

THE STORY OF GOD'S GIFT

Use the following notes in your Growth Group or for further personal study of today's message. We hope these will enrich and deepen your walk as you study God's Word.

GETTING STARTED:

1. What stands out to you in this sermon or had an impact on your life?
2. What is the most meaningful Christmas present you have ever received?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly" (*John 10:10*)?
4. How do you react to that truth?
5. Why do you think King David responded the way he did in *2 Samuel 24:24*?
6. How do you respond inwardly to the standard of an offering being costly to you (*Luke 21:1-4*)?
7. What did Jesus mean by, "You are the light of the world," (*Matthew 5:14-16*)?
8. How should we respond to Jesus' statement to be the light of the world?

APPLICATION:

9. Can you describe the moment you received God's gift of Jesus?
10. If you have never received God's gift, what do you feel is holding you back?

THE STORY OF GOD'S GIFT

2/4 in the series: *Stories of Christmas*
December 7, 2014 • Pastor Robb Williams • *1 John 4:9-11*

If there is a gift worth opening slowly, staring at, and bragging about, it is God's gift of love. It is a bit abstract, and a little explaining is a good idea, but let's not let the abstract nature fool us. God's gift is extremely practical (*even more than a sweater*) and incredibly valuable (*more than a fine piece of jewelry*). This morning, we will look at and celebrate three aspects of God's gift in order to show its great worth. But let's remember, all gifts become personally valuable only when they are received.

1. **God's gift is useful** - (*1 John 4:9-11; John 10:10*). He brings purpose, meaning and abundance to life.
2. **God's gift is costly** - (*1 John 4:9-11; 2 Samuel 24:24*). God's gift is free.... to us, but an incalculable cost to God.
3. **God's gift is effective** - (*1 John 4:9-11; Matthew 5:14-16*). God's gift of love to us creates a sincere love in us for others.

In Preparation for Communion

Together, let's end today's service in appreciation of the valuable gift of God's love. If you have never received God's gift, will you open your life to receive the gift of Jesus (*John 1:12*)?

NEXT WEEK: 3/4 • Matthew 1:18-25-Advent: The Story of Joseph
Pastor Robb Williams