

C¹ onechurch

bigIdea

There is something about watching a child's face beam as he or she bounds down the stairs on Christmas morning. Racing to the Christmas Tree, they tear into the presents hoping to find the toy that they have been dreaming of.

God our Father likes giving us good gifts. But are we going to trust that His gifts are better for us, or are we going to insist on our own way?



BIG IDEA: Living life God's way is truly satisfying.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the best gift you ever received for Christmas? What is the worst gift you ever got?
2. Do you like giving gifts more, or receiving gifts more?
3. *Read Matthew 7:9-11.* If we like giving gifts, does God like giving gifts? Do people always like receiving God's gifts? Why or why not?
4. What type of gifts have you received from God this week? This month? This year??
5. *Read Deuteronomy 6:10-12.* What warning did God give the Israelites, His children? What do people usually do with the gifts God gives them? If we choose not to conform but be transformed, what will happen?
6. *Read Psalm 81:8-16.*

Throughout this entire Psalm, God is going to talk to His people just like a parent talks to a toddler. It's going to be so amusing! I am convinced that one of the biggest reasons why God gave us children is so that we can understand just how God feels when He is talking to us.

7. What Do You Have To Do To Get Your Children To Listen To You?
8. Name One Area Of Your Life That You're Listening To God. Name One Area You're Not Listening To God.
9. What Is God Going To Have To Do To Get You To Listen To Him?
10. *Read Psalm 81:9-10.* Have you ever done something for someone and someone else took the credit for it? Tell about that situation. How did it make you feel?
11. How do you think God feels when we choose to lavish our love and worship on other people and things rather than on Him?
12. *Read Psalm 81:10.* What type of things does God want to feed you? Are you a picky eater? Are your kids? Do you have an interesting story of trying to get a child to eat something?
13. *Psalms 81:11-12.* Why does God let us choose our own way?
14. *Psalms 81:13-14.* What does God say He will do if we would just follow in His ways and listen to Him?
15. *Read Romans 12:1-2.* If we choose not to conform but be transformed, what will happen? What are the three words God uses to describe His will? Of those three, which one do you most like?
 - a. GOOD not evil
 - b. PLEASING satisfying
 - c. PERFECT in line with God and His Word.

THINK ABOUT IT

God longs to give you good gifts (like a filet mignon), but so many times, we're just content living on saltine crackers. We think we know what's best and what we most need, but we don't. He created us, and He knows just what we most want and what we most need.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! Psalms 34:8