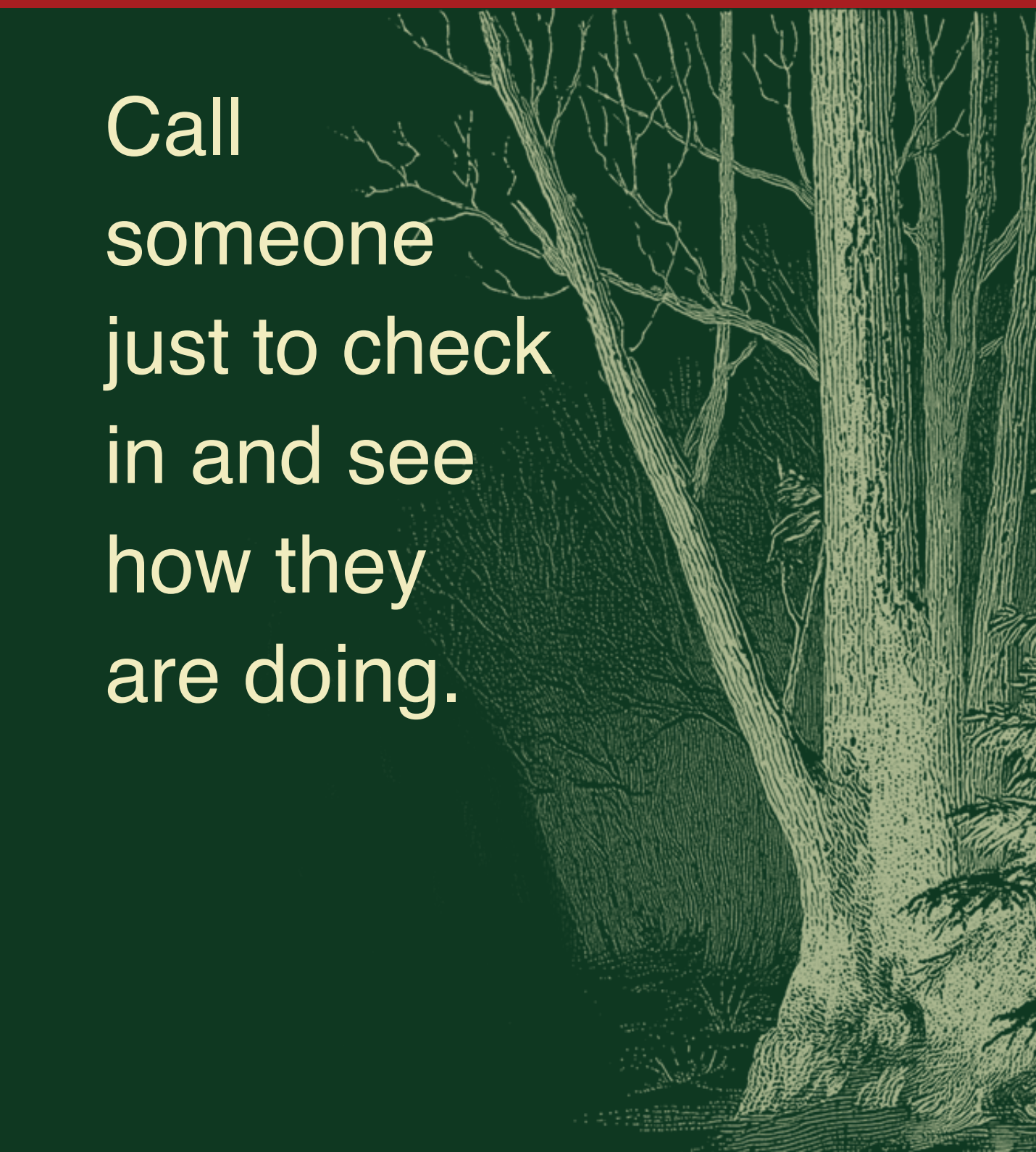
Live It Out

Together,
make
ornaments
that tell the
Christmas story.
Get as creative
as you can!



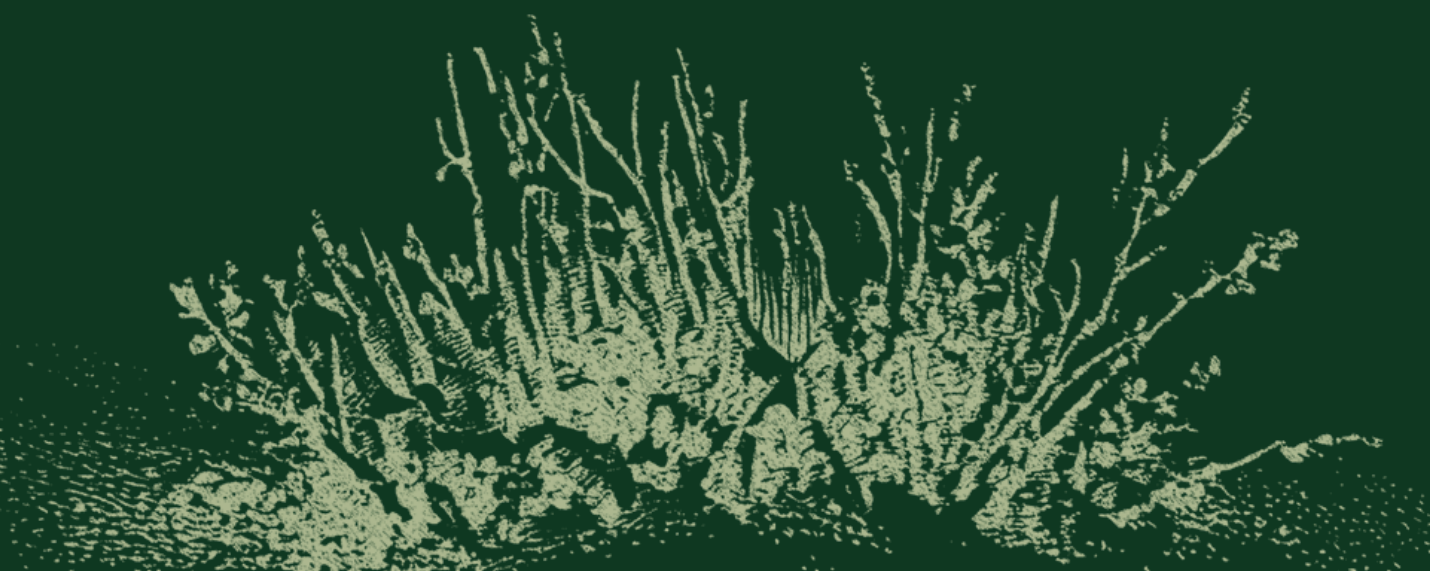
Live It Out

Call someone just to check in and see how they are doing.



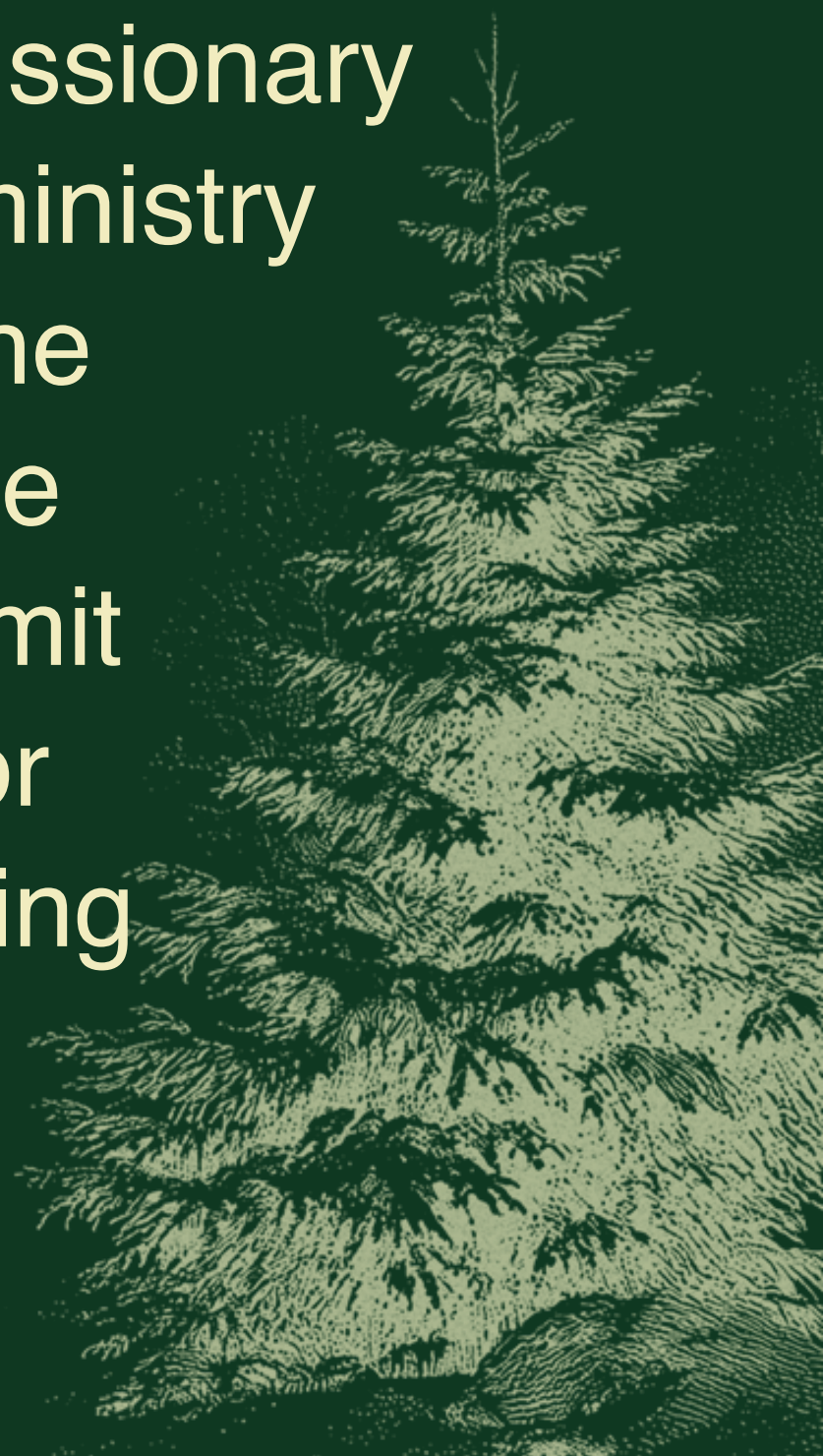
Live It Out

Make and deliver your favorite Christmas treats to neighbors and tell them Jesus loves them.



Live It Out

Find a missionary or local ministry serving the vulnerable and commit to pray for them during Advent.



Live It Out

Pray for God
to show His love
to someone
who has
been unkind
to you.



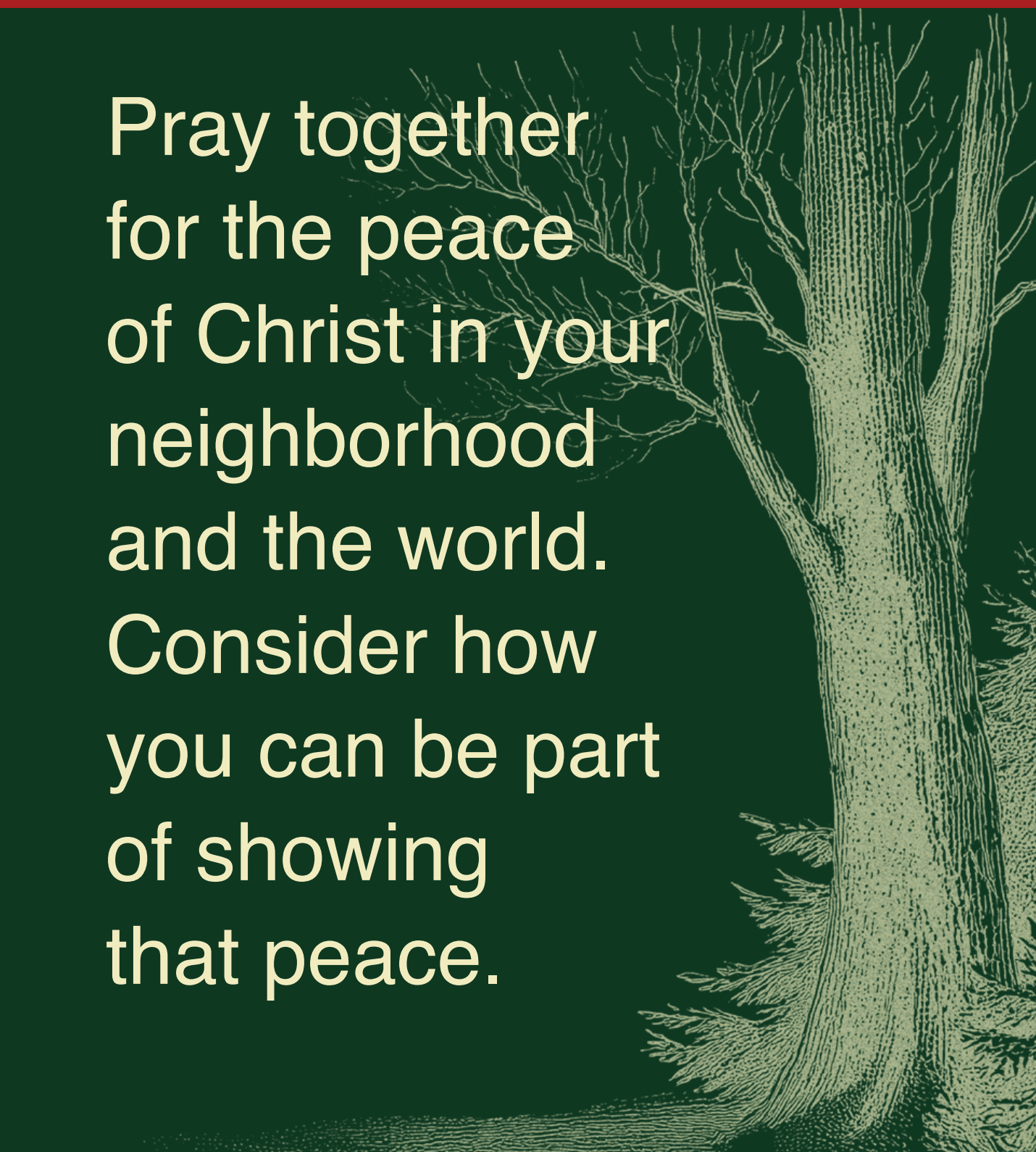
Live It Out

Make a gratitude list together. Try to list 10 things each!



Live It Out

Pray together
for the peace
of Christ in your
neighborhood
and the world.
Consider how
you can be part
of showing
that peace.



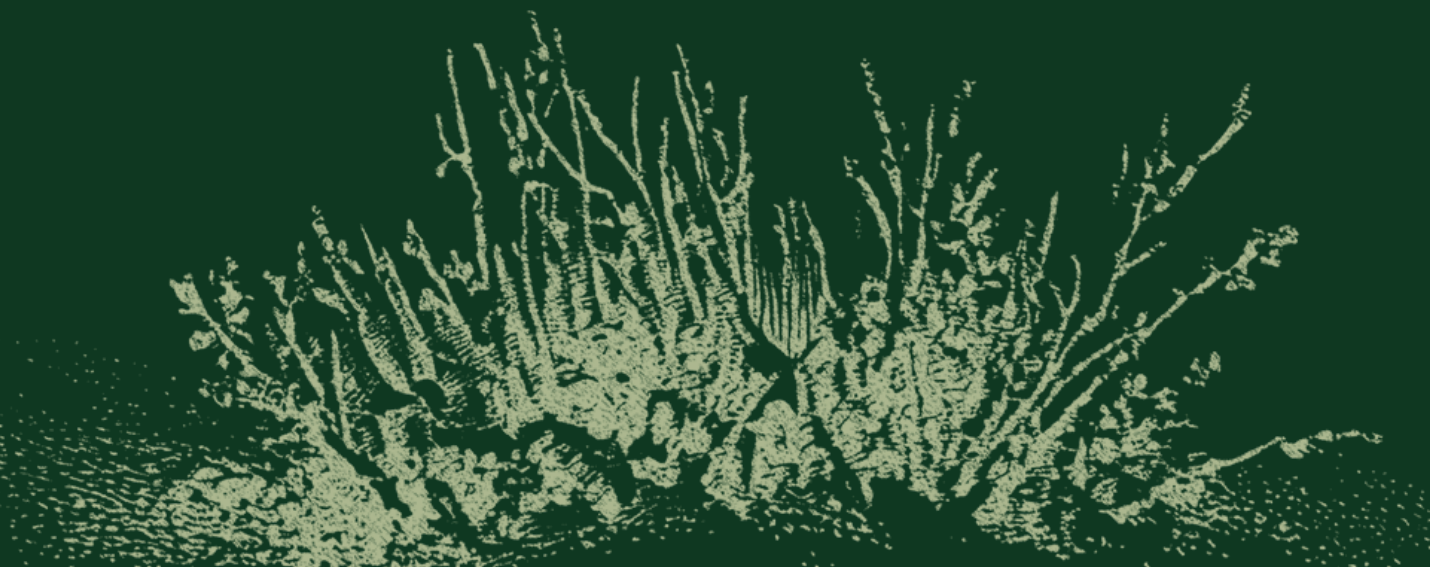
Live It Out



Make a gingerbread house and pray for your neighborhood together as you decorate.

Live It Out

Find a new Christmas song (if you need a recommendation, check out Canvas House Worship's version of *Joy to the World*) and sing it together.



Live It Out

Invite friends, family, and neighbors to church sometime during Advent.



Live It Out

Make hot chocolate and watch a Christmas movie together.



Live It Out

Go ice skating sometime this week and enjoy being together!



Live It Out

Schedule a visit with a friend or relative from a different generation to encourage them and ask them about God's faithfulness to them.



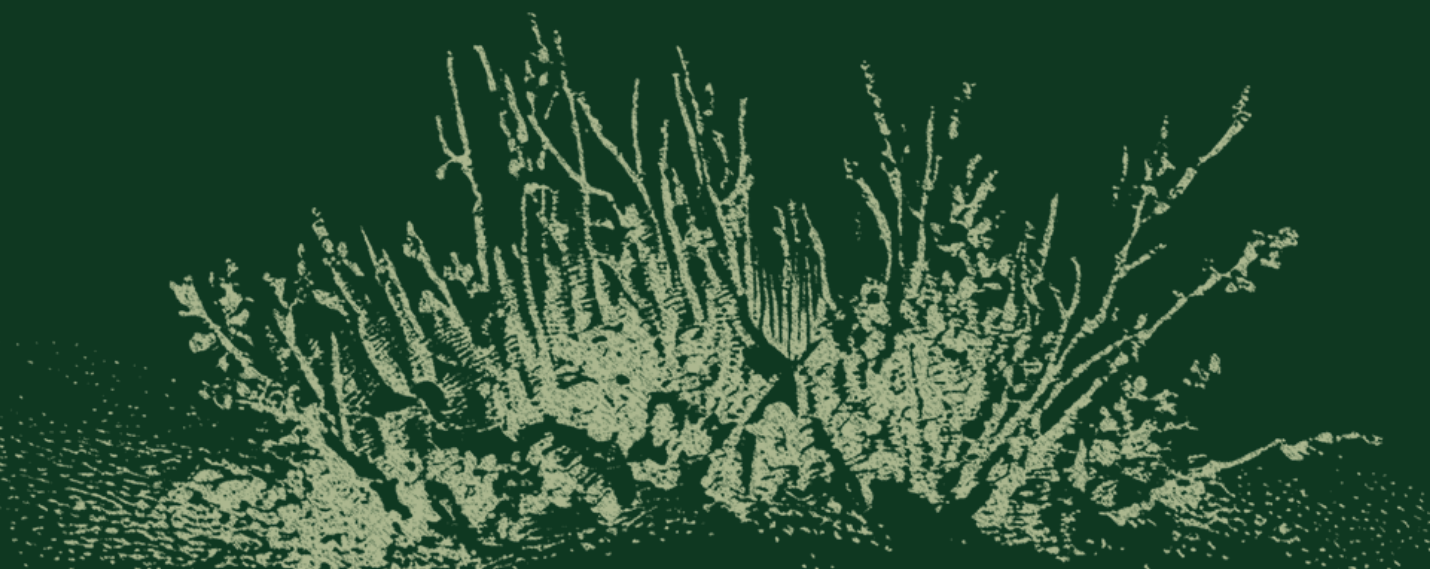
Live It Out

Donate
food to
a local
food pantry
this week.



Live It Out

Show the love of Jesus by leaving a small basket of snacks on your porch for delivery and postal workers this holiday season!



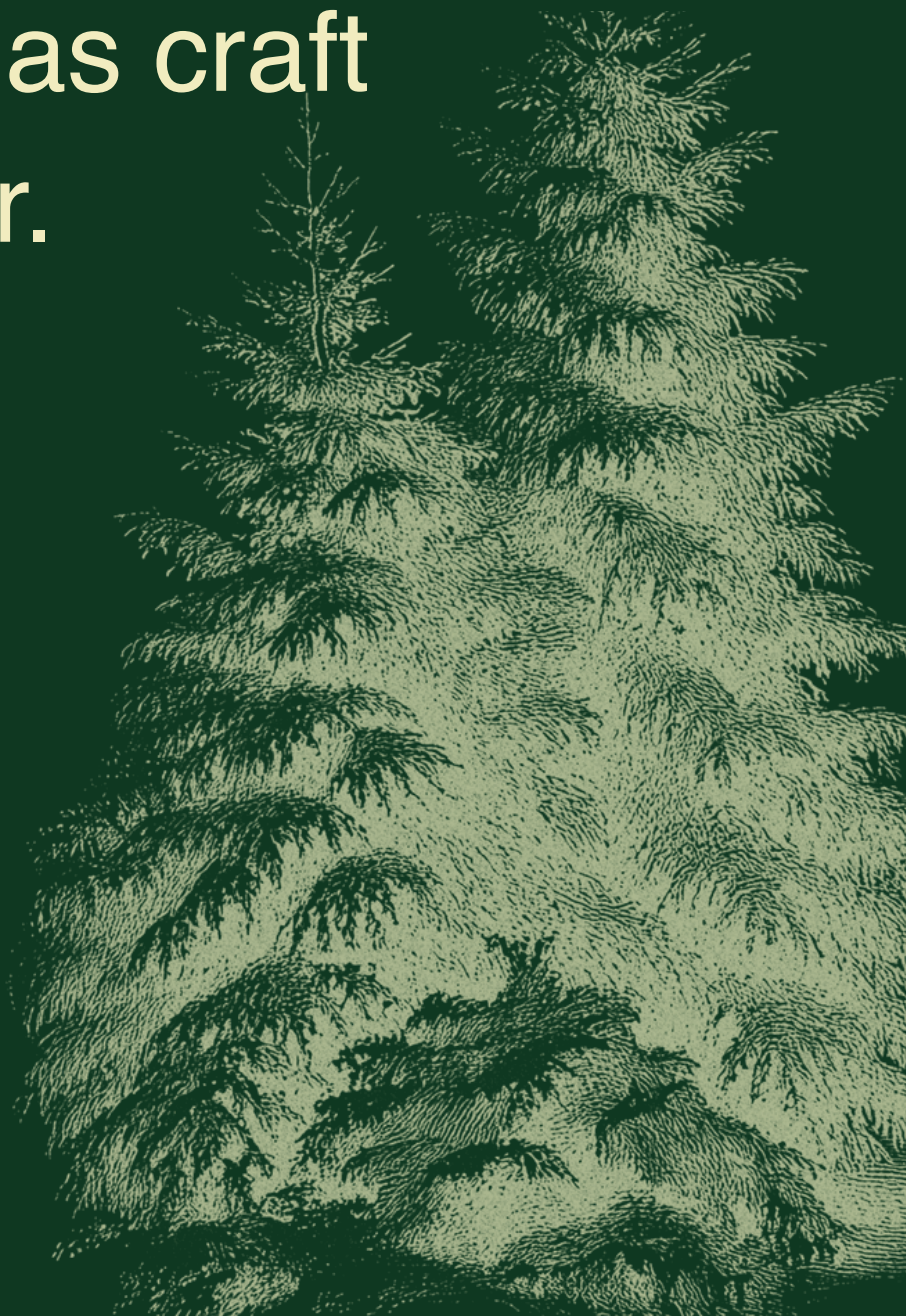
Live It Out

Sign up to serve at Church during the Christmas season together.



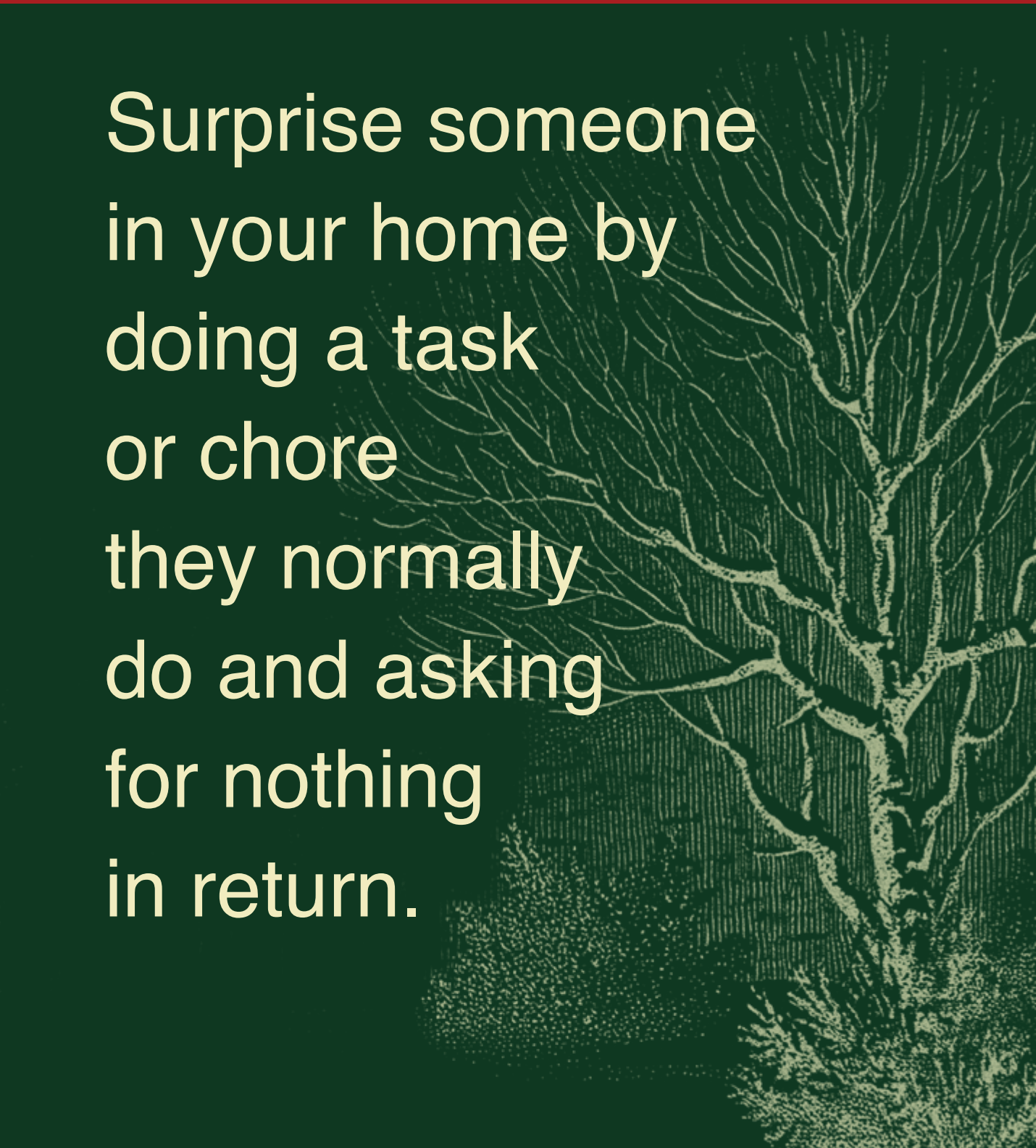
Live It Out

Look up and make a Christmas craft together.



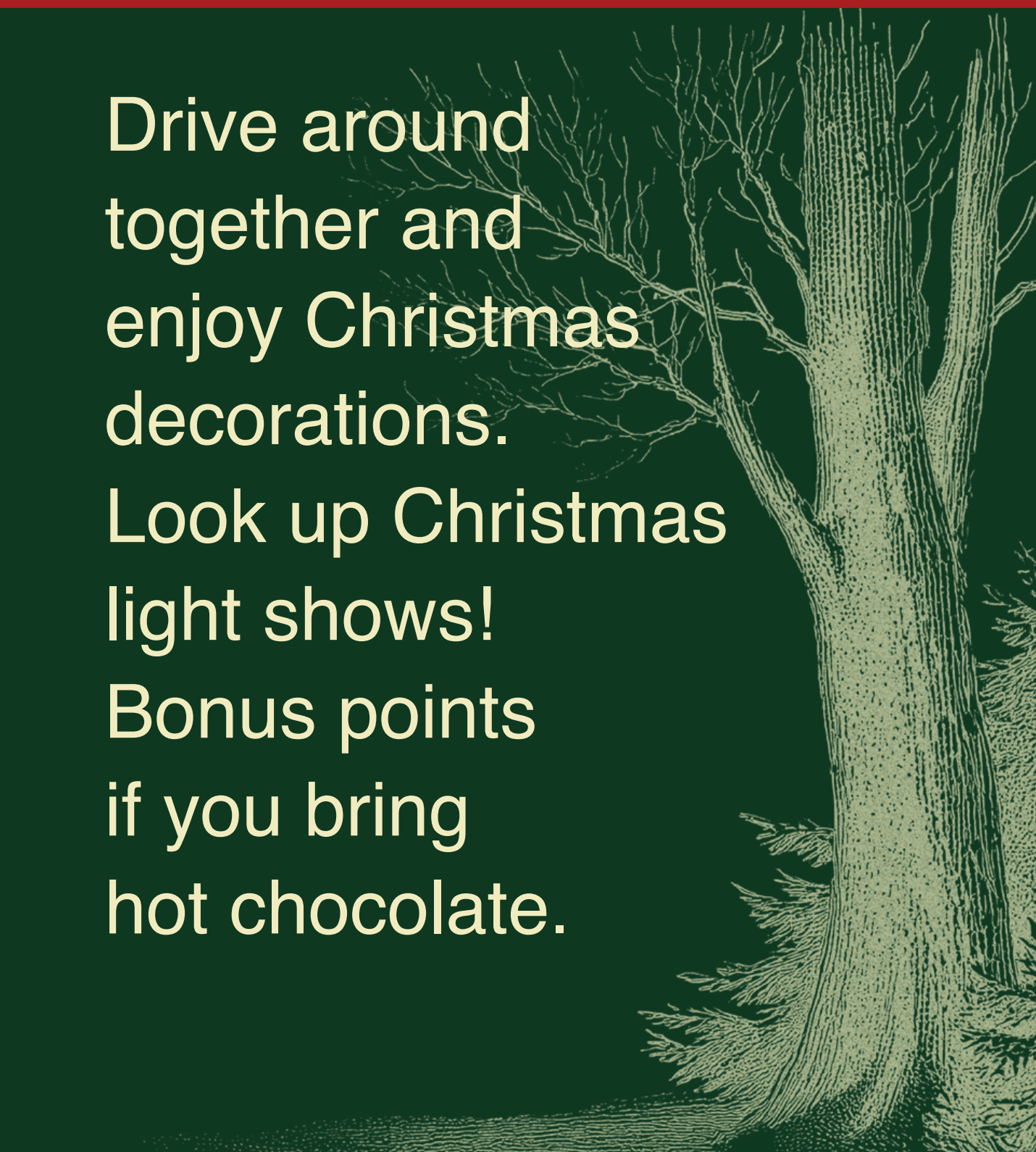
Live It Out

Surprise someone
in your home by
doing a task
or chore
they normally
do and asking
for nothing
in return.

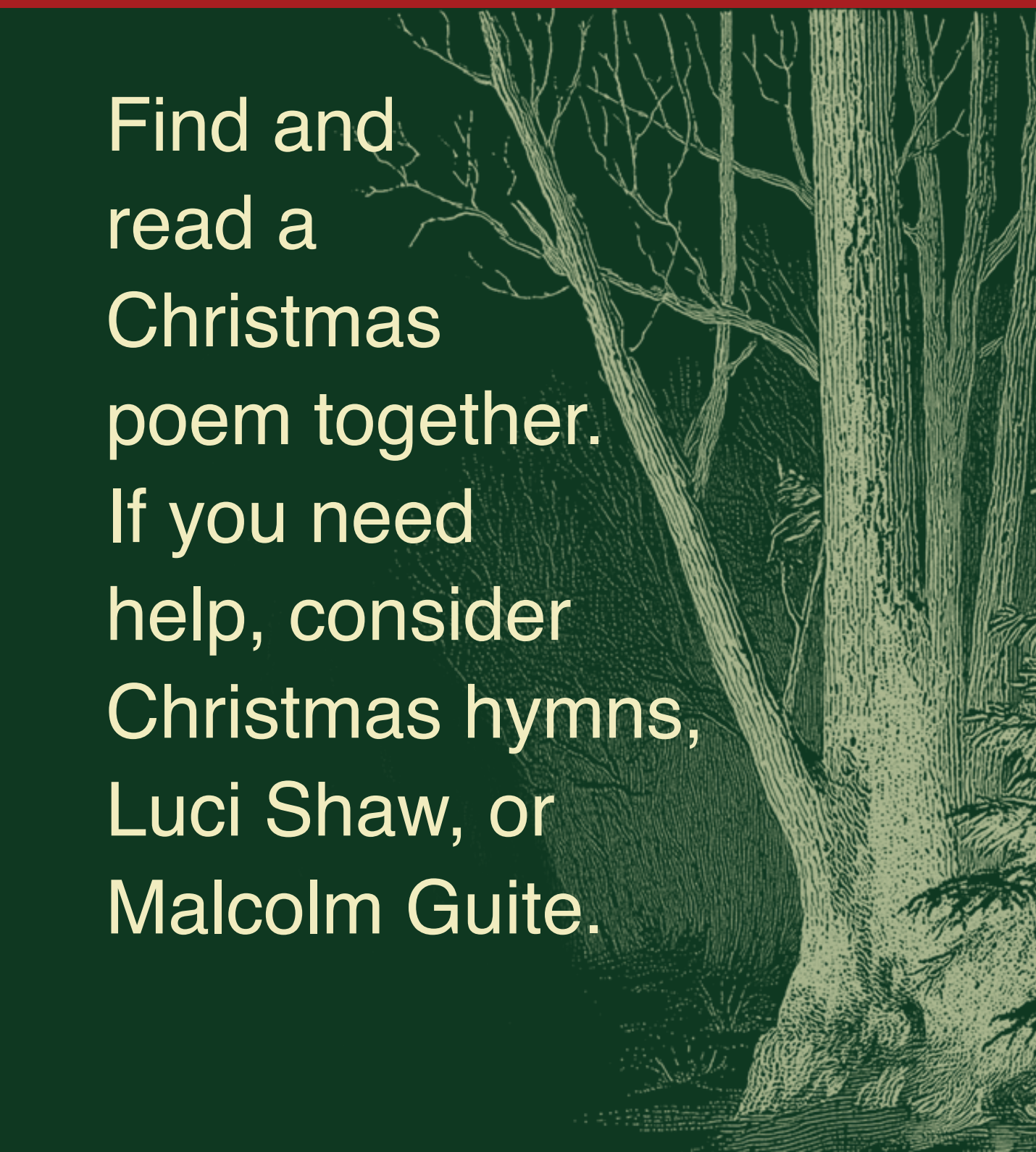


Live It Out

Drive around
together and
enjoy Christmas
decorations.
Look up Christmas
light shows!
Bonus points
if you bring
hot chocolate.



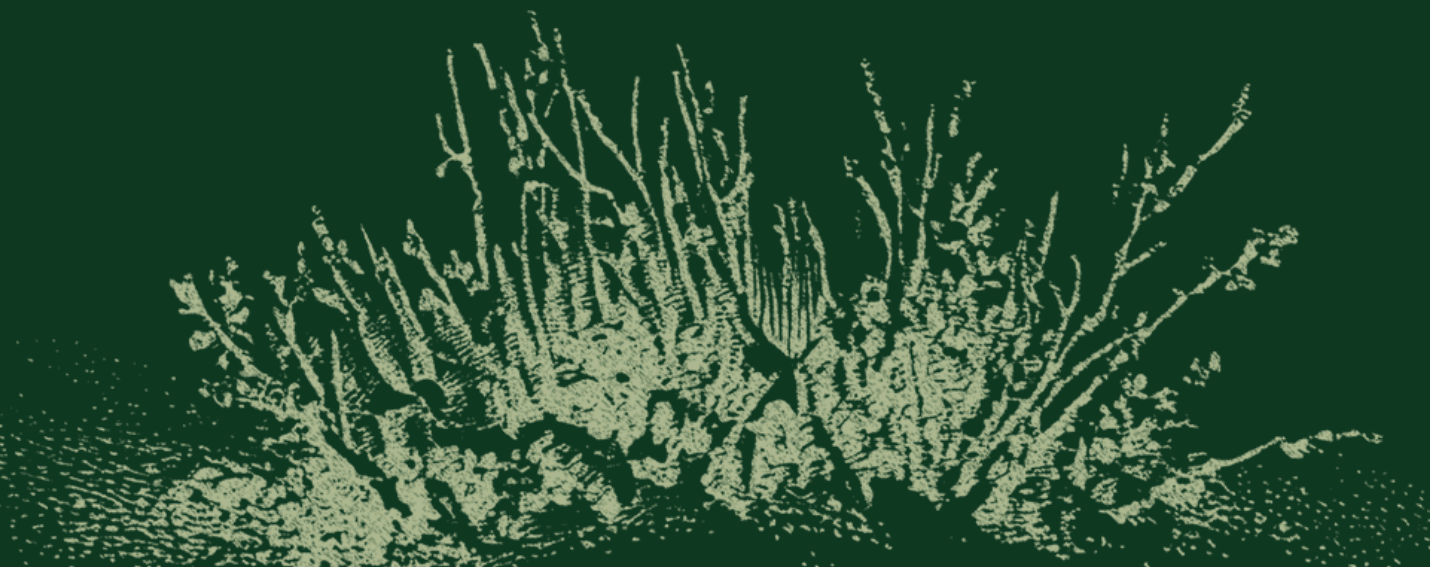
Live It Out



Find and read a Christmas poem together. If you need help, consider Christmas hymns, Luci Shaw, or Malcolm Guite.

Live It Out

Show kindness to
a neighbor today.
Afterwards, pray
(alone or with them)
for God to show them
His love.



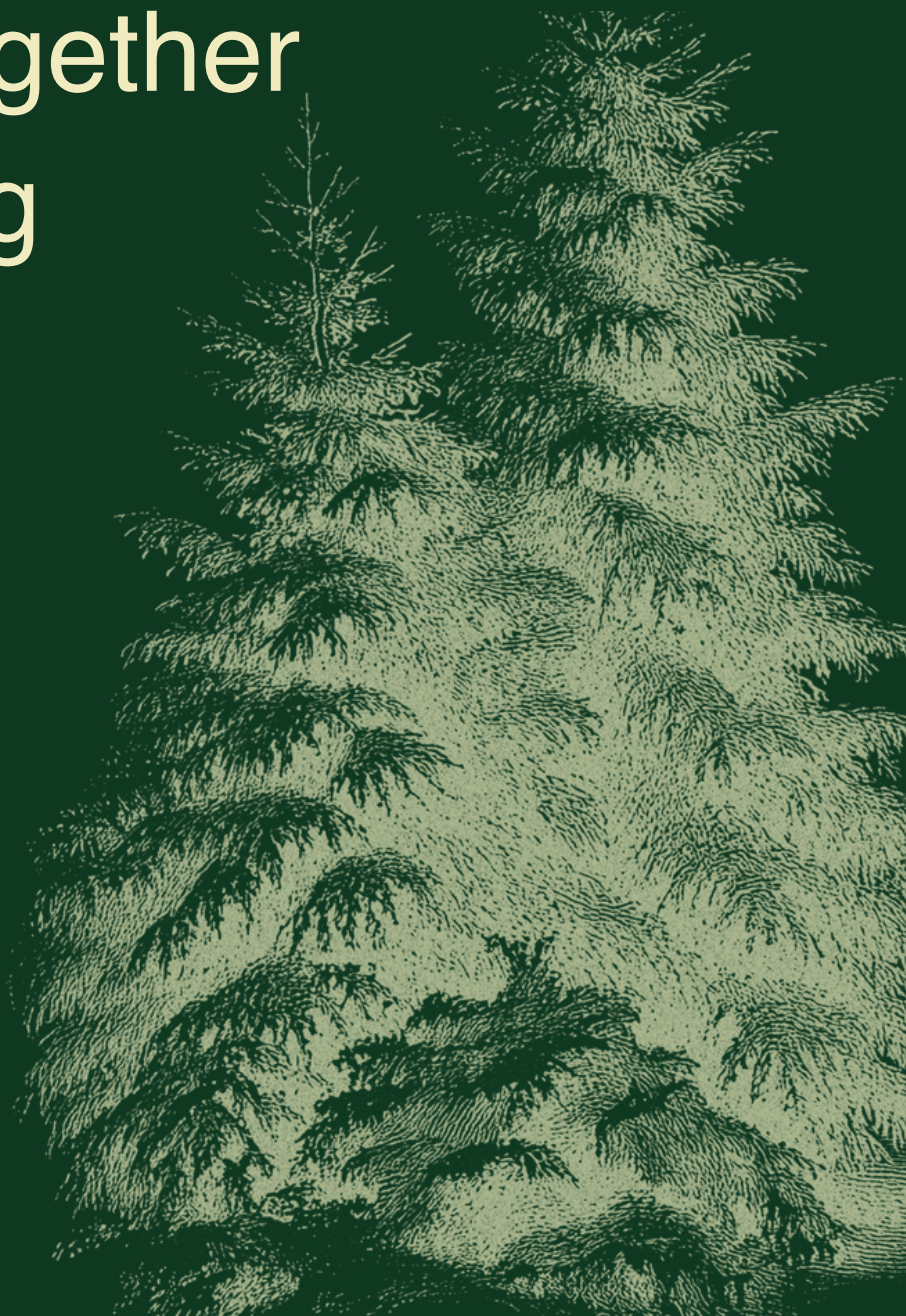
Live It Out

Surprise a neighbor by shoveling their snow-covered driveway.



Live It Out

Learn a new Christmas carol together and sing it today.



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