

The Gifts that Keep on Giving: Part 4

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **This Week: The Greatest Gift Ever Given**
- What gift have you received that you really needed or really wanted?
- There is one ultimate gift that has been given. **John 3:16-17**
 - o Our Heavenly Father's love for the world.
 - God's love for the broken sinful world caused Him to give.
 - Do you have God's love in you? What is your feeling about the broken sinful world?
 - Does The Father have "gifts" as a love language? I think this is more practical. ☺
 - o That He gave His one and only son.
 - Have you ever given a gift that stretched you? Given till it hurt?
 - Imagine this. How much does God love this broken world?!? Why?
- This gift is the gift of salvation. The Father gave Jesus. Jesus paid the price. We get the blessing.
 - o Jesus, born of a virgin, the Holy One of God:
 - Lived a sinless life as an example for us.
 - Died as our substitute that we may live. **Romans 6:4-5**
 - V4: that we may live a new life/abundant life now
 - o **John 10:10**
 - o **Matthew 9:36**
 - V5: that we may have eternal life! Don't get bored with that!!!
 - o Salvation is a gift we have only partially opened!
 - o Much is yet to come! **Revelation 21:1-22:5**
 - o We need to live conscious of our future!
- The greatest gift has been given. How have people reacted?
 - o Have you ever given someone a wonderful gift, but they didn't want it?
- What are the possible reactions to this greatest gift ever given? Here are a few:
 - o 1) Refuse the gift. Not believe it is real or not want it.
 - This is a slap in the face of God. Take the gift.
 - o 2) Only want part of the gift.
 - Want heaven, but not abundant life now. Still live the old way.
 - Do as little as possible to hope to get to heaven, but that's it.
 - This is a slap in the face of God AND those trying to live for Christ!
 - o 3) Happily receive the full gift and enjoy new life and hope of heaven!
 - That's pretty good, but still not quite there...
 - o 4) Receive the full gift for yourself, but realize this gift is for everyone else too. Then do everything in your power so that others can have this gift!
 - 42% of the world, today, has no legitimate access to the Gospel.
 - The USA is becoming one of the largest mission fields in the world.
 - The NE Section has open churches and no one to go serve.
- The conclusion to this sermon is obvious and has two parts:
 - o Have you opened this gift? The whole gift?
 - Forgiveness, new life, hope of heaven, call to serve?
 - If not, today is your day. Open the greatest gift ever given.
 - o Will you share this gift with others?
 - Don't keep it for yourself. Don't do as little as possible.
 - If you have the gift of salvation, you can share the gift of salvation!
 - o **Matthew 9:35-39**
 - o Pray
- Pray for each other before you finish up!