

# *Beyond The Tree*

20 Meditations to Set Your Heart and Mind on  
the Christ of Christmas

ERIN DAVIS

# 1

## *Lean In. Look Closely.*

While time has added livestock and hay and a sweet momma in a blue dress, God's Word doesn't give us these details. Instead, here is the simple birth announcement of Jesus.

*And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn (Luke 2:6-7).*

Does your heart feel the same sense of letdown that mine does when I read those two verses? Something

is missing. Mainly, the details! What did Jesus look like? Was there something different about Him? Did He cry like a regular baby? How was Mary? Where was Joseph? What color were those swaddling clothes anyway?

But the Bible doesn't go there. We just get the facts—that Jesus was born, wrapped up by His momma, and placed in a manger because the inn was packed.

We tend to embellish the story at Christmas time, but maybe Luke kept it simple because he didn't want us to miss the most important thing—that our Savior arrived on earth as a baby in a manger. Perhaps the details simply don't matter.

So don't worry about what was happening in the background. Feel free to ignore whoever was or was not present at Jesus' birth. Lean in and look closely at Jesus, wrapped in human skin, and let the wonder of Him eclipse your craving for more information. Don't let today whizz by without looking closely into the crib. Don't forget to remember the spectacular event that happened without a spectacle.

1. Is Jesus' arrival meaningful to you this year?

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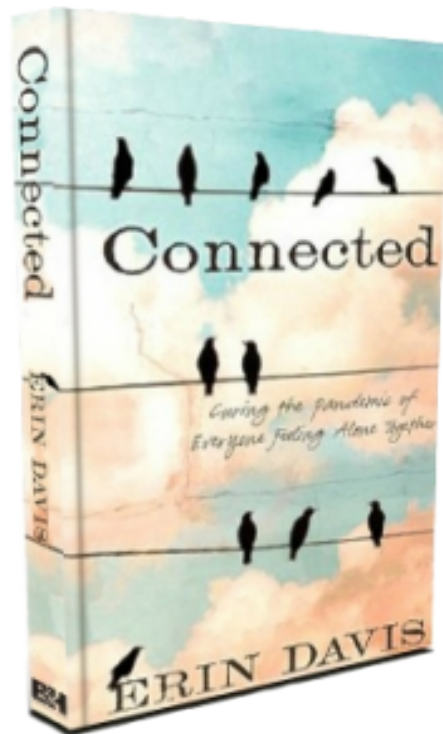
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## BEYOND THE TREE

2. What is one thing you can do today to focus on Jesus' birth?
3. Why do you think Jesus' birth is described so simply?

## *Other Books by Erin*



*Connected* – *Curing the Pandemic of Everyone Feeling Alone Together*

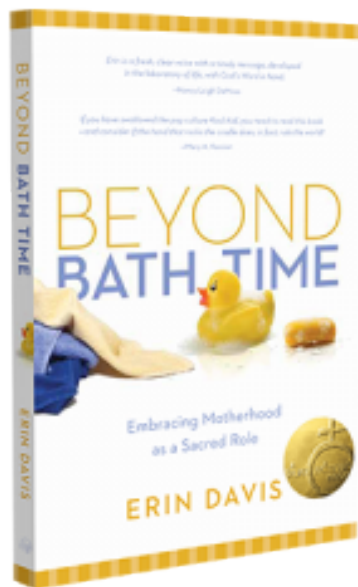
Technology has allowed us to connect with more people in more places than ever before yet, a silent epidemic is sending shock waves straight into our living rooms. What is this hidden disease? Loneliness.

What is causing the pain of loneliness to gnaw at our hearts? What does God know about feeling alone? While swimming in a sea of people, what's a lonely girl to do? Where should she turn for a life raft?

## BEYOND THE TREE

Come along in *Connected* to learn about her journey as well as the stories of women who are probably a lot like you!

### *Beyond Bath*



### *Time – Embracing Motherhood as a Sacred Role*

Erin Davis was a young Christian wife who had made the decision to not have children. She had multiple degrees, a great husband, a promising career — she had it all — at least according to cultural standards. But most days she felt anything but fulfilled. In *Beyond Bath Time* Erin shares her journey

*Erin Davis*

to the place of true fulfillment in responding to the call of motherhood. Women will be challenged, convicted, and wonderfully encouraged by Erin's honest and provocative look at motherhood and its divine call.