



STUDY GUIDE

Introduction:

Take a second and think of a time when things have not gone your way. When have you exerted all your best efforts – your intelligence, your finances, your time, your energy – and despite your best efforts, things still didn't go your way? Share a few stories about times that things did not go your way.

Here is the crucial next question: *Why didn't they go your way?* Was it because you didn't have the time, the resources, the human resources, the will? Was there ever a time when you gave *all* you had, and things still didn't go your way?

Text: Zechariah 4:6

The theme for Advent this year at CCC is, "Not by might." Our foundational story comes from one of the last prophets of the OT, Zechariah. Zechariah serves God at a time when God's people finally have their shot, things finally seem to be going their way. They have just returned to Jerusalem after decades of exile in Babylon. They are given a wonderful opportunity to rebuild the city and the temple and the society in which they honor God together. **But despite their best efforts, they are unsuccessful at rebuilding the temple.** Here are the questions we identified from this story:

- Are you building the right thing?
- Are you building it in the right way?
- How is the humble incarnation appearing in your Advent?

YOUR MOVE

The challenge from Christ this Christmas is both simple and profound. **Are you celebrating the birth of Christ in ways the highlight your power and might, or in ways the celebrate the humble spirit of the savior?**

What will you do this advent to build the kingdom of the humble, Spirit incarnate savior?