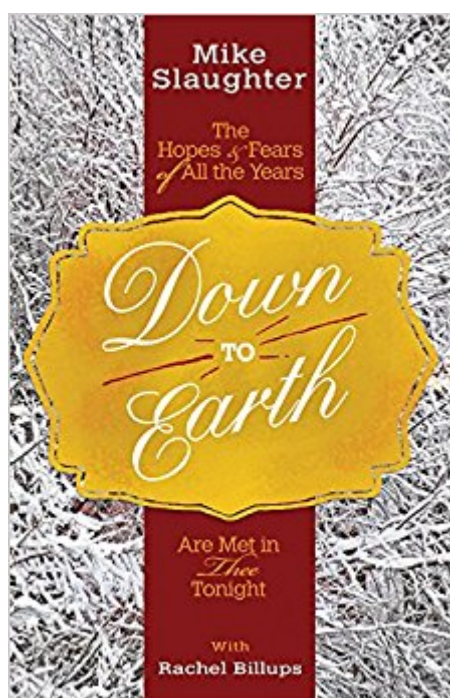


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# Down To Earth: The Hopes & Fears Of All The Years Are Met In Thee Tonight (Down To Earth Advent Series)



## Synopsis

A virgin birth. God's son. A helpless baby. Fleeing certain death. Nothing about the Christmas story is ordinary. Mike Slaughter says it's enough to confound the mind and make the heart contrite. In his book, *Down to Earth*, Slaughter presents a four-week Advent study that opens up God's Christmas surprise to us and examines how it changed everything. A DVD, Leader Guide, Youth Study, Children's Leader Guide, and a seasonal devotional are available as part of the *Down to Earth* study.

## Book Information

Series: *Down to Earth* Advent series

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## Customer Reviews

Mike Slaughter is the Pastor Emeritus at Ginghamburg Church. Under his leadership, Ginghamburg Church has become known as an early innovator of small group ministry, the Church "media reformation," and cyber-ministry. Mike is the author of multiple books for church leaders, including *Down to Earth*, *The Passionate Church*, *Change the World*, *Dare to Dream*, *Renegade Gospel*, *A Different Kind of Christmas*, *Spiritual Entrepreneurs*, *Real Followers*, *Momentum for Life*, *UnLearning Church*, and *Upside Living in a Downside Economy*. Rachel Billups serves as the Executive Pastor of Discipleship and as part of the preaching team for Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio. Rachel is an Ordained Elder within the United Methodist Church and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Bible/Religion and History from Anderson University and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School. Before joining the Ginghamburg team, Rachel served as the lead pastor of Shiloh United Methodist, a multi-site church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Some of you are familiar with Mike Slaughter's Christmas is Not Your Birthday. This book is along those lines, but really makes you re-evaluate your priorities during the Advent season. Think more about giving and helping others with no expectation of anything in return. Walk the road of humility and say "yes" to following the way of Jesus.

Pastor Mike Slaughter first turned my paradigm of a happy, little materialistic Christmas on its head with his book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday." Now he and co-author Rachel Billups are pushing me even a step further to walk, talk, live, and love like Jesus in "Down to Earth," their new Advent study. I enjoyed having their two strong voices as authors representing different life and ministry experiences and observations, while advocating the same deep and compelling principles. (A complete curriculum also accompanies the book.)

This seems like a curriculum for the Ginghamsburg church, highlighting local ministries and programs. On the DVD and in the Leader guide I did not see a significant emphasis on Christmas. There were a couple examples of alternative Christmas family celebrations but most of the presentation is about being holistic Christians to non-believers. The format has a small group of members asking questions to 2 of the pastors. Most of the questions ask for clarification from the book "Down to Earth."

This is a great tool for churches to use for Advent. The stories are very compelling and relatable. I really enjoyed how these authors helped retell the Christmas Story and bring Jesus "Down to Earth."

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