

Week Two GIVING

**“For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and
only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal
life.” John 3:16**

- Choose one person to read aloud
John 3:16-21

- Read Ephesians 5:1-2
as a household

Christmas time is my favorite time of year. I know what you're thinking: "Isn't that what everyone says?" And while that may be true, I feel like I fully come alive during this sacred and special time of year! I love to hunt and search for the perfect gift for every family member or friend around me. But, what I love most of all is remembering and honoring the gift that God gave, his son Jesus.

When I was a kid, my school had a Christmas fair where we could buy gifts for our families. One year, I picked out a huge, red ink pen for my dad. It was silly

and completely impractical, but with the same sense of humor, I knew he would appreciate the gesture. So, I bought it with all the love a little kid could muster and eagerly waited for Christmas morning to come.

Years later, that oversized pen still sits on his desk. He jokes that he saves it for “big projects” that require a “big pen” to sign the dotted line. Every time he mentions it or tells the story to a coworker, I’m reminded that the gift isn’t really about what’s inside the box — it’s about the love that inspires the gift.

When it comes to giving, God really gave us the best Christmas gift of all. His generosity outdoes, outweighs, any gift we could offer. When God gave, he gave Jesus, His one and only son. Through His gracious gift, He’s given us immaculate hope and light in a bleak and dark world. While God doesn’t need us, we need him and the hope of a savior.

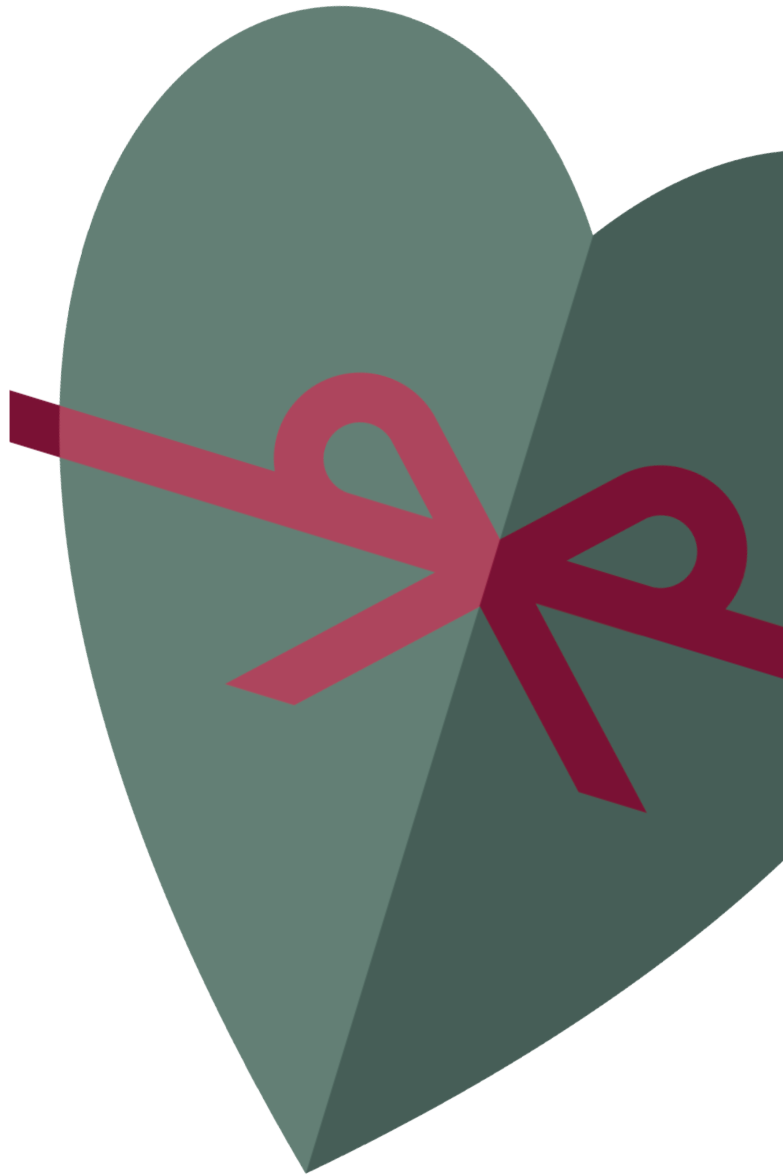
That’s what John 3:16 captures so beautifully. God so loved the world that He gave. His gift wasn’t something shiny or temporary. It was eternal. He gave His Son — not to be admired for a season, but to change our lives forever. Jesus wasn’t the king or leader that people

expected, and he was sent to death for it, but he’s the savior we desperately need.

At Christmas, it’s easy to get caught up in what’s wrapped beneath the tree. But the heart of Christmas isn’t about what we give or receive. It’s about who was given. Jesus is the gift.

1 John 1:5–7 reminds us that “God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.” When we receive the gift of Jesus, we receive that light — truth, hope, and forgiveness. At Christmas, we don’t just celebrate that God gave His Son; we celebrate that His light still shines, pushing back the darkness around us and within us. Jesus is the One who brings light into darkness, hope into hopelessness, and life where there was none.

So this Christmas, as you gather with family and unwrap presents, take a moment to remember: the greatest gift was already given — not in a box, but in a manger and then on a cross. He’s the only gift we’ll ever truly need.



DISCUSS

- What makes a gift meaningful — the gift itself or the love behind it? Why?
- How does knowing that God gave His Son change how you think about Christmas?
- Is it better to be in the light or in darkness? Why?

PRAYER

Use this time to pray together as a family:

- Thank God for the gift of Jesus and for showing us what real giving looks like.
- Ask God to help you see opportunities to give with love this Christmas — to family, friends, and those in need.

PRAISE

Read or listen to the song “In the bleak midwinter” by Christina Rossetti

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him,
nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter, a stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring Him a lamb
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart, my heart*