

# Stories, Not Stuff

December 15, 2019

**Scriptures:** Matthew 1:18-23; John 1:1-14

**Bottom Line:** The best gifts celebrate a relationship

God's answers to the world's problems have never been material things. The best gifts celebrate a relationship.

## The Incarnation - God Is One of Us

Without God becoming human, we would never fully know the depths of His love for us.

"Jesus is God with us, come to show us God's love, save us from sin, set up God's Kingdom, and shut down religion, so we can share in God's life." - Bruxy Cavey

## The Gospel In Your Gift Giving

- **Give the Gift of Presence**—express in your gift how much you want to be with them
- **Make It Personal**—think about who they are and what they care about
- **It Will Be Costly**—relational giving requires planning, time, and energy

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## LISTENING

Have someone in your group answer one (or more) of these questions:

- What is your biggest fear?
- What is one regret you have in your life?
- How have you experienced God's goodness in a tangible way?

After they share, tell them what you heard.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. What are some of your favourite Christmas traditions?
3. Of the gifts you've received (Christmas or not) which ones stand out above the rest?
4. Review what it means to give relationally.
  - a. What excites you the most about giving relationally?
  - b. What will be the biggest challenge?
5. What are some ways you long to experience God as "Immanuel" (God with us) in your life?

## HUDDLE UP

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions together.

1. What relational gifts could you give this year?

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