

EPISODE 3



TODAY'S TRUTH

Christmas reminds me that Jesus is the Gift.

SCRIPTURE

"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." (John 3:16).

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, (which means "God with us")." (Matthew 1:23)

SUPPLY LIST

- Bible
- Small "gifts" such as candy canes
- Small sections of wrapping paper (different colors/designs)
- Tape
- "Gift Tags" with "To:" and "From:" on one side and "Jesus is the Ultimate Gift" on the other side.
- Pencil/something to write with

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Activity

- Talk with your family about your favorite Christmas gifts you've ever received.
- Each member of your family should think of someone who could use encouragement or just someone they love.
- With that person in mind, choose a section of wrapping paper and a couple pieces of tape to wrap this little gift (candy cane or whatever you choose) for that person. [*This isn't intended to take a long time or be intricate; simply wrap paper around the little gift and tape it, while discussing your favorite Christmas gifts you've each ever given someone.*]
- When everyone is finished, they should fill in the "To" and "From" sections of a "gift tag."
- Be sure to point out the truth on the back—Jesus is the Ultimate Gift.
- Discuss how much you think the recipients of these gifts will appreciate these thoughtful little gifts.

Connect the Activity

- Talk about why someone would be glad to receive even a small gift. [*Just to know someone was thinking about you. . . enough to make/give you a gift. . . is a good feeling.*]
- Discuss the most important part of gift-giving. [*It isn't the size of the gift or how much it costs. It's that the gift comes from the heart—that it is motivated by love.*]
- Ask why we put the statement, "Jesus is the Ultimate Gift" on the back of the gift cards. [*God gave His only Son, Jesus, for us. He is the Ultimate gift of love! He is the Ultimate gift! Sharing God's love and light with others is the very best gift we could ever give.*]

READ THIS

Read John 3:16 together.

"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."

Read Matthew 1:23 together.

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, (which means "God with us")."

Challenge your camper(s) or a family member to share as much as they can remember about these verses from what Leslie shared. Ask who can remember the Truth that Leslie shared: Christmas reminds me that Jesus is the Gift.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dive Deeper

[Use the following questions to explore with your family the Gospel and how Jesus is the Ultimate gift.]

1. Who are the people God loves? [*The whole world. Not just people who can be more nice than mean or people who already go to church all the time. Not just popular people or good-looking people. God loves the world—every single person who has lived, is living now, or will live in the future. God loves you.*]
2. Why did God give Jesus for us? [*Because sin broke the special connection we are made to have with God. Only God Himself is powerful enough to restore that special connection, and it would take giving His only Son for us.*]
3. How does this help us understand that Jesus is the Ultimate gift? [*When Jesus came and lived the perfect life and then gave His life for us, He paid the price for our sins. He made it possible for us to be reconnected in that special connection. . . relationship. . . with God. There could be no better gift!*]
4. What does it mean to believe in Jesus and receive His gift of eternal life? [*When Jesus was raised from the dead after paying the price for our sins—the things we've done wrong—He made His eternal (forever) life with God available to us. When we believe in—choose to trust in—Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we repent. We tell Him how sorry we are for our sins—all we've done wrong—and we turn around and follow His direction instead. And not only do we get to be reconnected in close, personal relationship with God, we get to live with Him forever. And forever starts the moment we believe and receive and it never ends!]*]

SHARE IT

Wrap Up

- Share with your family something you learned today that you didn't know before. Invite your camper(s) and other family members to share as well.
- How can knowing that Jesus is Immanuel (God with us) help us understand His love for us?
- Say the truth together: Christmas reminds me that Jesus is the Gift.
- As you give and get gifts at Christmas, what are ways your family can be sure to remember that Christmas reminds me that Jesus is the Gift?

