

NOTES



PRAYER

*Heavenly Father,
We come before You with grateful hearts, remembering how You sent Your Son Jesus into our world—a perfect gift of love. Your love is greater than we can comprehend, and through Christ's birth, You gave us hope, life, and grace. Lord, as we celebrate this season, may we not just receive Your love but also reflect it to the broken, the weary, and those in need. Use us to be vessels of Your grace and mercy in a hurting world. We give You all the glory and praise. Amen.*

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"What's the funniest or most unexpected gift you've ever received, and how did you react?"

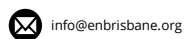
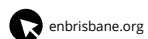


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WORD

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

[John 3:16 \(ESV\)](#)

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

[Romans 5:8 \(ESV\)](#)

Reflections

The Wonder of God’s Love Coming Down

God’s love defies human logic. In a world where love is often earned or conditional, John 3:16 shows us the depth of God’s unconditional love. He didn’t send His Son when humanity had proven itself worthy. Instead, He sent Jesus while we were still broken and sinful, as Paul emphasizes in Romans 5:8. This kind of love—nonsensical by human standards—is the foundation of our faith.

Jesus didn’t just come to be among us; He came to save us. His birth set the stage for the ultimate gift: eternal life through His death and resurrection. When we receive this gift, it transforms our hearts, priorities, and outlook on life. God’s love changes us, freeing us from condemnation and filling us with hope and purpose.

But this gift is not meant to stop with us. We are called to embody this love for others. The nonsensical grace we’ve received becomes the driving force for how we treat those around us, especially the broken, the lost, and the undeserving. Just as God reached out to us when we had nothing to offer, we are invited to extend grace to others, whether through acts of kindness, forgiveness, or sharing the Gospel.

The Christmas season offers unique opportunities to demonstrate God’s love. From comforting the lonely to sharing hope with the discouraged, this time of year is ripe for living out the Gospel in practical ways.

As we consider God’s gift of Jesus, we’re reminded that we too are called to give—our time, our love, and our witness. This season isn’t just about receiving; it’s about reflecting the love that first came down to us. How might God be leading you to give as Christ gave during this Christmas season?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. “What’s a gift you’ve received—big or small—that made you feel really loved or valued? Why did it mean so much to you?”
2. “Do you think love should always be earned, or can it be freely given? Why?”
3. “Have you ever experienced someone showing you kindness or grace when you didn’t deserve it? How did it make you feel?”
4. “What do you think makes Christmas feel different from other times of the year? Is it about gifts, family, or something deeper?”
5. “If love is meant to be shared, what are some simple, practical ways we can bring hope or joy to the people around us this season?”

Lord Jesus,

We acknowledge You as our Savior, the ultimate gift of love sent by the Father to bring us eternal life. We thank You for coming into this world, for living among us, and for laying down Your life for us. Lord, we offer our lives back to You—our time, our gifts, and our hearts—as a form of worship.

If there are those here who don’t yet know You, may they open their hearts today to receive You as Lord and Savior. Help us all to trust in You, Creator of the universe, and live fully in Your grace. Teach us to love others as You have loved us, laying down our lives for Your glory and the good of those around us. Use us this season to reflect Your love in both word and action. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.