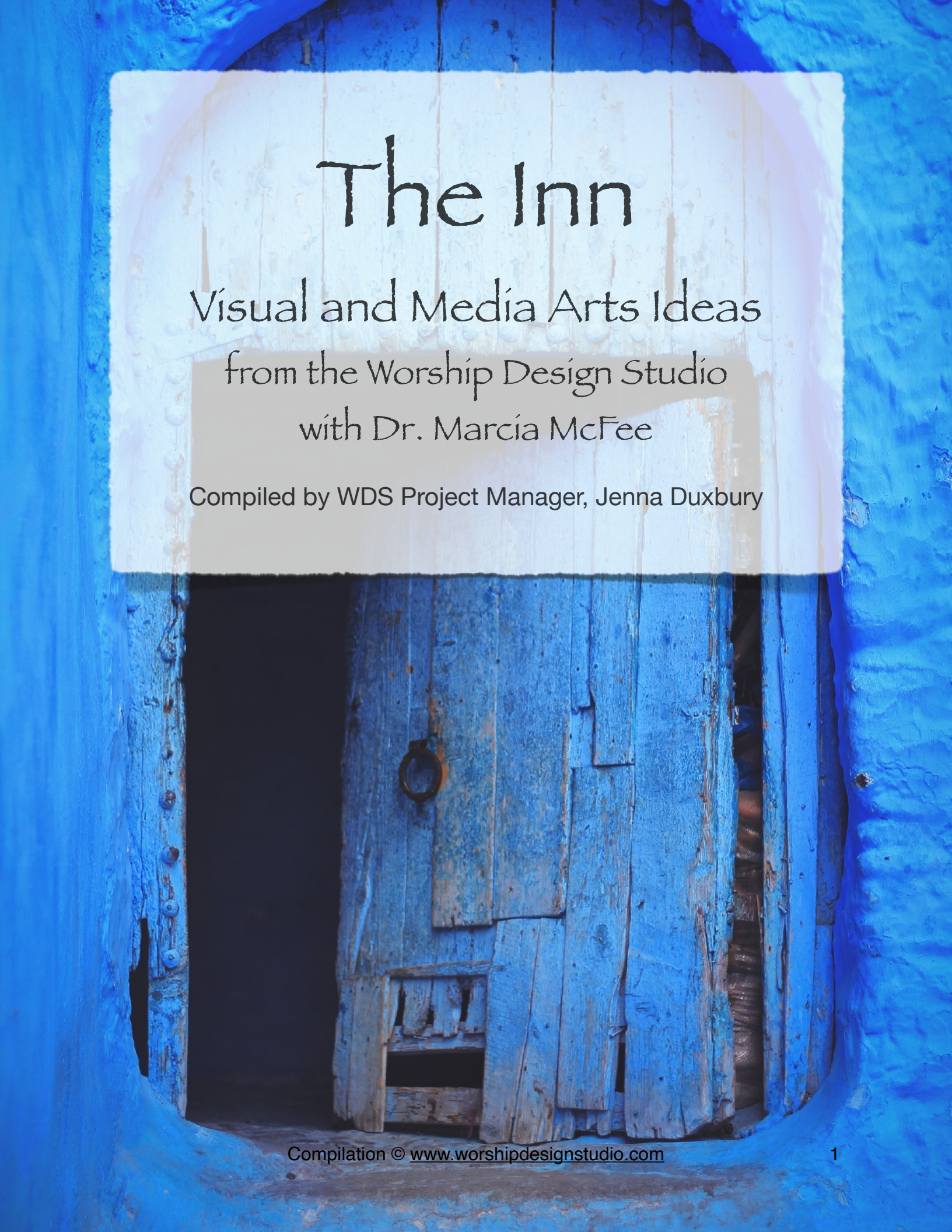


The Inn

Visual and Media Arts Ideas

from the Worship Design Studio

with Dr. Marcia McFee

Compiled by WDS Project Manager, Jenna Duxbury

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Table of Contents

About the Series	page 3
Anchor Image: Barn Door	page 4
Threshold Moment: Processing the Light	page 11
Manger Installation Idea	page 12
Luminaries	page 13
Door Hangers	page 14
Printable Devotional Journals	page 15
Social Media Package	page 18
Series Logo	page 19
Series Trailer / Photography Resources / Video Clips	page 20
References	page 21

About the Series

Economic disparity run rampant locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew–offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

This worship series utilizes scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary Year C. This document contains suggestions for bringing the series to life through visuals and media art forms. Share your photos and ideas in the Photos and Ideas Feed for the series on the WDS website. We can’t wait to see where your journey will take you!



Anchor Image: Barn Door

Doorways are a powerful metaphor for initiation: crossing the threshold into new adventures, answering when opportunity knocks, or welcoming someone in from the cold on a winter's night. This series will encourage your church to "think outside the box" while considering how your resources can be put to use in service to your local communities. Even if you have just a "broken down barn" of a building, there are so many ways that God can use your space and presence to effect real change and hope in the lives of your neighbors.

Our anchor image for this series is a simple wooden door, a visual echo of the modest animal stable in Bethlehem where the Holy was birthed into the world. Set it up as a visual installation in a prominent place in your sanctuary, or outside your church walls. Whichever way you are offering worship (livestreamed online, pre-recorded, hybrid, or in-person in your sanctuary), a barn door would be a great tangible touchstone as your church considers new ways to practice stewardship, share resources, and grow in faith and discipleship.

If you don't have a barn door lying around, you could even make your own. You can also use wooden crates to create the feeling of being inside the animal stable — you could add lanterns, a feeding trough, or a bale of hay! ;)



Some barn door images to inspire you. Search on Pinterest for “barn door weddings” and you’ll see some pretty amazing ideas. We’ve gathered some good ones our Pinterest board for this series!



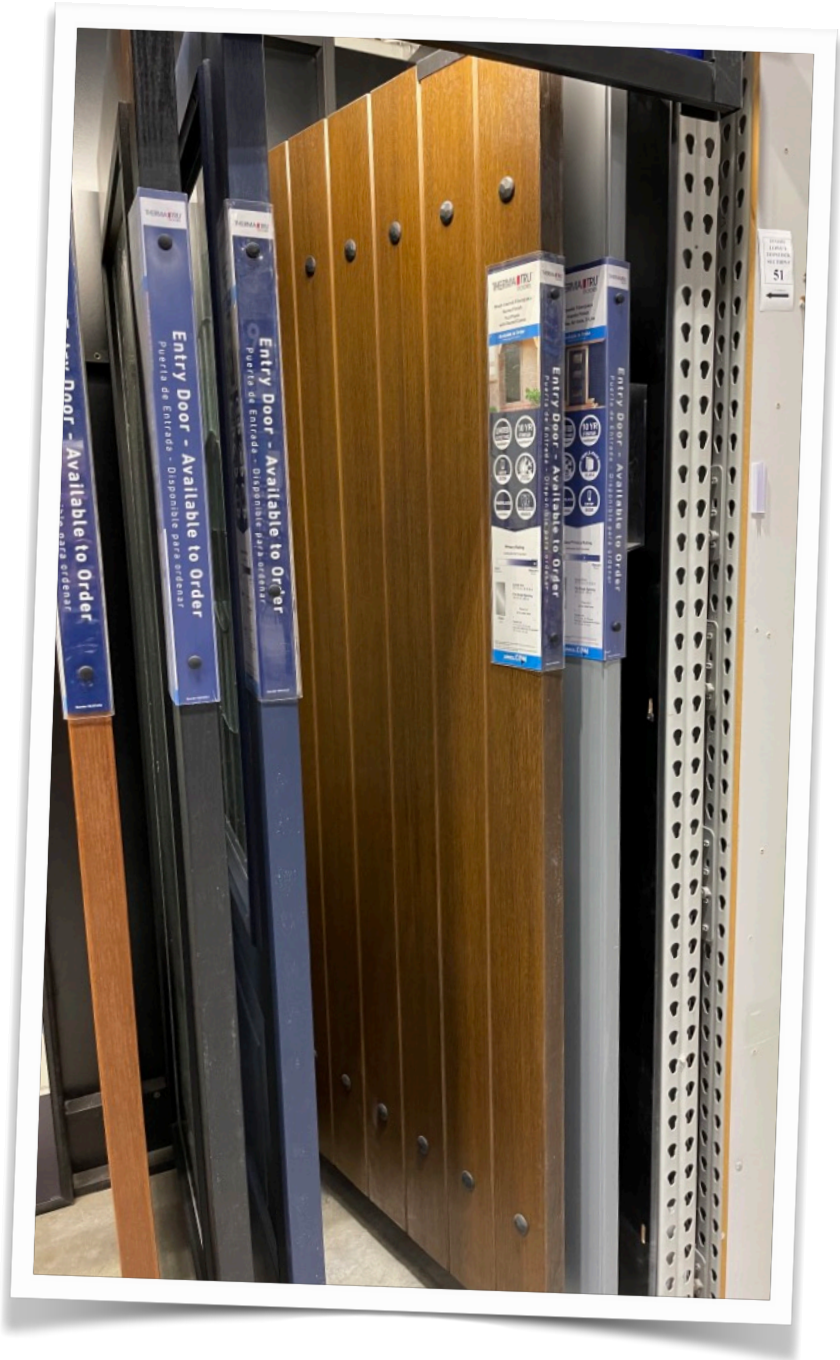


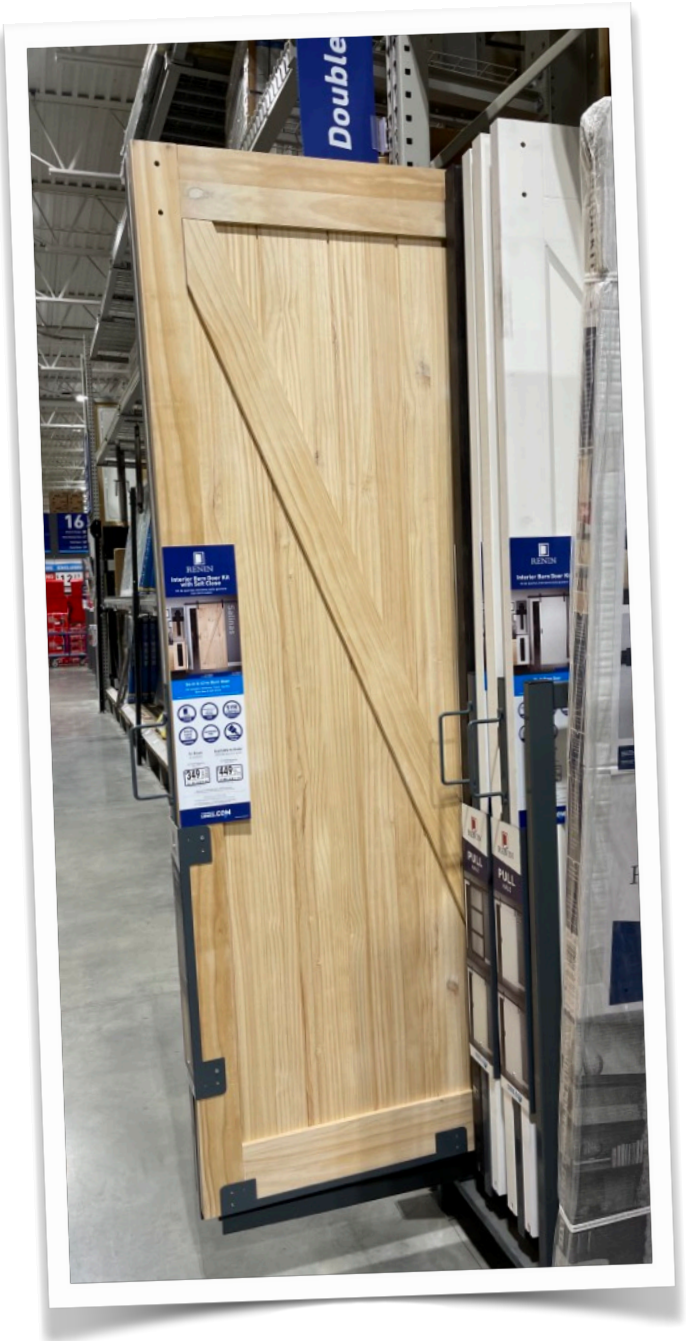
Here are three potential ways to do a door in the chancel:

1) Find someone who wants to install an actual barn door in their home and coordinate with them to let you use it through Christmas and install afterwards in their home. In this case, the more expensive barn doors made for this purpose would work.
2) Create a less expensive door with plain plywood door and decorate with barn door pieces that are available separately (or find your own barn door pieces if you are in a rural community). You could also use a plain, less expensive door and paint it to look like a barn door if you have someone who can do that (or find that shower curtain or a barn door backdrop to hang on it like this one).
3) Just use a backdrop that isn't really a door like this one or this one.



Here are some photos from Lowe's taken on Dr. Marcia's information-finding mission:





This interior barn door kit comes with all the equipment you would need to install a sliding barn door in your space.



Some barn door stylized wood that could be used for visuals:



And here is some less expensive wood that would give you the same effect:





Threshold Moment: Processing the Light

Consider adapting your usual Advent wreath this year and feature lanterns like you might find in an old barn. You could create/add 5 pedestals at different heights to hold the lanterns as they increase in number each week. They could live just in front of the barn door or anywhere that works in your space.



Lots of lantern options to be had at HomeGoods!



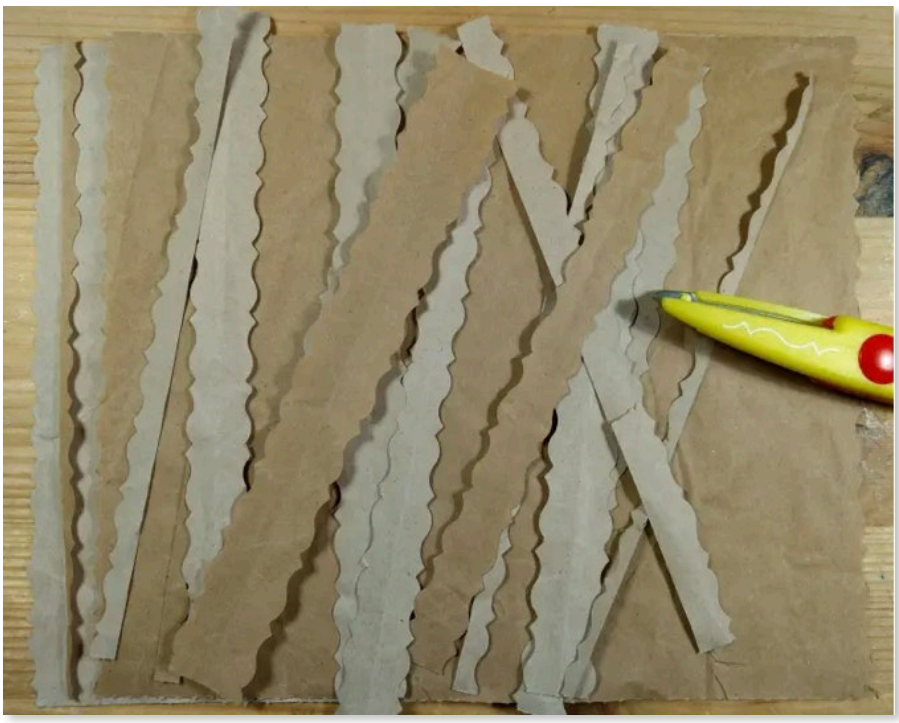
Check out several wooden pedestal ideas HERE for inspiration.

Manger Installation Idea

With a focus on preparing "the inn" for the arrival of the Holy Family, **imagine having a manger in the worship space all Advent**. During the Prayers of the People, you could **invite folx to write on straw-colored pieces of paper their prayers for hope/peace/joy/love and have them bring them up and place them in the manger.** After four weeks of doing that, you should have a pretty soft bed for the Baby Jesus! This could be a hit with all ages!

AND what if during the week, you make the manger available to people who don't go to our church... like outside your doors or in a park or wherever people go... and invite them to do the same. How cool to receive the prayers of the wider community, and what an easy way for people who don't usually go to church to be able to participate!

Here is a website with a great photo of some "wiggly scissors" to cut paper (as in the photo shown below).



Luminaries

Set the mood with putting luminaries in or on wooden crates to invoke the experience of being inside the animal stable. You could also turn these crates into luminaries simply by putting electric candles inside (or real ones on top, *not inside)*! This is an easy way to add some ambiance.









Joann's Fabrics has wooden crates!

Door Hangers

Door hangers can be a neat way to generate some community outreach, and would provide a nice tie-in with the “door” anchor image! Door hangers could be used to let folks know about upcoming events or opportunities to give and receive services (meals, clothing, toy drive, etc.). Or just let your neighbors know that if they have any needs at all during the holiday season, there are confidential ways to get assistance through the church. Maybe you even just make these as simple affirmation or positive messages.

Here is one source for printing your own customized door hangers.

Perhaps your children/youth/any adult groups who love to do visual crafting could decorate plain door hangers with messages that then get distributed locally, just to bring some joy and connection. Many possibilities for creativity here!

There are also plastic door bags that could be used to distribute any goodies your church would like to give away.

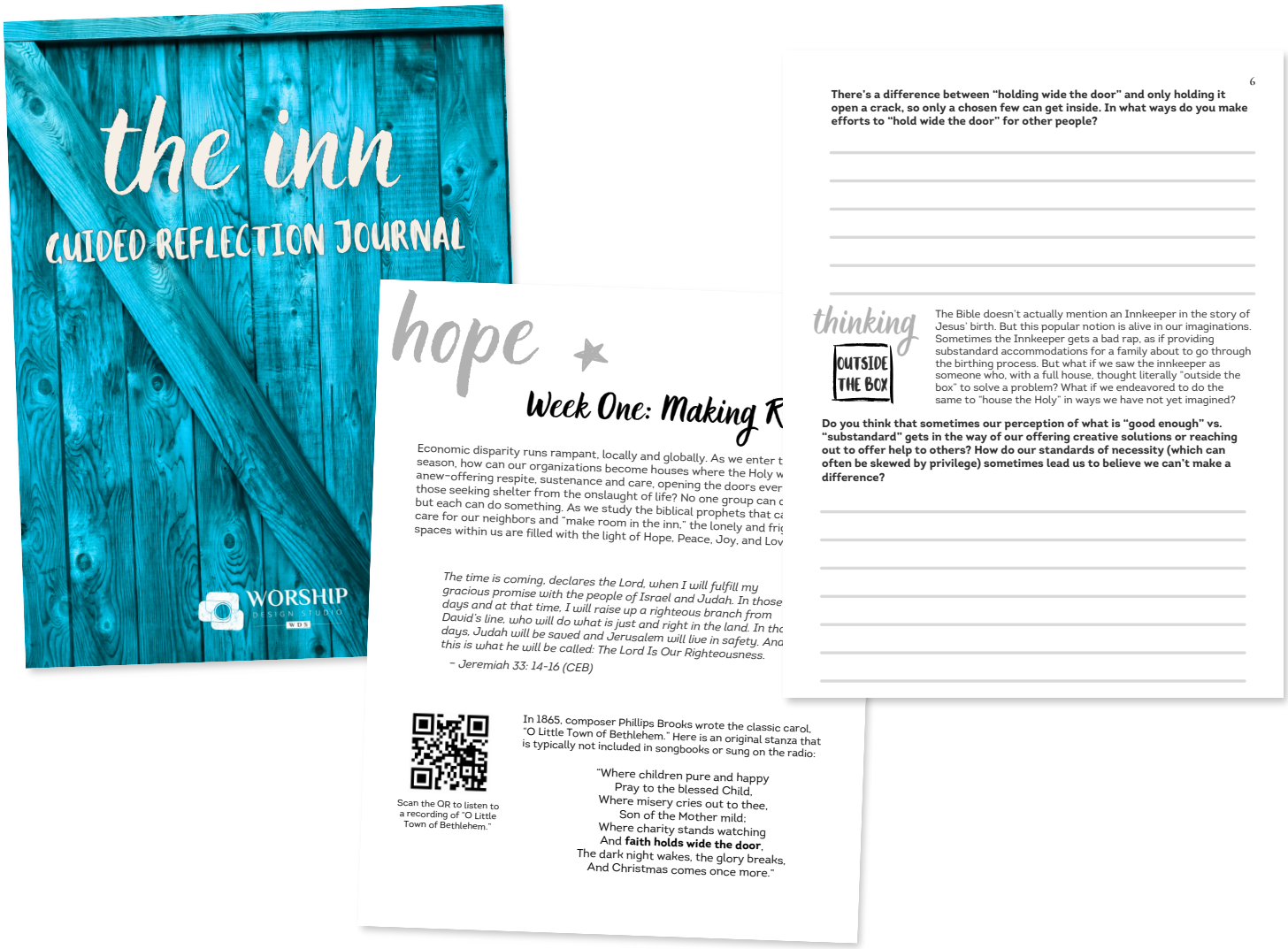




Printable Devotional Journals

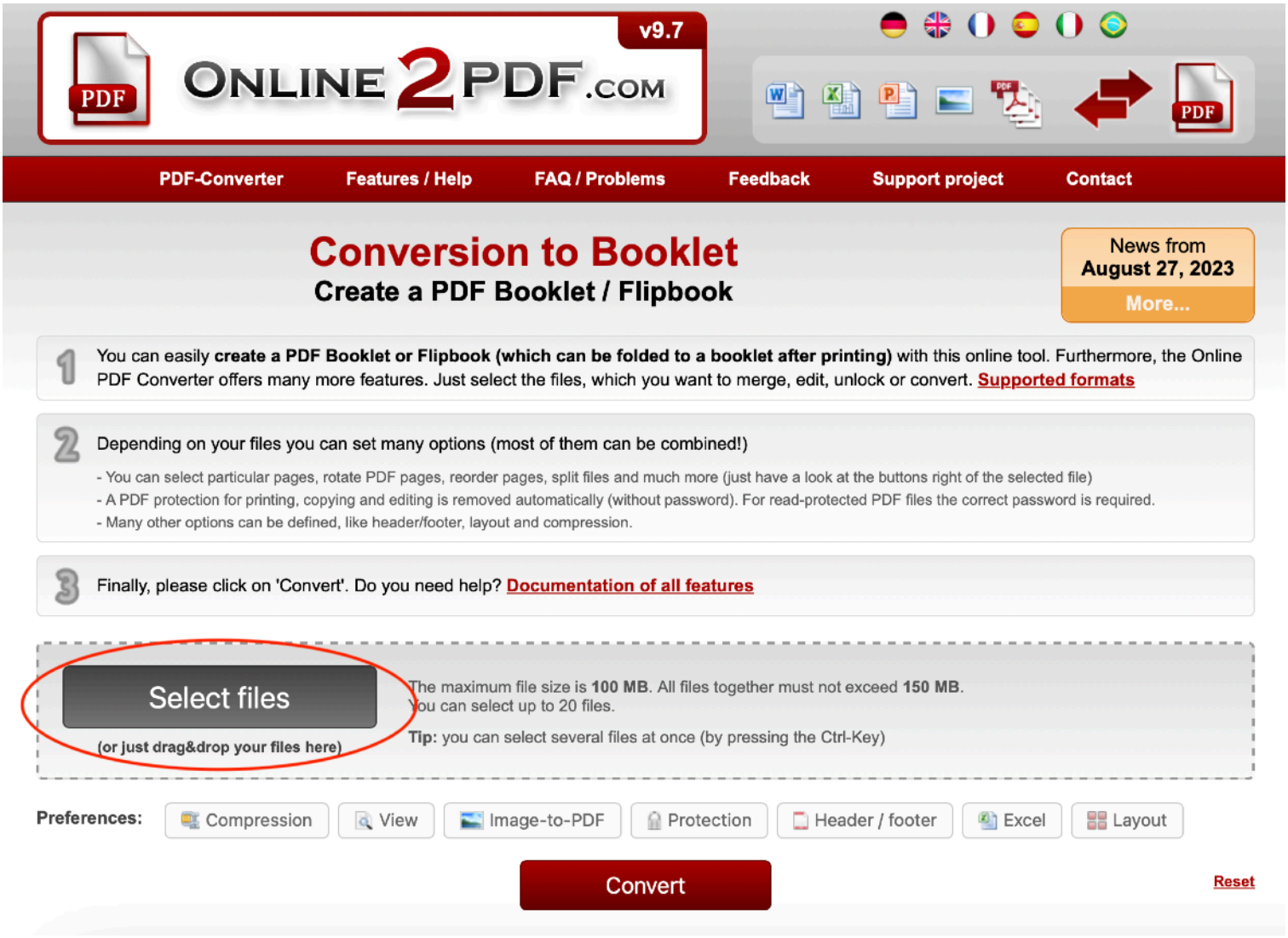
We have created a printable companion journal that you could share with your congregation and invite them to use as a reflection guide during the season. Our journal contains pages for each week of the series. You can access our Canva template and tweak your own version, or use the PDF or simple Word version that we have included in the downloads.

See the following pages for detailed instructions about printing the journal out and creating booklets.

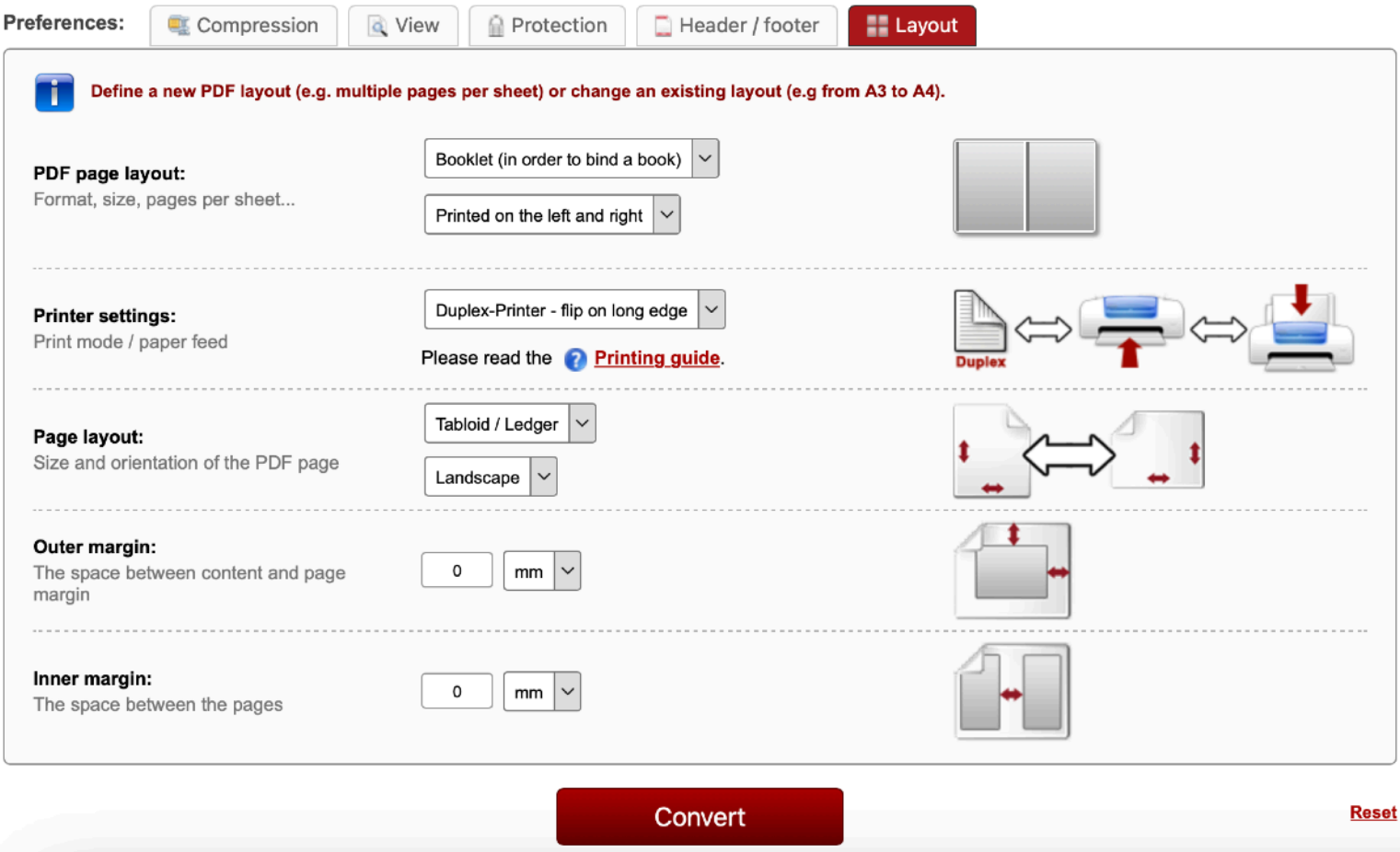


The journal has been sized to fit on 8.5x11” paper. You can use a free online printing service like Online2PDF to make a printable booklet file on 11x17” pages that are then folded in half length-wise.

Click the link above, then click the button that says **Select Files** to upload the original PDF file of the journal.



Now you'll have the option to customize the layout to your liking. You can leave the "booklet" option selected at the top. You may need to adjust the printer settings depending on what kind of printer you have, but try the default settings first. If you are using 11x17" paper, select **"tabloid / ledger"** for the paper size and select **Landscape** for the orientation. When you have the printer settings adjusted to your specifications, click **Convert** to create the file.



When the file finishes converting, you'll be able to download it to your desktop or downloads folder and then start a print job (see an example image of the "success" message on the next page). Review the file first to make sure the pages printed in the right direction. We recommend trying just one print job first to test it out and see if you need to make any adjustments.

Social Media Package

WDS Social Media Coordinator, Jennifer Yocum, has created a stellar package of images for each week of the series that you are welcome to post on your social media channels.

We have included the branded version of the images with the WDS logo for free. If you'd like to have the freedom to completely customize the images and add your own church's logo and branding, you can purchase our unbranded package for $15, which also includes the link to our Canva template where the images were created. Canva Pro is free to use for non-profit organizations!



Series Logo



Our series logo was created in Canva, an online image editing program that is easy to use and free for non-profit organizations like churches. Click HERE to go to the series logo and use our template to create your own adaptation. We have included three versions: one with the Worship Design Studio logo and URL for the series, one without that branding so that you can add your church's information, and a version of the photo without text.

The image shown above is the original logo created for the series, and unfortunately, the fonts used in the original image are no longer available. We have identified two lookalikes in the Canva Pro font library that could be used as replacements: Rebel for the title, and a multilingual typesetting font for the subtitle "Housing the Holy." A logo image created with these lookalike fonts is included in the Canva template link above.

New to Canva? Watch this five-minute video with Dr. Marcia demonstrating how to use Canva to create your own images.

Series Trailer

A series trailer is a short video that gives people an idea of what your worship series is going to be about, just like a trailer for a movie! Click HERE to see the series trailer for “The Inn.” We’ve shared a version of this trailer on the materials download page without our logo and webpage so you can add your church’s information (location, worship times, social media handles, etc.). You can do this with a simple movie editor program like iMovie or Windows Movie Maker. Feel free to share this video on social media and in church to show your community what’s coming up next and encourage them to bring guests for the season!

Additional Photography Resources

There are numerous great sources for finding high-quality, royalty-free stock photos to use for projection, publicity, and inspiration as you work on and share this series.

Here are our favorite photography websites to peruse for general stock photos: Unsplash, Pexels, and Pixabay. Our series photo album on Unsplash is a great place to start, and the source for many of the photos used in this document.

Video Clip Resources

Looking for stock video footage? Visit the Pexels Videos library and the Pixabay video library for clips that you can use in your own video production.

Of course, you can also take and make your own photos and video clips!

References

Below are photo sources found from resources not referenced in this document:

Cover
- (p. 1) Background: https://unsplash.com/photos/vga51HXESo8

About the Series
- (p. 3) Background: https://unsplash.com/photos/K8aQajaqlRA
- (p. 3) https://unsplash.com/photos/XqcopJhpu74

Anchor Image: Barn Door
- (p. 4) Image from https://www.stottweddings.com, found on Pinterest
- (p. 5) Left: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/425871708521121003/
- (p. 5) Right: Image from https://www.brides.com/wedding-4692038, found on Pinterest
- (p. 6) Image from Amazon product
- (pp. 7-10) Images by Dr. Marcia McFee

Threshold Moment: Processing the Light
- (p. 11) Images by Dr. Marcia McFee

Manger Installation Idea
- (p. 12) Image from My Paper and I

Luminaries
- (p. 13) Images by Dr. Marcia McFee and from our series Pinterest board

Door Hangers
- (p. 14) Left: https://www.clearbags.com/6-x-12-ldpe-1-mil-clear-door-knob-bag-100-pieces-dk1.html?gclid=CjwKCAjw7fuJBhBdEiwA2lLMYX8nX4lQ8vVP9pujJJEVjEMnRtPRHX-ar3Xxnu9SOmgjlZE9P9lFgBoCH0gQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds
- (p. 14) Right: https://www.vistaprint.com/marketing-materials/door-hangers?couponAutoload=1&GP=09/14/2021+13:34:18&GPS=6059360979&GNF=1