

THE BEST GIFT EVER

FOCUS

1. What makes one present more special than others?

STUDY

Introduction: Christmas is about the best gift ever given—Jesus Christ. In this study, we'll look at why Jesus is the most special gift we could ever receive. We'll explore three qualities of a great gift and how Jesus fulfills each one.

1. A SPECIAL GIFT HAS THOUGHT PUT INTO IT

Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 1:4** - "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight."
- **Galatians 4:4-5** - "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Discussion:

1. What is the most thoughtful gift you have received from someone?
2. Why does the thought, planning, and intentionality put into a gift make it more special?
3. What do the scriptures above teach you about God's thoughtfulness? How does this make you feel? Explain.

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Explanation: The gift of Jesus wasn't random. God had a plan long before the world was made. He sent Jesus at just the right time to fulfill His perfect purpose for humanity. This shows us that a special gift is always planned with care and intention, not given on a whim. Jesus was sent because God loved us and wanted to bring us back into relationship with Him.

2. A SPECIAL GIFT MEETS THE NEEDS AND WANTS OF THE RECIPIENT

Scriptures:

- **Matthew 1:21** - "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
- **Luke 19:10** - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."
- **John 10:10** - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Discussion:

1. Do you like more "practical" gifts that are useful or "luxury/frivolous" gifts that are enjoyable? Why? (ex: practical = new socks; luxury = designer shoes)
2. From the scriptures above, what needs and wants is Jesus meeting in our lives?
3. How does the gift of Jesus affect a Christian's daily life?

Explanation: Jesus was given because we needed a Savior. Our greatest need is forgiveness and reconciliation with God, and Jesus meets that need perfectly. But He also meets our deepest desires for peace, hope, and purpose. Jesus' gift to us is not just what we need but also what we truly want—life to the fullest, filled with God's love and grace.

3. A SPECIAL GIFT IS GIVEN BY SOMEONE SPECIAL

Scriptures:

- **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."
- **Romans 8:32** - "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"
- **1 John 4:9-10** - "This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Discussion:

1. What makes someone special to you?
2. What do the scriptures above teach you about God and His feelings toward you?
3. Why is receiving a gift from God special?

Explanation: The gift of Jesus was given by God, the most special and loving giver. God's sacrificial love for humanity is the reason Jesus was sent. There is no gift greater than the one given by God Himself. The love behind the gift makes it even more precious. A special gift comes from someone who truly cares, and there is no one who cares for us more than God does.

APPLY

Conclusion: The gift of Jesus is the most special gift because:

1. It was planned and thought out by God before the world began.
2. It meets our deepest needs for forgiveness, hope, and eternal life.
3. It was given by the most loving and special giver—God Himself.

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HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE GIFT?

Scriptures:

- **Romans 6:23** - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
- **Romans 10:9** - "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Discussion:

1. What are the different ways someone can respond to a gift they are given?
2. Look at the scriptures above. How can you receive God's gift?
3. If someone gave you a meaningful present, how would you treat that gift? Do you treat Jesus this way? Explain.

Explanation: This Christmas, let's remember the incredible gift of Jesus and celebrate how He meets all the qualities of the perfect gift. Jesus isn't just a gift we receive; He's the gift that changes everything about us, and our new life with Him begins when we first receive the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus.

Closing Prayer: "Dear God, thank You for the amazing gift of Jesus. Thank You for sending Him to meet our needs and for loving us so much. Help us to remember this truth as we celebrate Christmas, and let us share the joy of Jesus with everyone around us. In Jesus' name, Amen."