

SMALL GROUPS

Leader Conversation Guide - The Gift that Lasts

Main Idea:

Every earthly gift eventually fades—but the gift God gave in Jesus never expires, never loses value, and never runs out. God *so loved* that He *gave* His very best: His one and only Son. This gift is not based on our performance, our worthiness, or our ability to pay Him back. It's free, eternal, and life-changing. Our response is to stop chasing temporary treasures, receive His gift by faith, and build our lives around what will last forever.

Make It Practical:

- **Every earthly gift fades.** Toys break, trends change, and “must-have” things end up in boxes or yard sales—but the inheritance we have in Christ never perishes, spoils, or fades.
- **God's greatest gift wasn't wrapped like we expected.** Jesus came in humility—born in a manger, not a palace—to show that hope is for everyone, not just the polished or “put together.”
- **The best gifts are given, not earned.** Salvation is by grace through faith, not by works. We can't earn God's approval; we can only receive His love.
- **The gift that lasts keeps giving.** Jesus is the “indescribable gift” whose mercy is new every morning. His presence, peace, and provision keep meeting us again and again.

Key Scripture:

John 3:16 NIV – “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.”

2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV – “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

Matthew 6:19–20 NIV – “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

1 Peter 1:3–4 NIV – “...into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...”

Ephesians 2:8–9 NIV – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith... it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Romans 6:23 NIV – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

James 1:17 NIV – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...”

Talk About It:

1. What part of this message about “The Gift That Lasts” stood out to you most—and why?
2. When you look back over your life, what are some “gifts” or things you thought would make you happy that faded quickly?
3. How does it challenge you to hear that **God’s gift is free**, not earned—and that it cost *Him* everything?
4. In this season, where are you most tempted to chase **temporary treasures** (stuff, approval, busyness, etc.)?
5. What are some **eternal things** you want to build your life around more intentionally (souls, serving, generosity, your walk with God, etc.)?
6. Where do you feel unworthy or like you “haven’t done enough” for God—and how does the truth of grace speak to that?
7. What does it look like for you, practically, to “**not leave the gift unopened**” this week—either by receiving Jesus or by going deeper with Him?
8. Who in your world needs to hear about or see **this Gift that never fades** through your words, generosity, or kindness?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being the gift that never fades. Thank You that while we were still sinners, You died for us. We repent for chasing temporary things and trying to earn what You've already given freely. Help us to receive Your grace, rest in Your love, and build our lives around what matters for eternity. Open our eyes to people around us who need hope, and use us to point them to You this Christmas. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Leader Tips:

- **Make it personal.** Invite people to share real Christmas or “gift” stories to break the ice and then connect them back to eternal perspective.
- **Watch for shame.** Some may feel unworthy or stuck in performance. Gently remind them: this gift is *given, not earned*.
- **Point to next steps.** If someone hasn't received Jesus, this is a great week to talk about salvation and baptism. If they are believers, push toward eternal focus (serving, giving, inviting, sharing faith).
- **Celebrate grace.** Take a moment to thank God together out loud (popcorn style) for specific ways His “indescribable gift” has shown up in their lives.