



Week 5 – Jesus: **The Greatest Gift of God's Love**

Main Idea: Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love to us.

Overview: Jesus' birth, the central event in the Nativity story, shows us that Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love. His coming to earth as a baby, growing up to die for our sins, demonstrates God's immense love for us. Through Jesus, we can experience forgiveness and form a deep relationship with Him. When we realize this gift, it brings us the greatest joy of all.

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-7, John 3:16

Memory Verse: John 3:16, " For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Welcome and Icebreaker (5 –10 min)

Gift wrapping competition. Split into two teams. Choose 1 volunteer from each team who will have 1 min to wrap a gift as neatly as possible. The team with the most completed (and neatest) gift, wins!

One80 MC: Good morning, young ladies and gents! I am so excited to see all of you here today.

To kick us off today, we are going to split into 2 teams. I need one volunteer from each team that is excellent at gift wrapping. You will get 1 minute to wrap this box as neatly as possible. The team with the neatest (and most complete gift wins:))

*Choose two volunteers, give them each tape, wrapping paper and a box. *Time 1 minute.*

Amazing!! Lets see which gift is better number 1 or number 2?

Debrief:

How do you think they did? Do these presents look good? Which gift was better? -

Which one would you choose if they were at a gift exchange?

OBJECT LESSON-The Greatest Gift

Alright, everyone! Do you see this gifts that and Have wrapped for us. What do you think is inside it?

Some of you might think it was just a box - nothing inside. But here's the thing, unless we open it, we won't know what's inside. And you know what? Sometimes, God's gifts to us are a bit like this. God gave us the most precious gift ever - Jesus. But his gift wrapping was quite underwhelming. He arrived in a stable, and slept in an animal feeding trough - didn't look very impressive, and many wouldn't have noticed his birth as being very significant. But

Jesus is the gift of love, forgiveness, hope, and eternal life. He was born as a baby, lived among us, and showed us how to live a life full of love and kindness. Eventually, He even died for us so we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life. Now, that is truly the greatest gift ever!

So, as we go through our lesson today, let's remember this gift that we have in Jesus, the greatest gift of God's love, is far more precious than anything inside this box. Let's learn more about Jesus and how we can accept and cherish this wonderful gift from God.

Open in Prayer (2-3 min)

Praise God for who He is. Thank Him for Christmas and for sending Jesus to earth to be our saviour!! Ask him to prepare our hearts as we study his word and show us how we can follow him no matter where He leads and what he asks of us and to help us accept Him in our lives as the amazing gift that He is.

Bible Exploration – Jesus: The Greatest gift of God’s love.

(If the group is large you may prefer to split the group and do the bible lesson in two groups)

Fastest finger first – Who can find Luke 2:1-5

ONE80 MC: Alright, guys, lets open our bibles and learn about the greatest Gift of Jesus.

READ: Luke 2:1-5

Now, imagine Mary and Joseph on a long, hard journey. They had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem because the ruler wanted to count everyone in the land. But what made this journey even more challenging? Yes, Mary was about to have a baby!

Now, let's read what happens next.

READ: Luke 2:6-7

Did you hear that? The greatest gift of God's love, Jesus, was born in a humble stable because no rooms were available for them. How do you think Mary and Joseph might have felt?

Let's see who was the first to hear about this exciting news.

READ: Luke 2:8-14

That's right! God announced this glorious news to humble shepherds out in the fields. Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first to know about Jesus's birth?

Finally, let's read about how the shepherds reacted to this news.

READ: Luke 2:15–20

Wow, the shepherds hurried off to see baby Jesus and then spread the news about His birth. They were so excited! They understood that Jesus was a very special baby, the Savior that God had promised.

Then, we will learn more about why Jesus is the greatest gift of God's love.

READ: John 3:16

What does this verse tell us about God's love and why Jesus was sent to Earth?

Jesus, God's only Son, came to Earth so we could have a relationship with God and live with Him forever. This is why Jesus is the greatest gift of love. He brought us God's love, forgiveness, hope, and eternal life.

Isn't it amazing, kids? No matter where we go or what we do, Jesus is always with us, loving us and guiding us. Remember, Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. All we need to do is accept him. Welcome him into your heart and your life. Ask Him to forgive you for all your sins and to make you clean.

Snack Time

Small Group Discussion

(Split into 2 groups– preferably boys and girls if numbers allow, and find a quiet space where you can be real)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do we say that Jesus is the greatest gift from God?
2. How can we show others the love Jesus has shown us?
3. If you could give Jesus a gift this year for his birthday, what would it be?
4. You may have never actually accepted Jesus into your life – just like accepting a gift on Christmas Jesus wants to give you the best gift ever! Jesus loves you so very much, and wants you to be free from

your sins and to live in the joy that comes from following him. If you have never asked Jesus to come into your life, forgive you from your sins, and give you a new life in Him, and you would like to accept him into your life, I want you to pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. This Christmas, I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. In Your Name. Thank you for being the best gift ever. Amen.

If you prayed that prayer and earnestly gave your heart to the Lord today, I would love you to come and chat to me at the end of the lesson. You have made the best decision of your life! It is epic-go and tell someone!

Prayer Requests:

Alright, thank you for sharing your thoughts! Now, does anyone have any prayer requests? We can pray for anything – whether it's something you're thankful for, something you're struggling with, or a prayer for someone else. We can also pray and ask God to help us to listen to Him.

*Allow time for children to share– and jot down their requests. Make sure each child's request is prayed for. As a volunteer you can lead this prayer time by asking specific children to pray for specific requests, break into pairs and pray for each other or you can pray corporately– however you feel led.

Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for our time together today and for your greatest gift, Jesus. Help us to remember His teachings and to show your love in everything we do. We lift up to you the prayers that have been shared today, please comfort and guide us. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen."

Reflection Time (5min)

Ask children to find a space where they can be alone and focus on Jesus. Use the reflection sheets to spend time praying and reflecting. The facilitator will let you know when time is up.

Memory Verse Challenge (5 min)

John 3:16, " For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Wrap up and take home challenge

Challenge:

When you are opening gifts this Christmas, I want you to remember the gift that Jesus is to us!