

# Advent Devotional

by Jim Garner

*“No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to [God] in heaven.” –Matthew 5:15-16*

Each year, our church adopts a theme for the Advent and Christmas season. This year, it is “Follow the Star.” I have decided to follow the star by being conscious of sharing kindness wherever I can. Be Kind. The world is currently in need of more kindness between humans. I recently purchased a Christmas t-shirt that has little Cindy-Lou Who (the character from Dr. Seuss’ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*) holding a tree ornament bulb with the words “Be Kind.” My hope is that by having this theme at the forefront of my mind, it will impact my daily living and hopefully increase my awareness of opportunities to offer kindness to my neighbors.



I often look for spiritual messages in popular music. I was recently listening to a satellite radio station that features classic country music when I heard a song that I hadn’t heard in years—Glen Campbell’s *Try a Little Kindness*. The chorus goes like this:

*You've got to try a little kindness  
Yes, show a little kindness  
Just shine your light for everyone to see  
And if you try a little kindness  
Then you'll overlook the blindness  
Of the narrow-minded people on the narrow-minded streets.*

Later on, as I was washing my hands in the restroom of a local eatery (Wingo's in Glover Park), I noticed a sign on the wall that included the refrain "Be Kind." My chosen theme for following the star is being reinforced in the oddest of places—I think it's the right one for me. You may want to think about choosing your own theme as we "Follow the Star" for this Advent and Christmas season. There is plenty to consider. Take a look at the sign I saw in Wingo's—it offers a lot of options.



**Prayer:** First of all, thank you God! Thank you for all the kindness that has been provided me throughout my life. Help me see opportunities to offer kindness to others. Give me the courage to step outside of my personal comfort to speak up and offer words to those in need of simple kindness and give me courage to take actions demonstrating kindness. Amen.